

**RE-OPENING PLAN  
DESMOND T. DOSS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY  
2020-2021**

**Introduction**

Our re-opening guidelines are being fashioned after the recommendations offered by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Center for Disease Control. Based on their research, the AAP concluded that schools are fundamental to the development and well-being of children and adolescents. In addition, “schools provide academic instruction, social and emotional skills, safety, reliable nutrition, physical/speech and mental health therapy, opportunities for physical activity, and many other benefits.”

The AAP strongly advocates that all policy considerations for the upcoming school year implement a “students physically present” target. It has been well-documented that in-person learning is more educationally and emotionally effective than remote or virtual learning. There have already been negative impacts on children and adolescents since the school closures began in March of 2020. Evidence has shown that lengthy time away from school contributes to interrupted/regressed learning, physical/sexual/ or substance abuse, depression, and suicidal ideation.

In addition, evidence demonstrates that children and adolescents are less likely to be symptomatic, and less likely to have severe disease resulting from SARS-CoV-2 (Covid19) infection, and they are also less likely to become infected and to spread the infection. According to Dr. Scott Atlas from the Hoover Institute, Stanford University, “There is virtually zero risk for children under the age of 18. They rarely get sick with the virus and rarely transmit the virus.”

**All educational policies are intended to mitigate, not eliminate risk.** There is no single action or set of actions that will eliminate all the risk of SARS-CoV-2 (Covid19) transmission.

**\*\*All parents will be required to sign a waiver absolving DTD from responsibility should their child/family member contract Covid19 virus.**

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With that backdrop, this is the plan for operating Desmond T. Doss Christian Academy beginning August 17, 2020.

**General Health Protocols**

**We will be conducting temperature checks each morning upon entrance to our facility.**

- a. If a child has a fever, he/she will not be admitted to school that day.
- b. If a child develops a fever during the school day, he will be sent home and we are going to treat it like a case of head lice. Parents in the class will be notified and then they will make the decision about their own children (staying the rest of the day, being picked up early, not coming the next day, etc.)
- c. Parents may not give the child fever-reducing medicine (i.e., Tylenol) and then send them to school. To return to school, children must be fever-free 48 hours without the aid of fever reducing medicine.

- d. In the event a child or teacher is diagnosed with COVID19, we will report to the Virginia Department of Health and follow their established protocols. The hope is we will only need to shut an area down for a day, but we will follow the guidance of the VDH.
- e. If a child has a cold (runny nose, drainage, cough) but is not contagious and has no fever, he/she may attend class

To help parents care for children who are sick or have a fever, we are canceling our absence policy for the 2020-2021 school year.

Each child will be required to bring hand-sanitizer to school to keep in his/her desk/backpack. Teachers will let parents know when the child's sanitizer starts to run low so that it can quickly be replaced.

Reminders about general healthy hygiene guidelines will be posted in various locations around the facility.

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### **Physical Distancing Measures**

Social distancing markers will be placed on the floors in **certain high traffic areas** as reminders to help parents/students manage guidelines.

Because of the size of our school, we can accommodate a reasonable social distancing protocol. The CDC recommends 6 feet social distancing between students, but according to the AAP, evidence suggests that spacing as close as 3 feet away may be just as effective if the students are wearing face coverings and/or are asymptomatic. At Desmond T. Doss Christian Academy, we do not want to require our teachers/students to wear face coverings in the classroom, although they are welcome to if they so choose. We believe we will be able to accommodate a reasonable compromise of 4 to 5 feet for social distancing.

Based on what we know about the transmission of COVID19, adults and adult staff within the school will be asked to maintain 5-6 feet away from other adults as much as possible. For example, this means teachers will not be sitting together on benches on the playgrounds. Any staff meetings will be held in the classroom or via ZOOM to ensure social distancing protocols are being met.

### **Entering the Facility**

Right now, we are anticipating that every student and family will enter the school through the gymnasium door in the morning. There will be two staff members at this entrance taking the temperature of your child(ren). Parents are welcome to come in with their child(ren) but they will be required to wear a facemask while in the building.

In addition, parents & family members will not be permitted to have lunch with their children at Desmond T. Doss Christian Academy except in cases where weather permits for them to have lunch outdoors. Parents and family are then welcomed to have lunch with their child(ren). They also may not conduct birthday parties with their children during the school day unless weather permits for this to occur outside.

