

Christ Classical Homeschool Cooperative

Re-opening plan for 2020-2021 school year

PREAMBLE

The Christ Classical Cooperative is committed to facilitating a beautiful Christ-centered family-led Classical homeschool education, regardless of circumstances. The Covid pandemic, which places San Luis Obispo County and surrounding communities on the California County Monitoring List (since July 16, 2020, and presently, as of August 12, 2020), is just one of the many challenges that we'll face. Our long-term devotion to one another and to the school are unwavering.

Now more than ever we fix our eyes on Jesus, who said, "In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

The aim is for each of our 14 families to be welcomed, loved, and inspired by all aspects of the school, and even by things as pragmatic as this re-opening plan, which will allow us to enjoy an in-person, God-glorifying school community in 2020-2021.

A privilege and responsibility of having only 14 families (27 students) is that we can adapt our approach to meet each other's needs, while promoting our greater community's efforts of reducing viral transmission.

Our Co-operative includes some members who are at high-risk of Covid complications, or frequently interact with people who are at high-risk of complications. Thus, we take joy in faithfully carrying out these measures, as there is direct impact on our brothers and sisters and the unity of our school.

INTRODUCTION

The Christ Classical Cooperative is a collection of 1 paid teacher and 14 homeschooling families, each filing their own homeschool affidavit, comprising of 27 students ranging from Kindergarten to 6th grade. We plan to meet for in-person education (no extracurricular activities or sports are planned) 2-3 days per week on the Christ Classical School campus, which is in San Luis Obispo County. The campus is situated on 10-acres with over 16,000 square feet of indoor space. Nine (9) classrooms, six (6) bathrooms, and ample outdoor space are available for use.

The main tenets of our plan are to utilize outdoor space and ventilation creatively; prioritize physical distance between students, parents, and teachers; courteously employ face coverings; diligently attend to the cleanliness of the facilities, and health of our families; and maintain fluid communication within our school and community.

Recognizing the changing nature of the situation, we have assembled a team to monitor our families and communities in relation to updated local, state, and national Covid data and guidelines. Ongoing re-assessment of our plan will be performed by the team comprising of the Director of the Cooperative, 1 board member, 1 teacher, 1 parent representative, and 3 physician consultants. Alterations and recommendations to the administration and board of directors may be necessary.

Each family is ultimately responsible for the decision and responsibility of enrolling their child and engaging with others during on-campus meetings. During this unique season, we will unite around the Way of Christ, with submission to scriptural authority, and love for one another as our guiding principles. Please prayerfully consider whether the steps that we are taking as a community suit your family's needs and desires.

CHRIST CLASSICAL COOPERATIVE IN-PERSON REOPENING POLICIES

***Demographics/Cohorts**

1. Small, stable class cohorts:

Kindergarten: 6 students

1st & 2nd grade combined class: 9 students

3rd & 4th grade combined class: 6 students

5th & 6th grade combined class: 6 students

2. Parent volunteers will visit only their own child's classroom(s)

3. On-campus meetings are only scheduled for 2 to 3 days each week

***Outdoors and airflow**

1. Frequent use of outdoor space as classroom settings (shade, rolling white board, desks, clipboards)

2. When indoor, ventilation will be maximized (main door and fire exit door, and windows open)

***Physical distancing**

1. Each student at his/her assigned desk, spaced >6 feet apart from others. In classes with 5-6 students, >10 ft apart.

2. Maximum of 9 students and 2 adults per classroom, with fixed cohorts

3. Grouping families for lunch, with >6 feet distance between families, eaten outdoors, weather permitting. On rainy days, students will eat indoors at their desks.

4. Grouping families for the morning meeting (15 min) and afternoon meeting (5 min) with >6 feet of distance, conducted outdoors.

