

Return to School 5.0

Introduction and Overview

We are excited and optimistic about the start of this new school ministry year. We strongly believe in God's blessing and protection as we begin this year together. What has not changed since PCA's inception is our commitment to growing followers of Jesus, academic excellence, and the health of our students. We are thankful for your patience and grace as we navigate through these challenging times. The purpose of this document is to clearly communicate the current protocols we will be following for the 2021/22 school year.

It is our intent to follow **all "Requirements"** from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Wayne County Health Department and Michigan High School Athletic Association.

Significant Changes to PCA protocols from last year:

- The wearing of masks is optional, and not required for all staff, visitors, and students Preschool-12th grade with the exception of compliance to the latest and evolving MDHSS requirements while being transported on a bus.
- Temperatures will no longer be taken at the door this year.
- Parents will be allowed into the school.

Additional Actions Not Required by MDHHS / MHSAA that we will be Continuing this Year 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 are **required** to assess their student(s) health each morning prior to arriving at school including checking the student's temperature before dropping your child off for school
- Both in person and video options will be offered for Parent / Teacher conferences
- Purchased lunch items will be provided with single-use containers and utensils.
- Ionizing fans will continue to be used improve air quality in each of the classrooms.
- Touchless faucets and bottle filler stations have been installed throughout the church and school.
- 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.
- All Food Services staff will be in compliance with state health and safety requirements.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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).
- All students and staff are **required** to follow our existing Extended Illness Policy (i.e. Covid, Mononucleosis, or other extended illnesses). (See page 74 in the Elementary Handbook or page 67 of the Secondary Handbook)
- We will have a limited Streaming Offering for extended Illnesses. This option of live streaming is limited to grades 7-12 and will be available for two-week periods only and will require (per policy) a written note from the student’s primary care provider. Elementary classroom will provide packets of work with some live streaming included as needed for whole group instruction.
- Students or Staff who receive a positive COVID test result or other communicable diseases are **required** to report this test result to the school office within 24 hours to enable contact tracing
- Students and Staff are **required** to follow “**Section 5**” of Wayne County Health Department’s “**Public Health Advisory – Public, Non-Public, and Boarding Schools August 17, 2021**” guidance:
 - **Self-Quarantine for a School Setting-** *An individual who has been identified as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case, and thus is potentially exposed to the virus, must self-quarantine for ten (10) days. However, if the individual is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms after ten (10) days they must continue to quarantine until they are completely free of COVID-19 symptoms.*
 - **Exception to Self-Quarantine Requirement-** *No self-quarantine period is required for a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case in the school setting when an individual is and remains asymptomatic and one of the following applies:*
 - 1. *Within the past five (5) months the close contact had a positive, confirmatory COVID (PCR) test;*

OR

 - 2. *Fourteen (14) days have passed since the close contact was vaccinated with the second dose of either the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, or one dose of a Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine;*

OR

- 3. *The potential exposure to COVID-19 occurred in a classroom while both the positive COVID-19 case and close contact were masked, and they maintained at least three (3) feet of physical distance between them. This exception to self-quarantine does not apply if a close contact starts to experience COVID-19 symptoms.*

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 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.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

It is our intent to achieve social distancing (at least 3 foot is best) within the school buildings, buses and outside where possible. Given our facilities and the nature of the broad range of school activities, achieving

3 foot distancing may not always be possible including but not limited to athletics where we will follow MHSSA requirements.

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

BACKGROUND / NATURE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The policies and procedures above are an addendum to our Parent Handbooks intended to mitigate, not eliminate, risk related to health and safety. 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. 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.