



COVID19 Response Plan



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Overview

For the foreseeable future, the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to affect our daily school routines. Prudence calls for prayerful, thoughtful, and coordinated planning as we learn how to best respond to this short-to-medium-term challenge.

Generally speaking, there are three possible learning models:

1. **Normal Learning:** *All students in the school building.*
 - a. No community spread; return to normal school routines.
 - b. Attendance policies are normal per the Parent/Student Handbooks.
 - c. Grading and academic policies are normal.
2. **Hybrid Learning:** *Most or many students in the school building.*
 - a. Minimal to moderate community transmission.
 - b. Modified attendance and academic policies.
 - c. School-wide social distancing and mitigation strategies in place.
 - d. Special safety and sanitizing protocols approved by the health district.
 - e. Initial health screenings (for re-entry) and routine health screenings (as needed).
 - f. Concentrates on students in school but provides flexibility for homebound students.
3. **Distance Learning:** *No students permitted in the school building.*
 - a. Substantial community transmission.
 - b. Attendance and academic policies highly modified.
 - c. All schooling via Distance Learning Model.

Our mission to provide a Christ-centered academic experience for Christian families in the Treasure Valley is best fulfilled when teachers and students come together on campus and in classrooms. However, until the COVID-19 pandemic has abated, an open school building requires special precautions and protocols in order to safeguard the health and well-being of our students, faculty, and staff. We have developed these protocols in close coordination with local, regional, and state officials.

It is our intention to open the school building when conditions permit. For the safety of our students and staff, and depending on conditions and guidance from coordinating agencies, we may also need to resort to a distance learning model.

Thank you for your patience and your prayers as we persevere through this unprecedented challenge.



Coordination with State and County Agencies

The agency primarily responsible for overseeing the opening of private schools is the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare's health districts. We fall under the Southwest District Health (SDH) district. This plan follows the recommendations of that agency.

Southwest District Health School Guidance

Nampa Christian Schools' protocols align with and follow the school guidance document issued by SDH on April 22, 2020. NCS will synchronize with SDH guidance in the following manner:

SDH Categories	Community Transmission	NCS Learning Model
I	None	Normal Learning
II	Minimal to Moderate	Hybrid Learning
III	Substantial	Distance Learning

If, after reopening, NCS has a confirmed case of COVID-19, we will implement a short-term closure for 2-5 days (and move back into the Distance Learning model) per SDH guidelines.

Student Re-Entry Protocols

SDH has informed us that all private schools within its purview should consider conducting regular student medical screenings well beyond the end of the current school year. By implementing these policies now, we are getting ourselves accustomed to what will be the "new normal" until the COVID-19 pandemic abates.

Modified Medical Policy

An interim modification will be made to our Parent/Student Handbook Medical Policy section. Students who are ill will NOT be allowed to return to school if any other family member exhibits any COVID19 related symptoms. If the student has been ill, they will NOT be allowed to return to school until 72 hours have passed with no medicine and no symptoms.

Student Screenings

Our Preschool will be performing regular screening for fever before entry is allowed into the building. Other schools (Elementary, Middle, and High Schools) may implement this as conditions and guidance from State and County agencies warrants.



Students whose temperatures are above 100° F (and their siblings) will be sent home and not permitted to enter any building on an NCS campus. Parents must remain on screening days until their students' screenings are complete.

Social Distancing and Mitigation Strategies (for Hybrid Learning)

School Days and Hours

A modified schedule will be used during the hybrid learning model. Live classroom instruction will take place from Monday through Thursday of each week. Friday will be an in-service day for teachers to allow a dedicated time for lesson planning and interactions with distance learning students. The Elementary School will operate a shortened day from 8:15 AM until 1:45 PM. The Middle and High Schools will operate a shortened day from 8:30 AM until 2:00 PM. These shortened times for live instruction will allow teachers additional time at the end of the day to post content to their Google Classroom(s).

