



# Faith Christian Academy

## Covid-19 Policies and Procedures

*Draft: July 28, 2020*

Our highest priority is to follow the Biblical principles of treating others the way we want to be treated (Matthew 7:12) and obeying the authorities God has put in our lives (1 Peter 2:13-15) while protecting the health, safety, and well being of our FCA community. We plan to do so while offering a quality, Christian education.

- Our 2020-2021 school year will begin August 17<sup>th</sup> on our campus.
- We are modifying our campus environment and operations with enhanced health and safety measures.
- We are monitoring all aspects of this situation and we will keep you informed of any further changes that become necessary.
- These policies and procedures have been established with guidance and/or mandates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the South Carolina Division of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), the Department of Social Services (DSS), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) as well as other federal, state, and local health officials.

## **SAFETY OF STUDENTS, STAFF, AND VISITORS**

### **COVID-19 Screening**

- All employees, students, and other individuals authorized to enter our campus will have their temperatures checked upon arrival.
- All employees, students, or other individuals who show any signs of illness such as fever (anything 100.4 or more), cough or flu-like symptoms will not be admitted to the FCA campus or allowed to stay if symptoms develop during the day.

### **Face Coverings/Face Shields**

- All employees will be required to wear a mask or face shield (indoors) when social distancing is limited or when in direct contact with students, parents, or other authorized persons on campus.
- Students will be required to wear masks while moving throughout the building. These include, but are not limited to:
  - morning arrivals
  - bathroom breaks
  - afternoon pickup
- Parents and visitors are required to wear a mask when visiting our campus.

### **Sanitation Procedures**

- All employees, students, and other individuals who are authorized to enter the FCA campus are required to use hand sanitizer upon arrival.
- Hand hygiene procedures, including hand washing and using hand sanitizer are required throughout our campus. These include, but are not limited to:
  - Prior to entering into the building
  - Prior to and after eating
  - After using the restroom
- Enhanced campus sanitizing procedure have been established, including classrooms and common areas. Frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected multiple times a day.

### **Visitor Restrictions**

FCA will limit visitors at this time. Staff personnel will meet any visitor and/or parent at the front door. If visitors must enter the building, a mask must be worn, and visitors should use our hand sanitizer upon arrival.

# HEALTH PROTOCOL

## Communication of Illness

- If a student or staff member tests positive for Covid-19, FCA will notify the parents of the students in the class that a positive test has been reported. For privacy concerns the child's name will not be released. If the child has siblings at FCA, a notification will also be sent to the parents of students in those classes as well.
- FCA will coordinate with local health officials to determine the next course of action.

According to CDC guidelines, when a student (and siblings) or staff member tests positive for Covid-19, the following criteria must be met in order for him/her to return to school:

1. At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (no longer running fever without the use of fever-reducing medications)
2. Improvement of symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, headache, etc.)
3. At least 10 days have passed since the date of the COVID-19 test that resulted in a positive outcome

**If an individual (employee, student, other visitor to campus) is diagnosed with COVID-19, he/she or parent/guardian must inform the administration via email at [mbailey@fcaheraw.org](mailto:mbailey@fcaheraw.org) immediately.**

## COVID-19 Symptoms

Symptoms of COVID-19 may develop within 2-14 days after exposure to the virus and may include any of the following:

- Fever (100.4 F or above)
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Muscle pain
- Chills
- New loss of smell or taste

Less common symptoms that have been reported:

- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea

## **When to Stay Home from School**

### **Is the student experiencing Covid-like symptoms?**

YES – Stay Home. Siblings are to stay home also.  
Inform the FCA office via email [mbailey@fcaheraw.org](mailto:mbailey@fcaheraw.org).  
Rest and recover.

### **Does the student have a fever of 100.4 or higher?**

YES – Stay Home. Siblings are to stay home also.  
Call the doctor.  
Inform the FCA office via email [mbailey@fcaheraw.org](mailto:mbailey@fcaheraw.org).  
Rest and recover.

## **When to Return to School**

Sick staff members and students are not to return until they have met criteria for return.

- Students or staff excluded for these symptoms should not return until they have either tested negative for Covid-19 or a medical evaluation determines that their symptoms were more likely due to another cause (sore throat due to strep). In this later case, the individual can return when they meet criteria for that condition. Physician's documentation will be required to return to school.
- Students or staff that require testing for Covid-19 will require a negative test or similar rapid test that directly detects the virus or must complete the current isolation criteria for Covid-19 to return to school.
- Current isolation criteria for Covid-19:
  - Students and staff who test positive for Covid-19 and persons with symptoms of Covid-19 who do not get tested should isolate until:
    - 10 days have passed since symptoms started
    - 3 days (72 hours) have passed since last fever without taking fever reducing medication
    - Overall improvement in symptoms
  - Those who test positive by a test but do not have symptoms will be required to stay out of school until 10 days after the specimen was collected.
  - The criteria above should be used to determine eligibility to return to school.

## FCA Student Procedures

### Social Distancing

Social distancing is an effective way to prevent potential infection. FCA staff, students, parents, and visitors should practice staying approximately 6 feet away from others and eliminating contact with others. Our students will continue to enjoy the experience of school within a controlled environment.

#### Classrooms:

- Each classroom will be a cohort that will remain together throughout the day.
- Student desk will be positioned approximately 6 feet apart.
- Books and materials will not be shared.

#### Lunch:

- A schedule will determine the location of student's lunch. location – whether classroom, lunchroom, or outside dining at picnic tables.
- Individual classes will remain together socially distanced among classmates.

#### Hallways:

- Students will move throughout the building following the markings on the floor in order to maintain social distancing.
- Masks will be required as they move throughout the building.

#### Restrooms:

- Number of students in the restrooms will be limited.

#### Special Areas:

- Teachers will travel to students' classrooms for all instruction with the exception of Physical Education.

## **Stay-at-Home Order**

In the event that a stay-at-home mandate is issued, Faith Christian Academy will transition to a Full Distance Learning Model. Full Distance Learning will blend daily live instruction with daily assignments, and a schedule intentionally designed to provide school/life balance. Internet tools such as Zoom and YouTube will be utilized to ensure FCA students continue to receive a quality, Christian education.

Although we have put our best efforts forth, there may be circumstances beyond Faith Christian Academy's control. We realize the possible increase of Covid-19 cases which could impact our in-person learning. We are committed to upholding the core values for learning and fulfilling FCA's mission statement. We will communicate clearly and consistently with our families as we translate our traditional education in a virtual environment.