

# Return to School 4.0

## Introduction and Overview

Much has changed around us since our initial opening in August of this year. What has not changed is our commitment to growing followers of Jesus, academic excellence and the health of our students. We are thankful for your grace, patience and understanding as we navigate through these times. The purpose of this document is to clearly communicate the current protocols we are following.

It is our intent to follow **all “Requirements”** from both the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services as well as the Wayne County Health Department.

Given the ever-changing nature of the pandemic and input from the above-mentioned agencies, rather than restate the guidance from the respective agencies, we are including web hyperlinks in this document. By providing you the hyperlinks to the orders from these agencies that we are following you will always have our latest direction on our protocols.

### Michigan Department of Health and Human Services- Pandemic Orders

[https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178\\_98455-533660--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178_98455-533660--,00.html)

### Wayne County Health Department- Return to School Roadmap

<https://www.waynecounty.com/covid19/back-to-school.aspx>

These hyperlinks will provide you the latest and real-time direction we are utilizing, as well as the specific wording of the guidance from the State and County.

Our intent and current practice is to fulfil **all** State “Requirements” made in the Pandemic Orders issued by the Michigan Health Department and the Wayne County Health Department at this time.

Note as stated above our intent is to meet all “Requirements” from these agencies. Within the documents found at these links there are recommendations which are beyond “Requirements”. We often implement these recommendations, however sometimes the nature of our facilities or operations preclude implementation. Those recommendation which we have implemented are specifically listed in the section below along with other actions generated by our Health and Safety committee.

### **Additional Actions Beyond State and County Requirements PCA is Doing to Protect the Health of Your Student:**

- We are praying for our students, staff and their families daily. We encourage you to do the same.
- Parents must assess their student(s) health each morning prior to arriving at school following the processes outlined in Wayne County Return to School Roadmap in the link provided above.
- Temperature checks are taken whenever possible upon entering the building.
- Extended period between classes to allow for classroom desk/table disinfection, accommodate hallway staggering, and provide extra time for students to use their lockers/restrooms.
- Kindergarten parents may escort their children to the classroom door only as emotionally required during the first week(s) of school.
- All field trips, class trips, off campus events, and other school sponsored travel is prohibited at this time.

- Parents and teachers will arrange conferences through phone or video conferencing, until further notice.
- Purchased lunch items will be provided with single-use containers and utensils.
- Students eat together in smaller cohorts in the school's lunchrooms with enhanced health and safety protocols.
- Addition of ionizing fans to improve air quality in each of the classrooms.
- Touchless bathroom faucets have been installed throughout both the church and the school building. Four traditional style drinking fountains, located in both the church and the school building, will be replaced with updated drinking fountains with bottle filler stations. The drinking fountain portion of this station will be disabled, and students will only have access to the fillable drink station.
- The school has purchased electrostatic disinfectant sprayers for quick, thorough disinfection for daily use.
- Specials classes, lunch, recess and chapel occur in grade level cohorts and follow enhanced safety protocols.
- Every effort will be made to ensure students are not carrying home an unreasonable number of books on a daily basis.
- Students and teachers should bring their own, labeled water bottles for use at our new fillable drinking stations.
- All classrooms are equipped with hand sanitizers, Clorox wipes, disposable masks for emergencies, paper towels, tissues, etc.
- Playground equipment will be cleaned and high-touch surfaces wiped down with a disinfecting solution following each use.
- No more than two students at a time are permitted to use the restroom.
- All Food Services staff are in compliance with state and local requirements and health and safety recommendations.
- Meals, snacks & beverages must be brought from home and only handled by the student.
- Students may only touch or handle their own learning materials (e.g., textbooks, pens).
- Students are only permitted to use their own locker and personal belongings such as backpacks, etc.
- Restroom door handles and toilet/sink handles, countertops, etc., are cleaned and sanitized throughout the school day.
- Art Supplies: There will be limited use of any shared supplies. Instead, students have individual art supply bags or bins.
- Students may use musical instruments and then place them in a tub or hula hoop to be disinfected overnight. 4th grade students would only be allowed to use their own recorder and not borrow from the class box.
- Elementary students do not change clothing in locker rooms for P.E. Until further notice, students in grades 5 & 6 will wear their PCA gym clothes to PCA on their P.E. day with appropriate athletic wear.
- P.E. classes will be held outside as much as possible.
- The teacher will minimize the sharing of equipment and provide individual equipment when possible.

