



CCA Reopening Plan

JULY 24, 2020



INTRODUCTION

On July 22, 2020, the Nova Scotia government released *Nova Scotia's Back to School Plan* with respect to how children and staff could safely return to school in September of 2020 (<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/back-to-school-plan.pdf>). This *Plan*, as well as the *SickKids' Recommendations for School Reopening* (<http://www.sickkids.ca/PDFs/About-SickKids/81407-COVID19-Recommendations-for-School-Reopening-SickKids.pdf>), provide the basis for our *Reopening Plan* for the 2020-2021 school year.

Our *Reopening Plan* has been developed with the following in mind:

STUDENT CENTRED



Our plan provides a safe, nurturing environment by balancing the risk of infection and transmission of COVID-19 with the impact of school closures on our students' physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health. Current evidence supports the belief that children can return to school in a carefully structured manner that protects their overall health and minimizes risk from a public health perspective.

PARENTS AS PARTNERS



Our plan gives students valuable in-person learning and supports their emotional, mental and spiritual health, while providing parents the opportunity to return to work without requiring daycare services for their children should the local public schools have to hold part-time classes.

DIVERSE CURRICULUM



Our plan facilitates the delivery of our diverse curriculum that will continue to challenge each student to reach his or her God-given potential. Our teachers are committed to meeting provincial health and safety expectations outlined below and providing instruction that continues to incorporate our Christian values and beliefs.

TWO KEY ASPECTS OF PUBLIC HEALTH ADVICE

As we plan to safely reopen our school, we are implementing two key aspects of Public Health advice: “*distancing*” and “*cohorting*”, which are also supported by *SickKids' Recommendations for School Reopening*.

Distancing refers to the practice of avoiding close, personal contact with other individuals and maintaining 2 metres of distance whenever possible.

Cohorting refers to minimizing the number of students and teachers any individual comes in contact with and to maintaining consistency in those contacts as much as possible.



THREE SCENARIOS

Based on the *Two Key Aspects of Public Health Advice* previously noted, CCA will be prepared to offer the following three scenarios during the 2020-2021 school year:

Adapted in-person learning



An adapted delivery model has been designed to allow for physical distancing and cohorts of students. Under this model, we will continue to maintain small class sizes and will adopt timetabling that allows our students to remain in contact only with their classmates and a single teacher for as much of the day as possible. Daily lessons will be delivered in-person and blended learning (simultaneous in-person and online education) will not be offered at this time. If a student must remain at home due to illness, daily assignments will be provided by the classroom teacher using Google classroom.

At home learning



If the Nova Scotia Government closes schools, we will be prepared to transition quickly to remote education using a slightly modified Online Instruction Plan to the one followed from March 23 - June 11, 2020. The Online Instruction Plan will provide a similar online experience for our students and parents, with the focus on the core subjects for Elementary and Middle School and the full course load for High School.

Regular in-person learning



When the Nova Scotia Government determines it is safe to return to school with classes that reflect our standard practices, we will be prepared to return to our original pre-COVID plan.

Colchester Christian Academy will only provide the three scenarios listed above as we do not have the capabilities to offer blended learning (simultaneous in-person and online education) should parents choose to not send their child(ren) back to school in the fall.

All our students will enjoy an in-person education, or they will all enjoy online instruction.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS & CHANGES

TEACHER ROTATION

The most important highlight of the adapted in-person model is the opportunity for students to attend school every day, all day. Classroom timetables will be adapted to allow, as much as possible, for students to remain in contact with only their classmates and their homeroom teacher indoors. In High School classes not taught by the homeroom teacher, the teacher will maintain physical distancing from the students. Subjects or activities which are taught by volunteers, such as physical education and music, will be taught by the homeroom teacher. Physical education classes will occur outdoors as often as possible and equipment will be disinfected after each use.

SPORTS & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Announcements concerning the availability of sports and extracurricular activities will be made when more information becomes available. As a member of the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and the Nova Scotia School Athletic Federation (NSSAF), these activities will be dependent on the decisions made by these governing organizations in conjunction with input from Public Health.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE PROGRAM

Announcements concerning the After School Care program will be made closer to the beginning of the school year as we assess safety and logistics. At this time, we are encouraging our families to make alternate arrangements for their children's care after school.

FIELD TRIPS

To ensure the health and safety of our students and teachers, field trips will be limited at this time to outdoor facilities and will only occur if safe transportation can be acquired.

COHORTING

The purpose of cohorting is to limit the mixing of students, so that if a student or teacher develops an infection, the number of exposures is significantly reduced. Classes will be cohorted so that students stay with the same class group, and there are limited interactions between classes indoors. This model recognizes that for younger children, closer interaction, such as playing and socializing, is central to child development. Although close contact may be unavoidable, general infection control prevention, as well as physical distancing in the older grades, will be maintained where possible. Our plan also prevents mixing of cohorts in washrooms as much as possible.



PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES

Physical Distancing

The purpose of physical distancing is to encourage our students, cohorts, staff and essential visitors to maintain at least 2 metres of separation. The school's physical environment will be re-oriented, where necessary, to support physical distancing, since individual-level behavioural measures are impractical, particularly for younger students.



Classrooms - Efforts will be made to reduce the amount of direct physical contact between students and teachers within the same cohort.

