



Algoma Christian School

Helping Families Make Disciples since 1981

ACS SAFE START PLANS

July 21, 2020

PHASE 1-4 PLAN

SEE PHASE 5 PLAN.

PHASE 5 PLAN

We will be requiring all parents to sign a waiver for each child attending ACS this fall, in which they indicate that they understand that school is an inherently high-risk environment. Nothing the school does will ever make ACS 100% safe from the spread of any disease: including COVID 19. The waiver absolves ACS of any responsibility should their child contract COVID in school, or at a school event. Families who feel that they cannot sign this waiver will have to seek another alternative for educating their child(ren). (ACS employees would be required to sign a similar waiver that applies to them.)

SCHOOL DAY

Parents would be asked to take their children's temperature before school every day. Any student with a temperature over 100.4 degrees would not be able to attend school until it abates (more on this later in the plan).

All entrances to ACS will display a CDC information poster that ACS is a "Mask Recommended Zone." We believe that masks, or face shields, are a family decision.

Face shields have been purchased and will be provided to all students from 6th through 12th grade. Face shields, as well as masks (if available), will be provided to all students and staff as a courtesy. (ACS Administration is looking to have a stock of N95 masks on hand if supplies permit.)

Research shows that a face shield combined with an N95 mask will give the wearer excellent protection for themselves. This allows families to choose protection for THEIR family members. John Hopkins University and other medical institutions have their staff members wear this equipment when they are called upon to serve patients who are COVID positive.

Busing will be handled the same way. Our bus will be posted with the same "Mask Recommend Zone" as the school (However, as already stated, masks are a family level decision). We will also do our best to practice "social distancing" on the bus as far as we are able to/or as desired by students/families.

Any student heard ridiculing someone who chooses to wear a mask will face a stiff consequence. On the flip side, anyone heard chastising a student who is not wearing a mask, will also face that consequence. Each family has the right to determine what they are comfortable doing with no repercussions for that choice. An automatic one day in-school suspension will be the consequence for violating this rule.

Classrooms will practice social distancing where it is practical. In classes where it isn't possible, teachers will inform students at the beginning of the year that face shields by themselves, or in combination with masks, might be a good idea.....but the level of protection is ALWAYS a family decision.

If families wish teachers to help them monitor their protection decisions (i.e. They want their child(ren) to wear a mask/face shield, or both.), they need to contact the Team Level Administrators: Mr. White (7-12) and Mrs. Ellsworth (Pre-K-6). ACS staff will do our utmost to make sure that your child(ren) are following parent wishes once you have conveyed them to us.

Each secondary classroom will be sterilized by the teacher between classes with a UV wand. Elementary classrooms will be sterilized with a UV wand as often as the teacher sees fit. Wands have been purchased for all classrooms.

Hand sanitizer will be provided for each classroom, plus there will be sanitizer in bottles placed in strategic locations throughout the school.

ACS has also procured a spray hand sanitizer/surface sanitizer. We will be making sure that this is available for teachers to use.

Drinking fountains will be used to fill water bottles only. Using the spigot to drink straight from them will not be an option, as they will be locked down. (The one exception to this would be the gym fountain during certain designated times.)

Students eating lunch will be given a social distancing option. Again, students (families) may choose what they feel comfortable with. We will continue to use the gym for secondary lunch. Mr. Quinlan monitors that area. Elementary students eat their lunches in their rooms.

Mrs. Macy already has protocols she follows for food preparation and the meals are served in a sealed styrofoam container. ACS will also have a "sneeze shield" in place at the lunch/concessions windows, inside and outside.

WEEKNIGHTS

WeeKnights will occupy the area just west of Mrs. Ellsworth's room and just west of the corner of the elementary and WeeKnight's hallway. All WeeKnights rules will apply west of that line.

WeeKnights will be asked to comply with the health rules that apply to them.

It should be noted that WeeKnights is not considered a "Public Area" according to the governor's standards, since it is a daycare.

VISITORS

All visitors to ACS (with the exception of WeeKnights parents, grandparents, etc.) will need to enter the school through the main entrance by the gym and then report to the main office. Main office staff will handle transfer of lunches, etc., to students and they will also get students and bring them back to the office to meet with whomever is there to get them. Elementary parents will need to enter through the secondary entrance during the school day.

Drop off for the beginning of the school day, and Pick-up at the end of the school day will continue as normal.

CUSTODIAL

ACS custodial staff will be asked to wear a face shield, either by itself, or in combination with a mask. However, this is the individual's decision.

Custodians will be provided a UV wand to help them with sterilization of surfaces that they are asked to clean as part of their job. We are asking the custodians to clean surfaces as normal AND utilize the wand, thus ensuring that the school receives the deepest possible clean on an ongoing basis.

The custodial staff would also be asked to sterilize, using the UV wand, students' face shields that are left (in a location to be determined), at day's end.

Custodians would also need to be prepared to sterilize any area a COVID positive student, or teacher, may have come into contact with if they had to leave during the day because of COVID symptoms. In this scenario, the custodian would be required to wear a face shield and mask.