- Students must refrain from sharing their technology devices with classmates and should not touch each other's screens, keyboards, STEM class manipulatives, etc.
- Teachers will sanitize desks, tables and highly touched surfaces between classes.
- Students will be asked to wait before taking their seat to allow for disinfection drying time.
- Classroom doors will be left open to increase air flow and reduce the frequency of students having to open/touch the door when entering and leaving the classroom. Doors will remain open, but locked for security purposes.
- Upon entering the classroom, gymnasium, auditorium, lunchroom, etc. students will sanitize their hands.
- All Athletic Guidance will follow the protocols set forth by MHSAA and the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference (MIAC). You can find that information [here](#).
- Face shields may be used in place of masks for performances. "Singer's Masks" are currently being investigated for use in the performing arts.
- Masks may be made to incorporate use of mouthpieces
- P.E. classes will be held outside as much as possible.

## EAGLES AT HOME

### Online Learning Options

Our recent parent survey indicated a small percentage of our families may require an online learning option. For appropriate circumstances, we provide this option for all grades. Please note that online learning will require a strong partnership between parents and the classroom teacher and a self-motivated learner to maximize student achievement. Online Learning will not change our mission to partner with parents and equip students to know, love, and serve Jesus Christ and to provide for academic excellence.

We strongly prefer to have our students on campus but understand that each family may have unique circumstances. Our ultimate goal is to have all of our students together on campus. We deeply value every student and family at Plymouth Christian and we will continue to provide a high-quality education taught through the lens of a biblical worldview even through these unique times.

Online learning can appear daunting and we want to provide parents and students the tool kits and face-to-face time they so desperately need. In order to provide students a robust and interactive online learning experience we are able to provide the following:

**The K-2nd Grade Information Sheet can be found [here](#).**

**The 3rd-6th Grade Information Sheet can be found [here](#).**

**The 7th-12th Grade Information Sheet can be found [here](#).**

**Live streaming Waiver [here](#).**

## INTERMITTENT CLOSURES

There may be scenarios where we have a brief period of intermittent closures. If we need to have a brief, online learning experience, we commit to provide every student with an exceptional education. The very day following any short-term closure, we will transition to our proven, quality Distance Learning Program. We have continued to develop a best practices distance learning plan that we believe will deliver the

highest quality experience possible. Plymouth Christian was a leader in online education last spring, and we are thankful for the foresight of our team. Our students, quite literally, didn't miss a day. Our teachers are fully prepared to deliver an even more excellent online product for our families.

## **SOCIAL DISTANCING**

It is our intent to follow and enforce social distancing requirements of 6 foot at all times within the school buildings, buses and outside. Given our facilities and the nature of the broad range of school activities the following are the only approved exceptions to maintaining and enforcing the 6 foot minimum:

- Outside activities which preclude social distancing, such as recess, when masks are worn by all participants
- During athletics as prescribed by MHSAA
- Classrooms where layout of room prohibits 6 foot separation. In these situations the following must followed:
  - Signoff of room seating layout by School Superintendent
  - Minimum of 3 foot separation when desks are forward facing
  - Minimum of 3 foot separation and acrylic separation shields when desks are not forward facing

## **CAMPUS OPERATIONS**

- **FAMILY/STUDENT HANDBOOK**
- PCA's Current Family/Student Handbook contains important policies and procedures that still apply to every PCA family during this period of adjusted procedures. Please click the following links to view:
  - [Elementary Family Handbook](#)
  - [Secondary Family Handbook](#)

## **QUESTIONS**

**If you have questions on any of these protocols, please send it to the following email and we will respond within 24 hours**

[Reunite@plymouthchristian.org](mailto:Reunite@plymouthchristian.org)

## **BACKGROUND / NATURE OF THIS DOCUMENT**

The policies and procedures within the Health and Safety portion of the addendum are intended to mitigate, not eliminate, risk. No single action or set of actions will completely eliminate the risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission, but implementation of several coordinated interventions and layered protection can greatly reduce that risk.

Due to the ever-changing situation regarding COVID-19 protocols, this document and all policies are subject to change. Plymouth Christian Academy has implemented enhanced sanitation measures on its campus and has put in place health and safety protocols to help reduce the spread of COVID-19, which health and safety protocols may be updated at any time. However, PCA cannot promise that even with the steps the

school is taking, that your child will not be exposed to or infected by COVID-19. An inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any place where people are present.

As a parent of a PCA student, you agree that you will help your child understand and cooperate in complying with the health and safety protocols, rules, and precautions implemented by PCA which may include, but are not limited to, participating in daily temperature checks and other screening measures conducted by PCA, face coverings, hand washing, hand sanitizing, and physical distancing. You understand that students who do not adhere to all health and safety protocols, rules, or precautions may be subject to immediate removal from PCA's campus.