



COVID-19 Student Handbook 2021/2022

Our Mission

To install in children a foundation and faith in Christ, and to assist families as they prepare their children for LIFE- spiritually, academically, and socially.

Our Approach to COVID-19 Health and Safety

We know that students learn best when they are in school every day with their teachers. It is our intention to balance the educational, social, emotional, and mental health of our students while putting policies and procedures in place to maintain the physical health of our students, families, and staff.

This summer, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Department of Health (ODH) released updated recommended guidance on the safe return to school for students and staff. Based on these recommendations, we plan to implement the following:

Redeemer Christian School COVID-19 Reopening Plan Summary

1. The COVID-19 vaccination is not a requirement for any student or staff to return to school this fall. However, the CDC and the ODH strongly recommend that individuals use the vaccination as the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. As of this date, there is no state-wide required mask mandate for the 21/22 school year for staff or students. Keeping in mind the recommendations and the impact on quarantine requirements Redeemer Christian School has made masks obligatory. We ask our families to consider the CDC and the ODH recommendation that all unvaccinated individuals over the age of 2 wear a mask at all times when indoors.
3. Students riding the bus will be required to wear masks when on the bus.
4. Following the CDC recommendations, we will do our best to maintain at least 3 feet of space within the classrooms.
5. We encourage families to take temperature checks at home. Any person with a temperature greater than 100.4 degrees needs to stay home, and any student who is identified at school with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher will be sent home.
6. Health and safety recommendations may need to change throughout the school year to adjust with the changing health conditions as a result of the pandemic. If changes to our plan become necessary, we will notify families immediately.

ODE Guidelines for Quarantine after Exposure in Classroom Settings

If exposure takes place and the student or staff member has been vaccinated, was masked, was physically distanced 3 feet, and documented COVID-19 policies are in place, individuals can safely remain in the normal in-person classroom setting as long as they have no symptoms.

The individual will need to wear a mask indoors, as much as possible, either for 14 days or 7 days if they receive a negative viral (PCR or antigen) test performed 3-5 days after exposure. If they test positive, they will need to isolate for 10 days from the date of the positive test.

If exposure takes place and the student or staff member has not been vaccinated, was masked, was physically distanced 3 feet, and documented COVID-19 policies are in place, individuals can safely remain in the normal in-person classroom setting as long as they have no symptoms.

The individual will need to wear a mask indoors, as much as possible, either for 14 days or 7 days if they receive a negative viral (PCR or antigen) test performed 5 days after exposure. If they test positive, they will need to isolate 10 days from the date of the positive test.

If exposure takes place and the student or staff member has not been vaccinated, and they did not wear a mask and physical distance at least 3 feet, they must quarantine. They should **not attend in-person school.** They should **not** participate in **sports** or **extracurricular activities.** They can return to normal classroom and extracurricular activities after 7 days if they have received a negative viral (PCR or antigen) test that was performed at least 5 days after exposure. If they test positive, they should isolate for at least 10 days from the date of the positive test.

Absences

Non-COVID related absences will be handled in accordance with the policy outlined in the student handbook. COVID related absences due to a positive test, diagnosis by a medical doctor, or quarantine due to known exposure will not be counted toward truancy. Quarantine is not just a time off. Once the student is feeling better, they are expected to complete their work at home until they are able to return physically.

Bathroom

No more than 1 student will be permitted in the restroom at a time. The students must follow the handwashing procedures posted in the restroom.

Building Closure

Although we are committed to continuing to offer in-person classes if permitted, we are aware that if conditions of the COVID-19 outbreak deteriorate, it may be deemed necessary to temporarily pause in-person school attendance. Under the following circumstances, RCS may move to remote learning.

- Ten percent or more of the student population has been diagnosed or has known exposure to COVID-19.
- There is a COVID-19 outbreak known to be tied to Redeemer Christian School.
- A government entity mandates a closure.

If RCS is mandated or chooses to be closed, we will transition to remote learning. Our goal with remote learning would be to maximize instructional opportunities.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

RCS will continue to reinforce good habits to stop the spread of germs, including covering sneezes/coughs and handwashing. Surfaces will be frequently cleaned, paying particular attention to high-touch areas:

- Door handles and push bars
- Stair handrails
- Sink faucets
- Light switches
- Tables, desks, and chairs

Chapel

Chapel is a core part of who we are at Redeemer Christian School. Weekly chapel services in the sanctuary will take place this school year. This will be changed as necessitated by local health conditions.

