COVID-19 Update for 2021-2022 School Year

As CCS prepares for the 2021-2022 school year, the health and safety of our all staff, teachers, students, and families remain a top priority. CCS will continue to monitor the impact of COVID-19 in our community and implement prevention as needed. CCS is committed to maintaining transparency during these uncertain times and will resume communication protocols for reporting COVID-19 positive cases.

Although we are cautiously moving forward, at this time, CCS will not require mask wearing. Masks are optional. Throughout the last year, mask requirements have been a heated topic with contentious debates on either side of the argument. Our campus will continue to be one where we encourage independent and critical thinking. However, we ask that all staff, teachers, students, and families respect the convictions of each individual whether they wish to continue wearing a mask or not. Be KIND.

Virtual learning, always an option, but is especially available for those in quarantine due to a COVID-19 diagnosis or close contact.

CCS will resume contract tracing and will provide notification of all COVID-19 positive cases.

COVID-19 Policies

Facial Coverings/Masks

In May 2021, Gov. Abbott issued an Executive Order prohibiting governmental entities in Texas — including counties, cities, school districts, public health authorities, or government officials — from requiring or mandating mask-wearing. Under this Executive Order, no student, teacher, parent, or other staff member or visitor can be required to wear a mask while on campus. CCS will continue to follow the direct orders from the Governor as it relates to masks in schools.

Prevention & Mitigation

COVID-19 cleaning practices that were implemented in August 2020 will continue, proper cleaning supplies and sanitizer will remain available for all staff, teachers, students, and visitors. CCS facilities will continue to undergo scheduled deep cleanings as well as disinfecting areas where a possible positive COVID-19 case was located. Changes: Water fountains are now accessible, before, they were not. Masks will not be provided but are available for purchase in the school office.

Health Response Protocols

CCS shall exclude from attendance any staff, teacher or student having or suspected of having COVID-19 (Tex. Admin. Code 97.7). Exclusion shall continue until the readmission criteria for the conditions are met.

The readmission criteria for COVID-19 is as follows:

- Students/Staff/Teachers who test positive for COVID-19 must stay home for at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared.
- Students/Staff/Teachers with COVID-19 symptoms and have not tested positive may return to school when the following are true:

o At least 24 hours have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);

AND

O Improvement of symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath);

AND

• At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

OR

• Obtained a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis (must provide note);

OR

• Obtain a COVID-19 test (at a physician's office, approved testing location, or other site) that comes back negative for COVID-19.

• Children who test positive for COVID-19 but do not have any symptoms must stay home until at least 10 days after the day they were tested.

Close Contact:

• If it is determined that a student was in close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual, the student's parents will be notified.

If your child receives a positive COVID-19 test, contact the school office. The office will also need a copy of the COVID-19 test result.

Absence documentation

When a student is absent from school, we ask that you provide documentation. This will apply for COVID-19-related illness. For any prolonged illness that might lead to excessive absences, please provide a current statement from a doctor or health clinic verifying the student was seen by a health care professional and a note clearing the student for return.

Due to the constantly changing conditions under which we are operating, which include health data and guidance from state and county authorities, guidelines, policies, protocols, and requirements are subject to change. Notifications and updates about COVID-19 can always be found on our website.

Please continue to keep our staff, teachers, students, and families in your prayers. We are believing for another safe and healthy school year! Thank you for your help in keeping our campus safe!

For more info: <u>TEA Public-Health-Guidance</u> <u>CDC Help and Info</u>