SPORTING EVENTS

Sports seasons will proceed as normal for the teams. If you choose to let your child play sports you are choosing a more "high risk" environment. That is the nature of sports.

Student athletes will be required to have their own water bottles. Drinking from fountains will be highly discouraged.

The sports seasons might well be shorter (fewer games) than in previous years. Christian school opponents will likely still play, but public school opponents might cancel games, either at the beginning of a season, or unexpectedly during the season. We will need to be flexible in our expectations and understanding of the problems Mr. Delgado will face as he (and Mr. Quinlan) deal with this situation.

Spectators will be informed by posted signs that at our athletic facilities are "Face Shield/Mask Recommended" zones. Again, we stress, face shields/masks are a family level decision. Spectators will also be asked to practice social distancing as much as they are able.

PROTOCOLS FOR SICK STUDENTS/STAFF

Students who are retained at home by parents due to illness will need to be 24 hours fever free before returning to school. Communication between parents/teacher, or student/teachers will be required to figure out the homework situation (In other words, this will proceed as it has in the past.....the student is sick.....talk to the teacher about work.)

Students who are retained at home by parents and are CONFIRMED to have COVID by a healthcare professional will be required to remain quarantined for 14 days (this is according to the Kent County Health Department.....see following paragraph) AFTER the healthcare professional provides written confirmation that they are symptom free. Parents are asked to practice a limited quarantine within their home by attempting to isolate the patient as much as possible.

Currently ACS reports immunological information to the Kent County Health Department. Recent information provided by MACS (Michigan Association of Christian Schools) would seem to indicate that this is a courtesy, not a requirement. KCHD is "requiring" us to report confirmed COVID cases to the KCHD.

Students who are confined to home because of COVID, will be switched to distance learning as soon as they feel well enough to start working on curriculum again. (See Distance Learning Plan - Attached)

Teachers will all be using Google services to communicate with homebound children. This is not to say that all teachers will be on Google Classroom, etc., it is just to say that Google will be the vector for any video conferencing, etc.

The school and parents will have to be in communication about getting the student needed support materials, and homework pick up/drop off times will need to be established for paperwork, projects, etc.

A student who begins displaying symptoms during the school day will immediately be isolated. The school will set aside a room with a cot near the office so that a student displaying COVID symptoms can be safe, secure, and monitored by office personnel. This room will be by the secondary office, and it will be utilized for both elementary and secondary students.

Parents will be required to immediately come to school to get a symptomatic student.

If student attendance as a whole drops below 80%, school will be suspended until numbers are back to acceptable levels of attendance. This is the case with any disease outbreak. In this situation, "snow day learning" would kick in schoolwide. If the situation doesn't resolve itself within a week's time, the distance learning plan would then be implemented (See Distance Learning Plan - Attached).

Symptomatic staff members would immediately be sent home. Mrs. Russell would be required to find a sub, either within the building, or externally. Quarantine rules would be the same for staff as they are for students.

Normal attendance rules would need to be flexed and we would consider absences on a "case by case" basis. This would also apply to staff "sick leave."



ALGOMA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

"Helping Families Make Disciples" since 1981

Tracey Pitts

Tracey.Pitts@acsi.org

Association of Christian Schools International
2001 W Plano Parkway, Suite 3600
Plano, TX 75075

Tracey,

In order for Michigan schools to operate during the 2020-21 school year, schools are required to develop and adopt a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan. Our administrator, Mr. Quinlan, asked me to send Algoma Christian School's Preparedness (Safe Start) Plan to you. We have been recommended by MACS (Michigan Association of Christian Schools) and the Great Lakes Justice Center to submit our Preparedness Plan to our governing authority. Because we are accredited through ACSI, we have been told to submit our plan to ACSI for it to be filed. I have attached our Preparedness (Safe Start) Plan.

Please let myself or Mr. Quinlan know if you need further information or have any questions.

Tessa Ellsworth
Pre-K and Kindergarten Teacher
Algoma Christian School
"Helping Families Make Disciples"
616-678-7480 ext 123
tessa.ellsworth@algomachristian.net



ALGOMA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

“Helping Families Make Disciples” since 1981

August 12, 2020

Algoma Christian School, in accordance with Governor Whitmore’s Executive Orders, has submitted the Algoma Christian School’s Preparedness (Safe Start) Plan (ACS - SSP) to our governing authority, Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) on August 5, 2020.

ACSI has accepted the ACS-SSP. Algoma Christian School has received the following responses from ACSI via email:

“Thank you, Tessa. I have saved it in your school’s folder.”

TRACEY R PITTS

Administrative Assistant, Accreditation | ACSI Mid-America Region

[ACSI Coronavirus Resources](#)

[ACSI Coronavirus Resources \(Legal and Legislative\)](#)

“This is great! Thank you for sending it to us. If we have schools ask, are we free to share it with them?”

Bobbie Kelly, M.Ed.

Accreditation Director | ACSI Mid-America Region

Association of Christian Schools International

2001 W Plano Parkway, Suite 3600

Plano, TX 75075

MidAmericawebsite.org