Adjustments to movement throughout the school - Designated routes for students to go to and from classrooms, including separate entrance and exit points for students in different grade levels will be created. Visual cues, such as tape on floors and signs in hallways, to guide appropriate distance in lines and at other times will be provided. Movement of students around the school will be staggered to discourage students from congregating in hallways.

Drop-off & Pick-up - Procedures that support physical distancing and separate cohorts are in development. Drop-off and pick-up of students will occur outside (unless it is determined that there is a need for a parent/guardian to enter the building) and possibly at separate doors per cohort. Parents will be provided with full details on these procedures to ensure that physical distancing is maintained during these times.

Chapel - Large gatherings, such as Chapel services, will be cancelled for the immediate future. We are planning on holding virtual gatherings for Chapel.

Lunch - Students will enjoy their lunches in the classrooms with their cohort to ensure chances of contact and transmission are minimized. Students and staff will perform proper hand hygiene before and after eating. There should be no sharing of food or water bottles. We will continue the Hot Lunch program.

Recess - According to the SickKids' *Recommendations for School Reopening*, physical distancing should not be required during outdoor activities.

Prohibiting non-essential visitors - The number of parents, volunteers, guests and other individuals inside the school will be limited. Families are encouraged to interact with teachers using email, telephone and video conferencing when possible. If a parent/guardian or any other non-essential visitor must enter the building, they will be required to wear a non-medical mask.



PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES continued



Screening/Self-Assessment

A strict “*stay home*” policy will be in place for symptomatic students and staff. Students and staff will be educated to not come to school if they are symptomatic or ill or if someone they have come in close contact with, including within their household, is ill with suspected or positive COVID-19 in the last 14 days.

Student screening - Parents will be provided with a checklist to perform daily screening of their children before arriving at school.

Staff screening - Self-assessment tools will be made available to staff to ensure awareness of possible symptoms of COVID-19. Staff who suspect they may have symptoms will be required to stay home and seek testing.

Signage and Monitoring - Signs will be posted at the entrances of the school to remind students, staff, parents and essential visitors of applicable protocols. Teachers and staff members will be provided with information to identify signs and symptoms of COVID-19 in children so that appropriate action can be taken if children develop symptoms during the day. Students, in particular, will be monitored for atypical symptoms and signs of COVID-19. Due to the range of symptoms for COVID-19 and the evolving understanding of the disease, a low threshold for symptoms will be used.

Age-appropriate language - Teachers and staff will use age-appropriate and non-stigmatizing language to identify symptoms of COVID-19 and will encourage students to speak to a staff member immediately if they are experiencing symptoms.

Records - The school will keep daily records of anyone (students, staff, parents, essential visitors) entering the school setting. Records, including name, contact information, time of arrival/departure, and screening completion will be kept up to date and available to facilitate contact tracing in the event of a confirmed COVID-19 case or outbreak. School principals are mandated to report infectious diseases. The principal will inform Public Health, and Public Health can recommend closure, provide notices, or make other recommendations, such as additional testing, self-isolation, or cleaning advice.



PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES continued

Suspected Cases

If a suspected case of COVID-19 is identified, we will work closely with Public Health around steps to take including notifying parents that their child has begun to show symptoms of COVID-19 while at school and isolating the student in a safe area for immediate pick-up. In addition, where possible, anyone who is providing care to the student will maintain a distance of at least 2 metres.

If a staff member develops COVID-19 symptoms, they will return home and self-isolate immediately. If they can not leave immediately, the staff member will be isolated in a specific place until they are able to leave.

Cleaning and Hygiene

Additional cleaning protocols will be implemented. These will include:

- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces and shared resources such as doorknobs, light switches, toilet and faucet handles, electronic devices, students' chairs and desktops at least twice a day, as they are the most likely to become contaminated.
- Following Public Health advice regarding the type of cleaning and disinfecting products to use.
- Following the manufacturer's instructions including guidance with respect to the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

In keeping with Public Health advice, the *COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan* and adapted delivery model has been designed to allow for physical distancing and cohorting to the best extent possible. As such, in a classroom where a teacher is able to maintain 2 metres of distance, PPE is not required.

- Staff may choose to wear non-medical masks on a voluntary basis. However, wearing a non-medical mask is not an appropriate substitute for physical distancing. Additionally, they would be responsible for safe use and cleanliness of the mask, and proper disposal.
- PPE will be provided for instances where physical distancing is not possible.
- Staff will be trained on the care, use and limitations of any PPE that they use
- It is recognized that parents may choose to send a cloth mask to school for their children to wear. In such cases, parents would be responsible for the safe use/compliance during the day and the cleanliness of the mask.
- All visitors to the building will be required to wear a non-medical mask.



CONCLUSION

We truly appreciate that you have taken the time to carefully read over this document. We are committed to partnering with our parents, and we encourage you to contact us if you have questions or concerns about the plan. **Please understand that this is the first version of our Reopening Plan and that we will continue to maintain open lines of communications in case there are any questions or concerns. Subsequent versions and protocols will be shared when they are available.**

Sincerely,



Heather Stokdijk
Principal

heather.stokdijk@colchesterchristianacademy.ca
902-895-6520