Drop-off and Pick-up

Multiple doors will be used to control crowding during drop-off and pick-up times. At the Elementary School, students will enter and exit through their classrooms' exterior doors. At the Middle and High Schools, there will be three points of entry (the main/front doors, the senior/kitchen door, and the central office door).

Hallways

Teachers will ensure that students maintain increased spacing in lines as they move through hallways. Blue tape on the floor will mark spots for students to stand when lining up outside a classroom.

Classroom Seating

Teachers will use increased spacing between desks or arrange seating at tables in an alternating fashion (keeping every other seat empty, for example) to maximize the spacing between students.

Lunchroom Seating

The lunchrooms on both campuses will be closed for seating. Students will eat lunch in the classroom with the seating modifications listed in the previous section.



Library, Assemblies, and Chapels

The libraries on both campuses will be closed. For assemblies, students will sit in every other seat. For chapels, these are an integral part of NCS and we will move to an online delivery that facilitates viewing of the chapel service in the students' daily bible class or at home for our distance learning students.

Physical Education Classes

Person-to-person contact sports or activities will be avoided. All equipment will be sanitized with a solution of bleach or Triad-III prior to re-use.

Music, Theatre, and Arts Classes

Music class will no longer involve singing in a group. Theatre class will no longer involve group rehearsals. Art classes will be moved outside, as weather allows, due to the small size of that classroom. For all three, classwork will focus on learning history, theory, and other academic topics.

Recess Procedures

Until further notice, students will refrain from using the playground equipment, which has been taped off to help discourage its use. Large open spaces like our athletic fields will be used as an alternative.

Holding Room for Sick Students

Both campuses of NCS have a designated room that room will be utilized as a holding area for sick students that are waiting to be picked up.

Visitors and Volunteers

We will suspend nearly all of our volunteer programs during hybrid learning to limit the number of people inside our buildings. We will also be limiting visitors who enter any building lobby to help maintain social distancing. This limit will vary by building due to differing lobby sizes.

Additional Daily Protocols

SDH-recommended face masks will be made available for medically vulnerable students and staff members. Staff duties and student activities requiring close contact will be modified as necessary.



Daily Sanitation Protocols

School-Wide Disinfections

We utilize a combination of CDC-approved products including GermBloc brand disinfectant and a dilution of disinfecting bleach to clean desks, common tables, countertops, doorknobs and handles, hands-on learning items, bathroom fixtures, phones, and customer service areas every day.

Hand Sanitizer Stations

Teachers, staff, and students will keep their hands sanitized using the dispensers of GermBloc hand sanitizer that are installed at every building entrance and in every classroom.

Hygienic Practices

Parents are required to keep sick students and their siblings home for at least 72 hours after a fever subsides without the use of fever-reducing medicines. We rely on parents to promote the same hygienic practices we will direct students to practice at school, including:

- covering coughs or sneezes with a bent arm or tissue and washing hands or using hand sanitizer afterward;
- washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds, dry hands with a paper towel, and using the paper towel to turn off the faucet;
- keeping hands away from nose, mouth, and eyes; and
- avoiding the sharing of food, drinks, and personal care items (e.g. lip balm).

Hybrid Learning for Homebound Students

We respect the right of families to keep students at home in the interest of their health and safety during this pandemic. We also expect to require some students to stay at home, if only for a short period of time, as a precautionary measure—for example, if their questionnaires indicate exposure to COVID-19 or if their screenings indicate a temperature of 100° F or higher.

In addition to the NCS Family Handbook, the following attendance categories are in effect:

- Absent (due to COVID-19 illness): no attendance penalty or academic restrictions
- Absent (due to parent COVID-19 health concerns): no attendance penalty or academic restrictions

We will offer the following flexibilities to accommodate students who are homebound:

- Teachers will offer daily "live" tutoring sessions (via GoogleMeet) as appropriate. While these sessions will not cover all the in-class material, they will provide homebound



students with the help to stay up on their core academic skills. All students will be expected to complete and submit classwork distributed to them by their teachers.

