



TABERNACLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

242 Derry Road Litchfield, New Hampshire 03052
(603) 883-6310 www.tcslitchfield.org

Covid-19 Guidelines for 2020-2021 School Year

Tabernacle Christian School acknowledges that Covid-19 and our knowledge of the disease is an ever-changing situation and may therefore cause guidelines to be changed throughout the school year. We also acknowledge that our knowledge is limited and still growing regarding information on how the virus is spread, how it affects different people groups, and how to prevent further spread of the virus. As a school, we will strive to abide by CDC and NH DHHS guidelines that have been set forth for us as long as the guidelines are within reason and do not go against our religious liberties. We feel that these guidelines are currently in the best interest of the TCS students, staff, and ministry as a whole. We are asking that everyone joins us in prayer for this upcoming school year to continue to give the administration, school board, and teachers wisdom and guidance throughout these trying times. Please know that all guidelines that are put into place will be handled with grace and love. TCS is concerned with not only the physical health of an individual, but also spiritual and mental health. TCS has cohorted groups of students together to try to minimize risk factors. The students will be grouped as follows: Daycare with Preschool, Kindergarten with 1st/2nd grade, 3rd/4th with 5th/6th, and the 7th-12th grades.

Prior to School:

To protect everyone, including staff, we are asking that all parents or guardians agree to monitor their own children for any symptoms of respiratory infection, fever above 100° F, cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat prior to coming to school. If a student or staff member has ongoing allergies which are not “new” symptoms, they will not be excluded from school. Parents and staff also need to attest to the fact that they have not knowingly been in contact with someone with a confirmed diagnosis of Covid-19, is under investigation for Covid-19 or is ill with a respiratory illness. They also need to attest to the fact that they have not personally travelled outside of New England during the last 14 days.

Parents cannot send their child to school with any new symptoms. Even if a child has a sore throat with no fever, we are asking that you keep your child home until you know that they are either no longer symptomatic (for at least 24 hours), have a doctors’ note stating that they are able to return to school, or have had a negative Covid 19 test. Please do not send your child to school with fever reducing medication in their system, this is not fair to any staff or students!

Arrival:

Students may not arrive before 7:50 AM. Upon arrival, students and staff are required to have a face covering that covers both the mouth and the nose. Students and staff will use hand sanitizer as they enter the building and will have to attest to the above listed exclusion from school questions. If a student appears to be ill, their temperature

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will be taken, and they will be placed in a separate room away from the other staff and children. Parents need to be able to be reached and either be available or have an emergency contact that can come and pick up their child within a half hour of being contacted.

Students are to go immediately to their classroom or designated seat in the auditorium after entering the building and will not be allowed to congregate in the Fellowship Hall. Students may go to their lockers or to the bathroom as needed upon arrival but must keep their face coverings on during these times and keep in mind physical distancing. The teacher in the classroom will let everyone know when students may remove their face coverings.

Bathroom Breaks:

Elementary bathroom breaks will be directed by the teacher. The students will wear their masks during this time and will be allowed two at a time into the bathrooms. The upper end students will be allowed to go to the bathroom as needed with the permission of the teacher. If there are already two students in a given bathroom, they will be directed to wait in the hallway until at least one other student has exited the bathroom. All students must wash their hands thoroughly in the bathroom. The students will not be utilizing bathroom passes during this time.

Water Fountains:

Water fountains are only to be used to fill up reusable water bottles brought in by the student. If a child forgets their water bottle for the day, TCS will provide water for that student for the day, but this should not be a regularly occurring issue.

Treats to Share with the Class:

All shareable snacks shall be pre-packaged by either the manufacturer or the store and will be handed out by the teacher to each child. The snacks will not be shared with other classes or staff.

Recess and Gym:

It is the goal of TCS to get the students outside as often as possible for fresh air and Vitamin D. Students will not wear masks when outside for recess or gym. All students will sanitize both before and after recess/gym. Any item, such as balls and frisbees that are handled by the students will be sprayed with disinfectant after it has been used or placed aside for seven days if it is unable to be sanitized. Students will be encouraged to space apart if just standing around talking with each other and not huddled into a small group. If we must have indoor recess or gym, the students will have organized socially distanced games that will be led by the recess or gym teacher. Masks

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will only have to be worn if the students cannot play a game where they can socially distance.

Normally 3rd-6th graders change their clothes for gym class. This year the 1st-6th graders will come to school on Fridays already dressed in their gym clothes for the day. Every Friday will be gym dress day. The Kindergarten and 7th-12th graders will also be allowed to dress down every Friday.

The 7th-10th graders will be assigned to a bathroom to change their clothes each day that they have gym class. This will help minimize the amount of people in a bathroom at one time.

Lunch:

Preschool will eat in the nursery kitchen each day and the Kindergarten through 2nd graders will eat lunch in Room 105. The 3rd-6th graders will eat lunch in their classrooms. The 7th-12th graders will eat their lunch in the Fellowship Hall. Every child will sanitize or wash their hands prior to sitting down to eat at the table and will also sanitize after they are done eating. Students will be seated 4 to 6 feet apart in the lunchroom. The tables and chairs will be sanitized daily.

