



Vail Christian Academy

Reopening Framework

Overview

Vail Christian Academy (VCA) has prepared the following framework to establish how we intend to re-open and operate during the 2020-21 school year. This framework is in response to the national COVID - 19 epidemic based on guidance from federal, state, and local public health officials. This is a “living” document that will continue to be evaluated and updated as new information becomes available.

Guiding Principals

Education...

- ...includes the mental, physical, social, and spiritual growth and development of a child.
- ...is critical and essential for students, families, and communities.
- ...is a partnership between a school and a family.
- ...requires unencumbered, direct interaction between teachers and students to be most effective.

Disease...

- ...prevention is an ongoing and shared responsibility of the entire community.
- ...prevention must be balanced against the benefits of education.
- ...prevention will not stop illness.

Reference and Guidance Sources

- Bible
- Centers for Disease Control
- Colorado Department of public Health
- Eagle County Public Health
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and air-Conditioning Engineers

Teaching and Learning

Mode 1 – On Campus - Priority:

VCA plans on providing normal, on-campus, in-person learning, 5-days per week starting August 19.

Latest school calendar is available here – <http://vailchristianacademy.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/2020-2021-VCA-Family-Calendar-1.pdf>

Mode 2 – Remote:

VCA will move to remote learning for individual class cohorts or the entire school if triggered by an active COVID-19 diagnosis or public health order.

Remote learning will consist of curriculum packets with instruction via group and individual video conferences.

Remote learning will require daily, direct parental involvement at home to support students to stay on track.

COVID-19 Infection Response Plan

Individual Cohorts

If a student or teacher exhibits symptoms, they will be isolated from the class and sent home.

If multiple students in the cohort exhibit symptoms, or if any individual student or teacher in the cohort receives a positive COVID-19 diagnosis, VCA will notify public health and the cohort will move to remote learning for 14-day period.

After the 14-day period, the cohort will return to on campus for all non-symptomatic students.

VCA will work with public health officials to facilitate contact tracing and identify if additional actions or time extensions may be required.

Multiple Cohorts / Whole School

If three or more cohorts have been moved to remote learning, VCA will work with public health officials to decide if moving the entire school to remote learning is warranted.

If deemed necessary, the entire school will move to remote learning for a 14-day period.

After the 14-day period, the school will return to campus for all non-symptomatic students.

VCA will work with public health officials to facilitate contact tracing and identify if additional actions or time extensions may be required.

[Public Health Orders](#)

If a public health order is issued closing all schools, VCA will move to remote learning for the duration of the order.

[Return to School](#)

Symptomatic students or teachers will be allowed to return to school after:

- At least 10 days have passed since symptom onset **and**
- At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
- Other symptoms have improved.

Disease Prevention and Mitigation

[Clinical Protocols](#)

VCA has established an isolation space in the administration modular where students exhibiting potential symptoms can be evaluated and rest before being picked up by family.

[Screening](#)

At Home:

VCA requests that each family do a screening of their student and family members daily before school and after school. If any student, family member, or close contact is symptomatic, student should be kept home. Please notify the school to discuss next steps.

At School:

VCA will perform basic screening of students each morning and monitor throughout the day. If a student presents any concerning symptoms, the student will be pulled from their class into an isolation space with the administration team for further evaluation. If symptoms are persistent, the student will be sent home. VCA will work with each family to identify next steps.

The VCA staff team will self-screen for symptoms and self-isolate if symptoms arise.

Cohorts

Students and teachers will be grouped together by class. Class cohorts will be maintained at 20 students or less.

Classes will remain together as a cohort throughout the learning day and will be free to interact normally in their cohort.

Cohort movement will be staggered to avoid mixing of groups – i.e. lunch, specials, dismissal, recess, etc.

When multiple cohorts come together for any activity, social distancing will be practiced. Face coverings will be employed when social distancing is not possible.

Distance

Students and teachers will not be required to maintain distancing when in their individual classroom cohorts. Each class will be free to interact normally for optimal learning and socialization.

Distancing will be maintained when cohorts interact with others outside their classroom group.

Movement of cohorts around campus will be staggered to avoid un-necessary congestion and interaction with other groups of students.

Face Coverings

~~Students will not be required to wear face coverings while in their individual classroom cohorts.~~ Please see Face Covering Addendum attached. Face coverings will be required when cohorts interact with others outside their group and distancing cannot be achieved.

Staff will be required to wear face coverings when interacting with students or other staff members ~~outside their cohort and distancing cannot be achieved.~~

Air filtration and cleaning technology employed in each classroom will actively reduce the potential for airborne transmission that masks are designed to address.

Students and teachers will need to come to school with a suitable face covering ~~that can be used when needed.~~

Cleaning and Hygiene

Cleaning:

Each modular classroom has an independent air conditioning system. The systems are equipped with fresh air intakes, MERV 8 filtration, and the latest in air purification technology from Global Plasma Solutions. The air purification system will actively “clean” the air by reducing particles in the air (pollen, dust, dander, etc.), reducing odors, and killing pathogens (viruses, mold spores, bacteria, etc.). Learn more here - <https://globalplasm solutions.com/why-gps/>

Each classroom space will be cleaned and disinfected daily. High touch surfaces in common or shared spaces will be wiped down and disinfected throughout the day.

Hygiene:

The Staff team will work with Students to make sure they wash their hands or use hand sanitizer when transitioning between activities throughout the day.

Hand sanitizing stations will be positioned at each classroom door for use by any student or staff when entering or leaving.

Visitors

Visitors and volunteers will be welcome on campus to support and engage with the VCA community by direct appointment only.

All visitors will be required to wear a mask, sign-in, receive a symptom check, be escorted to their destination on campus, observe hygiene rules, and maintain social distancing.

Chapel

Chapel is an important part of VCA life and will be maintained at the individual cohort level at a minimum. The VCA team continues to evaluate options to allow for larger chapel gatherings.

Field Trips

The VCA team will continue with planned field trips, ski days, and O2 activities subject to the availability and requirements of the specific venue.

Athletics

VCA intends to continue our sports partnership with Saint Clare of Assisi Catholic School. We do not have a clear picture of what sports, if any, will be available for the students. We will inform students and families once information is available.

Food Service

The VCA hot lunch program will not be available at the start of school. Students should plan on packing a lunch and snacks daily.

The VCA team is continuing to evaluate options for pre-package food options and will re-instate the program if a safe strategy can be developed.

Students will eat outside or in their respective classrooms.

Face Covering Addendum – August 10, 2020

The re-opening framework previously issued proposes no face coverings or distancing for students while in cohorts. This decision was based on our stated objective to optimize the education process first and then layer on disease prevention measures where appropriate, (i.e. symptom screening, cleaning, hygiene, distance, face coverings, etc.), VCA was also acting on the best available evidence from state and federal health agencies that elementary and middle school age children are less likely to spread COVID-19 and/or wear a mask correctly.

Unfortunately, we are bound to comply with the current Eagle County Public Health Order requiring that **all VCA staff and students wear face coverings and distance when indoors.**

While distancing and face coverings are not ideal for educating kids, compliance will allow VCA to return to in person learning (in lieu of remote learning) and be in solidarity with the broader community.

Therefore, we will be modifying the re-opening framework to reflect the distancing and face covering requirements. We will make further modifications as changes arise.

Parents will send their child to school with a well fitted face covering that they will be comfortable wearing throughout the school day.

If a student has medical or learning conditions that a face covering will negatively impact, parent must notify the school and we will work with parents and health provider to document an exemption.