- Attendance policies will take into account the special circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. Homebound students will not be penalized for their absences.
- Homeroom teachers will be in close contact with homebound students and will make weekly phone calls to parents (at a minimum).
- School materials will be made available to homebound students. Details will be coordinated with each student's family.

Hybrid Instruction for Homebound Teachers

We respect the right of teachers to stay at home in the interest of their health and safety during this pandemic. Teachers will be allowed to Distance Teach from home and use Google Meet and Google Classroom to deliver content to their students.

Procedure for Positive or Suspected COVID-19 Case

The following procedure is to be used if a student or employee in any school building is identified as COVID-19 positive or suspected positive.

Action Item: Student or employee is respectfully asked to isolate in the holding room.

- For students, the front office will call parents or legal guardians for pickup.
- For employees, the front office will coordinate with school leadership to manage follow-on effects.
- Student or employee will be provided appropriate personal protection equipment and any employee interacting with the confirmed or suspected case will be provided with a mask and gloves.

Action Item: Front office traces list of potential exposures (employees and students).

- The front office will coordinate (as appropriate) with parents/legal guardians of the student or directly with the employee to build a list of potential exposures.

Action Item: School leadership decides on the length of the short-term closure.

- School leadership will provide SDH with appropriate details and exposure information.
- School leadership will coordinate the closure decision with SDH.
- School leadership will coordinate the closure decision with the NCS Board of Directors.
- Points of Contact:
 - SDH: Mrs. Kim Beckley
 - NCS BOD: Mr. Marc Taylor



Action Item: School leadership communicates appropriate details to the school community.

- School leadership will update the school community (parents/guardians) via ParentAlert mass communications system (email/text/voice) with appropriate incident details.

Action Item: NCS transitions to Distance Learning Model for the closure period.



Decision Matrix for Parents & Students

Situation	My student has a fever or is vomiting	My student has COVID-19 symptoms <u>or</u> came in contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case	I have a unique family circumstance
	↓	↓	↓
What's Next	The student must stay home	Student <u>and</u> siblings (if applicable) must stay home	Choose to keep your student(s) home?
	↓	↓	↓
Next Steps	Inform NCS front office of student illness and coordinate with teacher to obtain and complete assigned schoolwork	Inform NCS front office of the situation, obtain medical diagnosis or recommendation, and move to Distance Learning	Inform NCS front office of the situation and move to Distance Learning Model
	↓	↓	↓
Return to School?	After 72 hours without fever or vomiting <u>and</u> without fever-reducing medication	After obtaining medical clearance to return to school <u>and</u> in consultation with NCS front office	When ready <u>and</u> in consultation with NCS front office



Decision Matrix for Employees

Situation	The employee has a fever or is vomiting	The employee has COVID-19 symptoms <u>or</u> came in contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case	The employee has a unique family circumstance
	↓	↓	↓
What's Next	The employee must stay home	Employee <u>and</u> children (if applicable) must stay home	Does the employee feel compelled to work from home?
	↓	↓	↓
Next Steps	Inform NCS administration of employee illness and coordinate with NCS admin for alternative teaching arrangements (if applicable)	Inform NCS admin of the situation, obtain medical diagnosis or recommendation, and coordinate with NCS admin for alternatives	Inform NCS admin of the situation and coordinate with NCS admin for alternatives
	↓	↓	↓
Return to School?	After 72 hours without fever or vomiting <u>and</u> without fever-reducing medication	After obtaining medical clearance to return to school <u>and</u> in consultation with NCS admin	When ready <u>and</u> in consultation with NCS admin



Southwest District Health Guidelines (04-15-2020)



COVID-19 Guidance for Schools

School Re-Opening Criteria for Spring/Summer 2020

This guidance uses the most up-to-date information available from the CDC and emerging best practices, thus subject to change.

