



ACADEMICALLY EXCELLENT, CHRIST-CENTERED

Judah Christian School Fall Plan 2020

Approach

Scripture teaches us that there is both a place for trusting God while putting aside fear and a place for planning for the safety of people. The story of Nehemiah courageously rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem for the protection of its people incorporate both of these ideas. It does not have to be one or the other. We hope that the plans to reopen the school for 2020-21 take into account both actively planning for the safety of our community and trusting God to act on our behalf.

The administration has reviewed the requirements of reopening school from several sources. We are consistently considering the information, updates, and requirements from the CDC, ISBE, IDPH, and CUPHD. We have also reviewed our surveys from our parents and faculty, in addition to other information from our school nurses and ACSI. Our goal is to keep our students, employees, and families safe and healthy (physically, spiritually, emotionally, and socially) as much as possible.

We believe that a reasonable and safe approach is contained in this plan that will allow us to begin school on August 27 with students on campus 5 days per week adhering to a shortened daily schedule. ISBE states, "The State Superintendent has determined that days of instruction during a public health emergency must include at least 5 clock hours." Our approach will ensure that our school will meet this requirement. We plan to keep the school calendar as approved, recognizing that some events may need to be adjusted based on current guidelines and requirements.

This plan is not exhaustive and does not address every aspect of the school day. Details on implementing this plan will be determined by faculty, staff, and school administration. This plan may change as we evaluate positive or negative changes to the outbreak. While the school will be extremely vigilant on enforcement and ask for the cooperation of all students and families, there can be no guarantees that complete the mitigation of risk will take place. We ask God to help us be able to continue to prepare our students for a Christ-honoring life of service as we provide an academically excellent, Bible-based education. Our core values of academic excellence, spiritual formation, growing relationships, and leadership development remain a focus of Judah Christian School.



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Daily Schedule

In an effort to provide a safe, healthy learning environment for our entire JCS community, student cohort groups will be utilized when possible to reduce contact with others. In addition, the school day will be shortened by one hour and will provide opportunity for the following:

- Enhanced cleaning as outlined in the CDC guidelines.
- Ongoing professional development for faculty and staff with regard to our online learning platform and other educational tools.
- Reduced time all students are required to wear a face covering.

Screening Process for COVID-19

All faculty, staff, and students (with the help of a parent or caregiver) must self-screen before leaving home each school day for the symptoms below. All screening information will be recorded in Renweb, by a parent or caregiver, on a daily basis. All essential visitors will be required to undergo a screening process when entering the building. Any individual showing any signs of symptoms or illness should **stay home**. Known symptoms of COVID include the following:

- A body temperature of 100 degrees or higher any time in the previous 24 hours
- Persistent cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
- Chills
- Loss of taste or smell

Any person determined by a staff person to meet these criteria during the school day will be immediately sent home or placed in a designated isolation area at school until they are taken home. It is required that parents make immediate arrangements for the pick-up of a child presenting any of these symptoms. If the student or staff member has symptoms of COVID-19 and it is subsequently determined by a medical provider that the individual likely does not have a COVID-19 infection, the student or staff member can return to school if the following is met:

- No fever for 72 hours without the use of fever reducing medications (fever is temperature greater than 100 degrees) and negative test for COVID-19 or;
- A note from a medical provider documenting no clinical suspicion of COVID-19 infection and an alternate diagnosis.



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Physical Distancing

All classrooms will follow these guidelines:

- Everyone must maintain at least 6 feet minimum distance from others at all times.
- All desks will face the same direction. Table seating will reflect proper physical distancing requirements.
- When possible, the sharing of supplies among students will be avoided. When supplies are shared, they will be disinfected between uses.
- Six feet of distancing between adults will be maintained. The nature of the teacher to student relationship makes absolute adherence to this impractical. However, any student/teacher interaction occurring within the 6-foot distance will utilize an extra barrier, such as plexiglass.
- Students will be encouraged to maintain distancing throughout the day.
- Passing periods will be staggered as much as possible to encourage social distancing.

Hand Hygiene

Regular hand washing and sanitizing are among the most effective ways to control viral spread. Students will have regular access to soap and water and alcohol-based hand sanitizers.

- All classrooms and common spaces will have hand sanitizer stations available to students and staff. Students and staff will be encouraged to use regularly.
- Students will be expected to wash their hands before and after lunch, before and after recess, and after using the restroom.
- Instruction and reminders on handwashing will be provided by staff. Signs, announcements, and other methods will be used to reinforce the importance of hand hygiene.

Face Covering: Masking/Shielding

According to ISBE and IDPH, "All individuals in school buildings, including all public and nonpublic schools that serve students in prekindergarten through grade 12, must wear face coverings at all times. Face coverings must be worn at all times in school buildings even when social distancing is maintained."

- Based on this information, all individuals in the school building will be required to wear a face covering, unless a physician's note is submitted for an exemption.
- Each preschool – grade 12 student needs to wear one clean mask upon arrival and have additional masks to be kept at school in the event that a mask needs to be replaced.
- Any student that cannot medically tolerate a face covering may be allowed to wear a face shield with a note from a medical provider.



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- Face shields may be used by teachers that are teaching at the front of the class, at least 6 feet away from students. Teachers will be required to use face coverings at all other times during the day.

