

Dear Nittany Christian School Parents and Guardians,

I am writing to provide you with an update on the NCS School Health and Safety Plan for the 2022-23 school year. Basically, we are continuing with the COVID protocols that were adopted last January. So, the following are the key elements of the plan:

1. Masking will be optional, and we fully support the parents' choice in this matter (unless a local or state masking mandate is issued). According to SCASD's Health and Safety Plan for 2022-23 (effective August 1, 2022), with regard to District Transportation:
 - Masks optional for all K-12 students and drivers (unless special circumstances have been communicated) during district transports regardless of vaccination status.
 - a. Bus and van drivers do not need to wear a mask if alone in the vehicle.
2. Teachers may arrange seating in classrooms at their discretion, and students will not be required to sit by the same students in each class they attend. Flexibility will also extend to lunchroom seating.
3. We will not be performing contact tracing, which takes a lot of time and effort, and very few of the students who were identified as close contacts contracted the disease. If a parent reports his/her child has tested positive for COVID, the entire school will be notified that there is a positive case in a specified classroom, and parents will be asked to monitor their students for illness. This is the same as our policy regarding the presence of a communicable disease or pathogen, such as pink eye or lice, in a classroom. We are required to report the number of COVID cases in our school, but are not required to share the names of individuals.
4. The student or staff member who has tested positive should stay home from school for 5 days. Day 1 is the first full day after symptoms developed or the test specimen was collected. If after 5 days they have no fever and other symptoms have improved, then they may return. Upon return to school, the person is encouraged, but not required, to wear a mask for an additional 5 days.
5. If your student exhibits COVID-like symptoms or tests positive for COVID, please keep all symptomatic NCS students in your immediate household home from school. Asymptomatic students may choose to quarantine, but that is not a NCS requirement. If parents choose to quarantine their children, NCS will either provide books/assignments for pickup, or they may make up the missed assignments upon return. (Note: This is similar to other communicable diseases, such as measles, listed in the Parent-Student Handbook).
6. If your child is ill, please keep them at home. If they come to school and have a fever or show symptoms of illness, we will call the parent and ask them to take their child home. We then ask that they not return to school until they have been fever-free (100.0 or above) and symptom-free for 24 hours without a fever-reducing medicine. If COVID positive, they should remain home for 5 additional days.
7. We will not be offering virtual learning for students who are quarantined. Since most illnesses are short-lived, and the CDC now recommends that those with COVID

quarantine for 5 rather than 10 days, we will either gather books and assignments to send home with a sibling or parent, or the child can make up the missed assignments when he/she returns to school.

8. In the event that a large number of students in a particular grade are ill, or we do not have enough substitute teachers to cover classes, we may have to have a class or possibly the entire school change to virtual learning, something we have had to do in the past due to stomach flu, etc.
9. Unfortunately, we are not able to offer a virtual learning option for students who are not comfortable with these guidelines. Students have the option to be vaccinated, mask with a KN95 mask, and make frequent use of hand sanitizer.

Our desire is for our students to have an educational experience that is as close to “normal” as possible while still maintaining a health plan that appropriately deals with any illnesses our students may experience. With the help of vigilant parents and guardians, we hope that this will remain possible.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best regards,

Priscilla Cetnar, Principal
NCS School Board Members