Local public health districts support schools in resuming normal operations based on their community needs and COVID-19 community spread. Below is a checklist of criteria*, and once met local public health districts will provide a letter of endorsement to re-open. Meeting all these criteria will prepare schools for the array of circumstances they may encounter.

*SBoE = aligns with, and meets, State Board of Education criteria

Category 1: No Community Spread

- ☐ Review, update, and implement emergency operations plans
- ☐ Reinforce healthy hygiene practices
- ☐ Intensified cleaning disinfection protocols and practices are in place (SBoE)
- ☐ Monitor and plan for absenteeism (and plan for students/parents who do not feel comfortable returning to school) (SBoE)
- ☐ Review group gatherings and events, and determine if social distancing strategies can be put in place
- ☐ Communications plan for informing parents and staff of the school district and charter school response plans, protocols, and policies to manage the impact of the coronavirus. (SBoE)
- ☐ Revised student/staff illness policies – require them to stay home when ill, procedure for when they become sick at school, and parent/guardian responsibility for immediate pick-up from school when notified
- ☐ Verify point of contact for each school district and charter school for effective communication and collaboration with local public health officials (SBoE)
- ☐ Prepare for your first confirmed COVID-19 case in school, including short-term closures for students and staffs (2-5 days) and cancellation of all group events and activities
 - ☐ Draft communication messages regarding dismissal decisions and possible COVID-19 exposure
 - ☐ Work with local public health to determine whether extended school dismissal is needed after cleaning and disinfecting

Category 2: Minimal to Moderate Community Transmission

- ☐ Coordinate with local health officials
- ☐ Identify social distancing strategies based on feasibility of space and needs of the school, including staff duties which require close contact and mitigation strategies to use (SBoE)
- ☐ Encourage students, staff, and visitors wear cloth face coverings while at school, and provide for those who do not have one but wish to wear one
- ☐ Communicate with local public health districts to determine if screening employees and students daily for COVID-19 symptoms upon entry to the facility, including check for low-grade fever with no-touch thermometer
- ☐ Identify and plan for vulnerable staff and students with a special emphasis on people over age 60 and those who are medically vulnerable (SBoE)

Category 3: Substantial Community Transmission

- ☐ Continue coordination with local health officials
- ☐ Consider extended school dismissals and reinstate continuity of teaching and learning plans

*School Guidance (COVID-19) v1.0 • April 22, 2020
Adapted from the Centers for Disease Control*



Southwest District Health Plan Approval (05-01-2020)



May 1, 2020

To Whom it May Concern:

Nampa Christian School has been working in close collaboration to meet the criteria outlined by the State Board of Education and Southwest District Health, which utilizes the most up-to-date guidance from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention in order to safely operate amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

This letter is to endorse Nampa Christian School in their pursuit of re-opening during the Spring/Summer of 2020. Nampa Christian School has reviewed and updated policies and procedures and developed mitigation strategies to address the level of local community spread of COVID-19, including intensified cleaning and disinfecting protocols, identification of feasible social distancing strategies, updated policies for illnesses and absenteeism, plans for short-term dismissal plans for positive COVID-19 cases, and identified ways to accommodate needs of children and families at risk for serious illness from COVID-19 cases. The school has shown commitment in establishing and maintaining an effective relationship with Southwest District Health to help address changing circumstances. A full list of completed criteria is attached to this letter.

At this time, Southwest District Health fully endorses Nampa Christian School in re-opening in-person, school-based education as defined in their plan.

Respectfully,

Nikole Zogg, PhD, MPH
District Director

Healthier Together

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Revision History

Date	Revision	Author	Changes
2020-05-04	0.1	Jeff A	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Initial document that was converted from the CDC guidelines for reopening schools and our responses that we provided to SDH prior to reopening.
2020-05-11	0.2	Jeff A	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Added letter of endorsement from SDH