Diagnosis of COVID-19 or Confirmed Exposure to COVID -19

- Families, caregivers, and staff must notify the school if they have been exposed to COVID-19 and are quarantined, or if a member of the family or household has been diagnosed with or presumed to have COVID-19 and/or is being isolated.
- Personnel and students with known exposure to someone with diagnosed or presumed COVID-19 must follow local health department mandates.

Drinking Fountains

There will be no drinking directly from the drinking fountains, but filling stations can be used for water bottles. Each drinking fountain area has a bottle filling station. Please have your child bring a refillable water bottle each day.

Emergency Notification

In the event that a parent/guardian needs to be notified during the day, we encourage that parents maintain their most up-to-date contact information with the school.

Hand Hygiene

Students are encouraged to wash hands or use hand sanitizer upon:

- Entering the building, or when they enter the classroom or work area.
- Before and after eating/drinking
- After blowing their nose or touching their face
- Upon returning to the classroom from recess

Hand sanitizing stations will be present at the entrance to the school, in each classroom, and work area. Signs to encourage proper hand washing techniques are posted in bathrooms and will be reviewed with students at the start of the year.

Home-Based Symptom Monitoring

Summit County Board of Health has presented that school based temperature and symptom checks are no longer recommended. Home-based monitoring is the preferred. Families should monitor for symptoms at home.

Instructions for Home-Based Symptom Screening

If your child has any of the following symptoms, they might have an illness that they can spread to others.

- Temperatures of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Loss of taste or smell
- Congestion or runny nose
- Sore throat
- Cough (for students with chronic cough due to allergies or asthma, a change in their cough from usual)
- Difficulty breathing (for students with asthma, check for a change from their baseline breathing)
- Diarrhea or vomiting
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever

Check your child for these symptoms before they go to school. Check symptoms for changes from usual or baseline health.

If your child **DOES** have any of the symptoms above:

- Keep them home from school
- Get your child tested for COVID-19
- Contact your school and report that your child is sick. The school may ask some additional questions to help determine when it is safe for your child to return to school and about other people who may have been exposed.

If your child **DOES NOT** have any of the symptoms above:

- Consider whether your child needs to see a healthcare provider and be tested for COVID-19. Even if they don't have symptoms, your child should be tested if they:
 - Have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19, or
 - Have taken part in activities that puts them at higher risk for COVID-19 because they cannot physically distance as needed, such as participating in contact sports, attending a gathering with other children or family, or
 - Were asked or referred to get testing by a state, tribal, local, or territorial health department or healthcare provider.
- If they do not have symptoms and do not have any of the criteria above, send them to school as usual.

Lunch

Lunch will take place in the cafeteria, unless health conditions make it unreasonable to do so. Students will be distanced as much as is feasible and tables will be cleaned daily.

Masks

As of this date, there is no state-wide required masking mandate for the 21/22 school year for staff or students. At this time, the Redeemer staff and students are obligated to wear masks. We ask our families to consider the CDC and ODH recommendations that encourage individuals over the age of 2 to wear a mask indoors.

Outdoor Time

When possible, students will spend more time outside. Please make sure that your child has the appropriate clothes for the weather each day.

Positive Case in our School Community

Regardless of any measures put into place, COVID-19 cases may occur among members of our school community. The reality is that we expect this to occur at some point- or at multiple points- throughout the school year. We ask that you keep in mind another reality: a positive case of COVID-19 in a member of our school community does not necessarily mean the case was contracted while the individual was at school.

- Notification will come from the school that a member of the community has had a positive diagnosis. Note that the name(s) of the individual(s) who have been diagnosed will not be disclosed. Disclosure of this information or any other individual health information would place our school in violation of HIPPA regulations.
- Individual(s) who have had exposure as defined by the Summit County Board of Health will be notified apart from school-wide communication.

Students with Allergies

Students who have allergies (where constant coughing, sneezing, runny nose and/or watery eyes may/will occur) need to have a doctor's documentation stating that they do have allergies and that constant coughing, sneezing, runny nose and/or watery eyes may/will occur. This may help with determining if these students are ill or are dealing with their allergies. Students who have allergies with constant coughing, sneezing and/or runny nose, may be required to wear a mask in the classroom. Students with allergies that are constantly coughing, sneezing or having a runny nose may still end up being sent to the sickroom or may be requested to stay home until the coughing and/or runny nose stops.

Visitors

Visitors will be permitted beyond the office by appointment on a case by case basis.

Please remember that this plan is subject to change at any time, and if changes are made, you will be notified. Please contact Alicia K. Lenczewski at alenczewski@redeemerlutheran.us if you have any questions.

Updated: 8/27/21

Updated: 9/2/21