5. Maximum of 9 students for recess, with fixed classroom cohorts, spread out over the multi-acre play area.

***Face Coverings**

1. Face coverings will be provided for all enrolled students as part of the uniform, and disposable face coverings will be available on campus in the office.
2. Indoors: Face coverings (required by law) will be used by all adults (including on-campus visitors) and children grades 3-6.
3. Outdoor: Face coverings (required by law) will be used by all adults and children except for (1) when eating meals or snacks, >6 feet apart; (2) during structured classroom settings where students and teachers are >6 feet apart; and (3) permissible youth sports. (Students, parents, and teachers will be specifically reminded to use face coverings for morning and afternoon meeting, lining up to enter and exit classes, and recess)
4. Face coverings will NOT be used for children under 2 years of age, or when students are engaged in intense physical activity outdoors, in stable cohorts, maintaining >6 feet distance, as per CDPH Youth Sports guidelines
5. When in doubt, please check with your neighbor, whether he/she prefers greater distancing or use of a face covering. (Potential viral transmission occurs via talking, singing, coughing, sneezing; and viral transmission may occur even while asymptomatic. Therefore, we will aim to accommodate one another's needs and/or wear a face covering).
6. Children on-campus between two years old and 2nd grade will be encouraged to wear face coverings, but face shields may be a viable option for this age group. Otherwise, face shields may only be worn by adults or children with medical exemptions.
7. Face coverings are NOT required among members of the same household.
8. Anyone on-campus unable to comply with face covering policies will engage in distance learning options.

***Cleanliness/Health**

1. As per the Christ Classical School Cooperative Family Handbook, section 14.8: students, families, or teachers should not come to school if exhibiting signs or symptoms of communicable disease.

Covid-19 symptoms include fever ($\geq 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$), cough, shortness of breath, chills, fatigue, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, congestion/runny nose, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, loss of taste or smell.

RETURN TO CAMPUS CRITERIA:

- Sick staff member(s), parent volunteers, and students who **test positive** for COVID-19 or **do not get tested** for COVID-19 must not return to campus until they have met CDC criteria to discontinue home isolation, including at least 24 hours with no fever (without using fever-reducing medicine), symptoms have significantly improved, AND it has been at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared.
- Sick staff member(s), parent volunteers, and students who **test negative** for COVID-19 must not return to campus until symptoms have significantly improved and no fever for 24 hours (without using fever-reducing medicine).

2. Screening of students, staff, and parents for temperatures, symptoms, and whether household members are ill with COVID-19 symptoms will be performed each morning by a Registered Nurse.

3. The on-campus point of contact (or other designated individual) will routinely check in with classrooms again at lunch, and before dismissal to screen for symptoms.

If someone begins to fall ill while on campus, he or she will be isolated in a separate room (2 available) within the office space and monitored by the office volunteer until a family member picks them up. The isolation room will then be cleaned and disinfected.

The classroom (and/or bathroom) used by this individual will be closed off, cleaned, and disinfected. The remaining students will use the surplus classroom space (and/or bathrooms) available on-campus.

4. A sink is available in each classroom, and handwashing will be frequent and regularly scheduled (upon entering/exiting each class, especially before and after lunch, recess. While inside the classroom, between each subject taught). Each child will have their own labeled hand towel.

5. Hand sanitizer available in each classroom and shared outdoor spaces as well as individual hand sanitizer at each student's desk.

6. No sharing of school supplies or food (each student will have their own individual supply container). In rare instances where objects are shared, they will be placed into a “used” bucket in each room, for cleaning and disinfecting
7. High contact surfaces will be rigorously cleaned at the end of each on-campus school day, with >40 hours between use

***Communication and monitoring**

1. Task force will meet monthly (or more if needed).
2. Parents, teachers, and students will be informed and trained on updated protocols as well as identifying and responding to a medical emergency; part of the training will include encouragement on receiving a flu vaccination in the fall; the mandatory first training will be on August 25th, approximately two weeks before school starts.
3. The Cooperative’s staff member(s) will undergo surveillance testing every 40 on-campus school days. Testing for symptomatic students, parent volunteers, or teachers will be recommended per CDPH guidelines.
4. If any staff member(s), parent volunteer, or student becomes uncomfortable with in-person instruction, virtual work and learning options will be available.
5. If a member of the school community is diagnosed with Covid, the Director of the Cooperative will be notified, and there will be two weeks of distance learning for the entire school before consideration of re-opening with the approval of the local public health officer. Other triggers for school-wide distance learning will include high community transmission rates and/or positive cases among staff and students. We will resort to distance learning when multiple cohorts have cases or 5% of students and staff test positive within a 14-day period. We will be in close consultation with local health officers. Efforts will be made for contact-tracing and/or testing of Cooperative members, in cooperation with government guidelines, while striving to maintain confidentiality.
6. If a member of the school community comes into contact (as defined per CDPH guidelines) with someone diagnosed with Covid, that person and person’s family will engage in two weeks of distance learning.
7. The on-campus point of contact will be Faith Wu, who is a Registered Nurse. Her phone number is (626) 319-0555. She will be responsible for maintaining accurate daily attendance (line lists to aid in contact tracing), and awareness of on-campus students

and personnel. She will immediately notify Public Health of confirmed cases and provide contact information for exposed students and staff. Every member of the Christ Classical Cooperative community is encouraged to express concerns regarding these policies on an ongoing basis to the Director of the Cooperative. Emails can be directed to office@christclassicalslo.org

SUMMARY

As San Luis Obispo County and surrounding communities remain on the California County Monitoring List (as of Aug 12, 2020), and as our Cooperative has members with unique health needs amongst us, careful attention to mitigating risks of viral transmission must be realized while enjoying the benefits of in-person education. With guidance incorporating governmental authorities, health experts, and community leaders, this document outlines protocols for the Christ Classical Cooperative.