Recess

- Recess will be outdoors whenever the weather permits.
- Students will be required to wash/sanitize hands before and after recess.
- According to ISBE and IDPH, emphasis should be placed on cohorting students and limiting the size of groups participating in playground time; therefore, we will be limiting group sizes at recess.
- Opportunities will be provided for students to remove masks while ensuring proper physical distancing during outdoor recess.

Chapels/Assemblies

- Elementary students will be divided into cohorts to allow for a regular chapel. Chapel will take place in the activity room that allows for appropriate spacing.
- Secondary students may be divided into cohorts that will meet for a regular chapel. Chapel will take place in the gym that allows for appropriate spacing.
- Other assemblies will be limited as necessary.

Choir/Band/Drama

Given the documented evidence of substantial spreading of the coronavirus during musical events caused by the possibility of droplet and fomite (objects or materials likely to carry infections) transmission, we will take necessary precautions as determined by health experts. More details will be forthcoming. Please be assured that we will keep our students' health and safety a priority as we solidify plans.

Library

- In order to maintain small cohort groups and limit shared spaces and materials, the library program will be temporarily restructured to provide services within the classroom for P-6 students.
- Secondary students will be working with the librarian to acquire materials as needed in a safe manner.



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- Any materials returned to the library will undergo a 72-hour quarantine prior to being made available again.

Pick-up and Drop-off of Students

While school doors will open for supervision of students according to the regular times outlined in handbooks, we are requesting that parents limit the amount of time their child arrives before the start of school as much as possible. Once students arrive in the building, they will be proceeding directly to the classroom. Aside from our preschool parents, we ask all parents/guardians to refrain from entering the building during arrival/dismissal times and remain in your cars in order to reduce the number of visitors in the building during arrival/dismissal. Individuals entering the building will be reduced to essential visitors only. In the event that an individual does enter the building, he/she must proceed to the main office and will undergo a necessary screening.

- All preschool students must be dropped-off and picked-up according to the schedule identified during registration.
- The elementary school day will conclude at 2:00 PM. All elementary students must be picked-up by 2:30 PM unless they are being picked-up by a JCS secondary sibling. Individual pick-up arrangements will be made for these students.
- The secondary school day will conclude at 2:35 PM. Students will be dismissed promptly and must depart the campus as soon as possible at the end of each day.
- We are asking that all students depart the campus, except for those with after school activities, as soon as possible at the end of the day.
- Elementary and secondary After School Care Programs will not be offered during this public health emergency. As situations evolve, we will determine if/when After School Care will be offered in the future.

Cleaning and Sanitizing Practices

- Daily cleaning and sanitizing will take place with safe EPA-approved disinfectants, paying particular attention to high touch surfaces like door handles, desks, and shared materials.
- All classrooms and common spaces will have access to cleaning supplies. Classrooms will be disinfected daily at various times.
- Interior doors will be propped open during appropriate times throughout the day to avoid significant touching by multiple people.



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Athletics

As an Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA) and Illinois High School Athletic Association (IHSA) member, JCS is required to abide by the direction of these organizations. Our athletic director, coaches, and trainer are prepared to implement appropriate or mandated protocols for the safety of our student-athletes, coaches, and fans.

Food Service and Lunchroom

JCS will continue to provide food service to students daily. The food service staff will follow all recommended safety precautions regarding food preparation and service offered by the local health department. Preschool students will continue to eat in their classrooms, while our K-12 students will eat in various spaces to allow for social distancing. Students will not be standing in lines.

Symptoms, Exposure, and Positive Test Protocol for Return to School

Any individual determined by a staff person to meet the following criteria during the school day will be immediately sent home or placed in a designated isolation area at school until they are taken home: a body temperature of 100 degrees or higher any time in the previous 24 hours; persistent cough; shortness of breath or difficulty breathing; nausea, vomiting or diarrhea; chills; or loss of taste or smell. It is required that parents make immediate arrangements for the pick-up of a child presenting any of these symptoms. If the student or staff member has symptoms of COVID-19, and it is subsequently determined by a medical provider that the individual likely does not have a COVID-19 infection, the student or staff member can return to school if the following is met:

- No fever for 72 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications (fever is temperature greater than 100 degrees) and negative test for COVID-19, or;
- A note from a medical provider documenting no clinical suspicion of COVID-19 infection and an alternate diagnosis.

If a student or staff person tests positive for COVID-19, the CUPHD will have a staff person, a School COVID Liaison, designated to work with Judah Christian School. Following the case investigations, CUPHD's school COVID liaison will reach out to the point of contact at JCS. Guidance and assistance will be provided specific to each case and situation. School administration will communicate with the Judah community via email and/or phone call, if necessary, regarding any information about COVID-19.



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Instructional Provisions for Those Out of School

In the event of a mandated school closure, JCS will transition to remote learning using Google sites/classroom for our P-12 students.

In the event of a student's extended absence due to illness or a required quarantine, an alternate plan for ongoing instruction will be determined by the division principal in conjunction with the classroom teacher(s).

References

- [Center for Disease Control](#)
- [Illinois State Board of Education](#)
- [Illinois Department of Public Health](#)
- [Illinois Department of Children & Family Services](#)
- [Association of Christian Schools International](#)
- [Illinois Elementary School Association](#)
- [Illinois High School Association](#)