### **Kindergarten Classes, and Elementary**

If parents want their own children wearing a mask, our teachers will try to make sure the mask stays on all day. However, those parents need to realize that not all parents are going to have their children wear masks, so they need to be okay with that.

Rather than masks, the safety and hygiene protocol for children in kindergarten and elementary will be:

- \* hand washing and infection prevention (especially before snack and lunch)
- \* spending time JUST with the students in their classrooms/no crossover
- \* limiting shared resources in the classroom (pencils, markers, crayons, etc.)
- \* utilizing outdoor spaces when possible
- \* limiting unnecessary visitors into the building
  - \* social distancing of students (5 feet) while in the classroom
  - \* during play, students will be able to play together /share toys -classroom toys will be disinfected daily
  - \* allowing only 2 children in the restroom at one time
  - \* keeping windows open when possible to help with air flow
  - \* teaching outside when possible
  - \* social distancing hallways between classes will be encouraged and monitored.

### **Secondary Classes**

There is likely a greater impact of physical distancing on risk reduction of COVID in secondary schools than early childhood or elementary education. While it might be more effective for students to stay in the same class and have the teachers rotate, that is simply not feasible at the secondary level.

Therefore, in addition to the kindergarten and elementary protocol listed above:

- \* Social distancing hallways between classes but will be encouraged and monitored.
- \* There will be a 2-person limit of the number of students in the restroom at a time.
- \* Students may go to their lockers every day. The locker handles will be disinfected each evening after the students have been dismissed. Backpacks that can be pulled might be an alternative to going to the locker between classes.

### **Playground Protocols**

We will not enforce social distancing on outside playgrounds. Students will wash their hands prior to and following each playground/outdoor visit. Classes will be assigned times to use the playground so that there is no mitigation. Outdoor transmission of the virus is known to be much lower than indoor transmission. Playground equipment will be disinfected periodically. Not daily.

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## **Chapel**

DTD believes in the importance of our weekly school wide Chapels. Chapel may be on a rotating schedule at first: Ex: K-6<sup>th</sup> grade chapel on Friday's followed by 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> grade. The final numbers will dictate how we will separate for our weekly school wide chapel.

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## **Drop Off and Pick Up Procedures**

### **DROP OFF:**

Students and parents (parents are required to wear a facemask while in the building) will enter through gymnasium (8:15 AM – 8:30 AM). Two DTD staff members will be there to take all DTD's students temperature upon entry. Parents and students then will be released into the building to go to their designated classroom. We request that everyone leaves the building via the front door (**please do not exit through the gym**).

### **PICK UP at DISMISSAL:**

**Kindergarten students** will be picked up at the classroom (3:00 PM). Specific details to follow, and parents will be informed. We ask that parents must adhere to social distancing guidelines. After school care children will stay in the classrooms until numbers decrease. We will give you more details as we work through the logistics once school starts. All Kindergarten students will be picked up in the classroom.

**Elementary students** will be dismissed outside (3:00 PM), and the students will be kept with their teacher/age group. Social distancing will not be required for the students while they wait for their rides. Those who will be going to after school care will go to a pre-determined spot with the Bashful Giraffe staff. The 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade class will exit their modular and wait in between the main building and the middle school modular.

**Middle school students** Will exit out of middle school modular and wait in front of the modular for parent pick up (3:00 PM). Those who will be going to after school care will go to a pre-determined spot with the Bashful Giraffe staff.

**High school students** will be dismissed at 3:00 and will exit and wait for pick-up in front of the main building.

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## **Cleaning/Disinfection**

Teachers will clean rooms in the evening, and the common areas will be cleaned every day by our janitorial staff. Teachers must model social distancing and hygiene behaviors in front of the children.

Teachers may decorate their rooms, but they will remove any unnecessary items that will take away space for children. It will be the teacher's responsibility to disinfect/clean all items in the room mid-morning and in the evening.

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**Physical Education: Elementary, MSHS**

Students will be participating in physical education one class at a time. They will be playing games, doing calisthenics, and learning/improving large and fine motor skills, etc. As often as possible the PE teacher will take the students outside. They will be sharing PE equipment (balls, bats, hockey sticks, rackets, etc.). As always students will wash/sanitize their hands before entering the gym and before they leave. Between classes, the PE teacher will disinfect the equipment that was used.

**Sports: Elementary, MSHS**

We have no confirmation as of the sending of this information as to what the sports situation will be. We will let everyone know as soon as possible once this information becomes available. I believe at the very least we will do some sort of training program for cross country, basketball, and soccer.