Items in Classrooms:

All students will use their own school supplies whenever possible. If an item needs to be shared, it will be sanitized between children. If the item is unable to be sanitized (like a book or stuffed animal), it will be set aside for seven days once the child is done using that particular item. Students will have assigned seats in their classroom and a desk change will only happen if the desk and items in the desk can be thoroughly sanitized first.

Dismissal:

During dismissal time, the preschool, kindergarten, and 1st/2nd graders will be lined up in the lower hallway. The 3rd-6th graders will be lined up in the gym and the 7th-12th graders will be seated (ready to go) in their assigned morning spot in the auditorium. Parents will arrive between 2:40 PM and 3:00 PM to pick up their students. Upon arrival, the names of those students or family name will be paged over the loudspeaker to exit the building. The Preschool through 2nd grade will exit through the main school tunnel, the 3rd through 6th will exit through the gym tunnel, and the 7th through 12th will exit through the front of the church. Since there is no aftercare, if certain parents are being consistently late, TCS will have to start charging those families \$25/family. TCS understands that situations arise such as a motor vehicle accident, cars breaking down, or job situations; however, arriving late should not be a habitual occurrence. It will be up to the administration to decide if the lateness is caused by unforeseen issues or if it has

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become a reoccurring pattern. If it is a reoccurring pattern, TCS will have to charge the late fee.

Basic Overall Guidelines:

1. Masks will only be required when students cannot physically distance. Some examples would include: arriving and leaving school, walking in the hallways, when going up to the teacher's desk, during reading groups, and going to the bathroom. During actual classroom instruction and seatwork, they will be allowed to remove their masks. Masks/face coverings will be provided by each family, but we will have some available if a student forgets theirs at home. Each child will have a pencil box at their desk that will be used to set their mask in when it is not in use. Kindergarten students will only be required to wear their masks when they are in common areas such as entering and exiting the building, hallways, and bathrooms. Teachers and staff will wear masks when they cannot physically distance from the children.
2. Desks will be placed at least 3 feet apart but will be closer to six feet apart when we are able to do so. All desks will be facing the same direction.
3. If a visitor or parent comes into the building, they are required to wear a mask upon arrival. Everyone is encouraged to stay in their vehicles for pick-up and drop-off unless absolutely necessary to come into the building. This will limit the people coming in and out of the building.
4. Parents will be asked to carefully monitor their children daily regarding how they are feeling. We will not be taking temperatures upon arrival, unless a child appears ill, because an accurate temperature would be very hard to obtain upon first arriving at the school.
5. Parents and staff must make the principal aware of any individual who has symptoms of Covid-19, has been in close contact with someone who is suspected or confirmed Covid-19 in the prior 14 days, or who have traveled in the prior 14 days outside of the New England area (NH, VT, ME, MA, CT, and RI); as they will need to quarantine for 14 days or have a negative test if symptomatic. We know that this is difficult for some but travel outside of this area places everyone at an increased risk.
6. We will not be serving hot lunch or warming up lunches for the students. Hot lunches add a significant amount of handling by different people and details that we simply do not have the staff to deal with safely. If a student forgets their lunch, we will still have some foods that we can provide for them so that they do not go hungry. Please pack an icepack in your student's lunch bag if you would like it to remain cold.
7. To start out the school year, we will not have before or afterschool care. This could change as we get further into the school year; however, we must first gage

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- how the beginning of the school year plays out before adding this additional dynamic to the situation.
8. We are working on a way to minimize traveling from class to class among the 7th-12th grade classes. They will be in a single room for the majority of the day. If they must change rooms, it will be to a classroom that is not being utilized by other students unless there is adequate time to be cleaned between classes. There will be specific times for the students to go to their lockers to prevent congestion in that area.
 9. We will have a regular 5 day per week schedule in place, as we are able to physically distance well due to our numbers. However, if someone were to be exposed, and a class or the entire school needs to be quarantined for 14 days, we need to be set up and ready to go to remote learning at a moment's notice, if the need arises.
 10. Students and teachers will sanitize upon entering and exiting the building and several times throughout the day to help minimize the spreading of germs.

Remote Learning Guidelines:

1. Remote learning will be provided for any student/students or classes that must quarantine due to Covid-19 symptoms, known exposures, or travel restrictions. Students are expected to participate in their on-line learning in order to count as a school day. Students will have videos to watch and papers to complete during those school days. Any quizzes or tests will be made up upon returning to school.
2. In the event that the entire school must go to remote learning for a period that is longer than 14 days, the quizzes and tests will be completed at home with a parent or guardian that must attest to the honesty of the child.
3. If remote learning has gone on for longer than 5 weeks, and it appears that TCS cannot return to in-person classes for at least 4 more weeks, the parents in Kindergarten through 8th grade will have 3 weeks to decide if they will homeschool their children or sign them up for remote learning through the public school system. At that time, their tuition will be pro-rated to whatever time the parent has chosen to remove the student/students from TCS.
4. Parents are expected to continue to pay the school for the remote learning that their child/children participate in.
5. Registration and Book Fees are not refundable.
6. 9th-12th graders will have the option to continue with remote learning through the remainder of the school year. They will be expected to complete all work given to them by their teachers in a timely manner, watch all videos assigned, participate in live classes during regular school hours, and to have a parent/guardian attest to their child's honesty regarding tests and quizzes.

Updated 8/17/2020

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