Given the small size of our homeschooling community, rooted in a culture of unity and love, and favorably afforded a vast campus with abundant indoor and outdoor space, we believe our policies will be observed diligently and allow for a safe and effective 2 days per week of in-person education in alliance with our County's public health aims.

God is good, and He's given us the opportunity to carry on the Mission of Christ Classical School:

By God's grace we endeavor to assist Christian families in the education of their children, by providing a stimulating academic program in a distinctly Christ-centered environment. We are committed to equipping students to live lives of moral and spiritual integrity, personal and social responsibility, with a genuine passion for knowing and serving a Holy God.

We particularly highlight in our Mission Statement the importance of **social responsibility** during this extraordinary time. Let us appreciate and protect our freedom to gather for worship (and spiritual formation/education), while in the same breath, heal and defend the sick and vulnerable. With humility and zeal, we will remain faithful to our core values as we lovingly adapt to the needs of our neighbors, and in so doing, we pray, exalt the name of Jesus.

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The Christ Classical Cooperative Re-opening Plan Task Force

Jeff Wu, M.D., Director of the Cooperative

Matt Lafon, Board member

Elizabeth Mitchell, Elementary Teacher

Laurin Wilkinson, parent/teacher volunteer

References:

American Academy of Pediatrics, <https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>

Center for Disease Control, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>

California Department of Public Health, <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/In-Person-Elementary-Waiver-Process.aspx>

California Department of Public Health, <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Schools-FAQ.aspx>

California Department of Public Health, <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Schools%20Reopening%20Recommendations.pdf>

California Department of Public Health, <https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-youth-sports--en.pdf>

Readyslo.org, Covid-19, <https://www.emergencyslo.org/en/covid19.aspx>

Readyslo.org, Schools, <https://www.emergencyslo.org/en/schools.aspx>

“Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in harmony.”
Psalm 133:1

Per the County of San Luis Obispo Health Agency, Public Health Department, the reopening plan must address the following components:

1. Healthy Hygiene Practices - describe the availability of handwashing stations and hand sanitizer, and how their use will be promoted and incorporated into student and staff routines. [pg 2, 4-5]
2. Face Coverings - describe how CDPH's face covering requirements for students and staff will be met and enforced. [pg 2, 4]
3. Cleaning and Disinfection - describe how shared surfaces, including on buses, will be regularly cleaned and disinfected and how use of shared items will be minimized. [pg 2, 5-6]
4. Ventilation and Use of Outdoor Spaces –describe how you will maximize ventilation through filtration and exposure to outdoor air. [pg 2-3]
5. Distancing – describe plans for maximizing space between students and staff and families at arrival and departure, in classrooms and in non-classroom spaces. [pg 2-3]
6. Sharing of Objects – describe plans for minimizing shared use of electronic devices, school supplies, student belongings and other items. [pg 5-6]
7. Cohorting - describe how students will be kept in stable groups with fixed membership that stay together for all activities (such as lunch, recess, etc.) and avoid contact with other groups or individuals who are not part of the cohort. [pg 3]
8. Teacher and Other Staff Safety – describe how you will support higher risk staff through virtual work options and the conduct of staff to staff interactions. [pg 1, 2, 6]
9. Training Staff and Educating Families - describe how staff will be trained and families will be educated on health hygiene practices and sanitation, physical distancing, face coverings, health screenings and identifying COVID-19 symptoms. [pg 6]
10. Health Screening and Isolation - describe how students and staff will be screened every day before school for symptoms of COVID-19 and how ill students or staff will be separated from others and sent home immediately. [pg 5-6]
11. Managing Cases – describe how you will work with the Public Health Department in support of case investigation and contact tracing such as creation and submission of line lists of exposed students and staff, rigorous attendance monitoring and communication with staff and families. [pg 6]
12. Testing – describe how you will support the need for rapid testing of students and staff when there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in a school. [pg 6]
13. Identifying a Point of Contact – provide the name for each school of a designated person to serve as the point of contact for Public Health related to COVID-19. [pg 6-7]