



COVID-19 Return to School Plan

2020-2021

DESERT CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

We are committed to safe, in-person instruction whenever possible, and wholly believe it provides the most impactful and effective educational experience for our students.

DCS COVID-19 Compliance Team

David Pratt - School Administrator

Shannan Case - Director of Community Relations

Vickie Chin - Operations Manager

Lisa Costello - Middle School Principal

Jan Hallam - Business Office Manager

Robin Greear - Human Resources

[As we prepare to return for the 2020-2021 school year, we are developing and establishing numerous new health and safety protocols.](#)

Safety is imperative as Desert Christian plans to return to campus. We are in communication with local officials and are closely monitoring updates from the CDC, local and state governments, and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. As we prepare to return for the 2020-2021 school year, we are developing and modifying numerous new health and safety protocols, which include health screenings, hygiene practices, physical distancing, outdoor classroom facilities, thorough cleaning procedures, the use of face coverings, and more for students and employees alike.

NOTE: The following protocols are subject to change. We will continue reviewing newly released research and guidelines, as well as current events and resources from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and Los Angeles Department of Health (LADH). Additionally, please see the "Safety Protocols" link under COVID-19 UPDATES on the school website for more information.

HEALTHY HYGIENE

Handwashing is essential. It is critical that students, faculty, and staff members wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, frequently throughout the day, and avoid touching their face unless absolutely necessary. Additional handwashing stations will be added at various locations across campus for student and employee use. Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms as well as common areas across campus.

FACE COVERINGS

In accordance with Health Department regulations, face coverings will be required on campus as we begin the 2020-2021 school year. A well-secured cloth or mask that fits snugly against the face and covers an individual's nose and mouth. It must be made of a material that prevents the discharge and release of respiratory droplets from a person's nose or mouth. According to the CDC, "cloth face coverings are recommended as a simple barrier to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air and onto other people when the person wearing the cloth." Additional disposable face coverings will be available for any student that forgets, misplaces or soils their mask throughout the school day.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Physical distancing will be critical in our return to campus and will be facilitated in all possible locations across campus. The CDC states, "Since people can spread the virus before they know they are sick, it is important to stay at least 6 feet away from others when possible, even if you—or they—do not have any symptoms." Distancing requirements will be in place for students, teachers, and staff members that comply with the CDC's recommendation.

To accommodate physical distancing, markings have been added in common areas and office areas to help maintain the 6-foot recommendation. In classrooms, students will maintain distance by sitting in desks that have been spread out to maintain a 6 foot distance between students or by not using every desk in the classroom.

COHORTS

Cohorts (or pods) are groups of students (and sometimes teachers) who stay together throughout the school day to minimize exposure for students, teachers, and staff. At the elementary school level, students will be cohorted in grade level classes. In middle and high school students will be cohorted wherever and whenever possible. At the middle school level students will be cohorted and travel together in "pod" groups while at the highschool level block scheduling will be utilized to minimize mixing of student groups to the greatest extent possible.

ENTRANCE, DEPARTURE, AND MOVEMENT WITHIN THE SCHOOL

Distancing requirements will be in place for students, teachers, and staff members wherever possible. Notices and labeling on the ground will be a reminder to observe physical distancing and to keep six feet apart. Staggered arrival and departure times of staff and students will be in place to assist with

movement on all campuses.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Students at DCS will use their own supplies. The teacher will place all supplies in individual containers for each student. Sharing of supplies will not be permitted, though limited items will be available to students should they need or forget something.

BEFORE-SCHOOL HEALTH SCREENING

All staff and faculty will be required to complete a health screening prior to arriving on campus. All staff and faculty are required to enter through the main campus office where they will engage in a health check. They will be asked health screening questions and confirm a temperature of under 100.4 before being allowed into their work areas.

High School Campus: Main reception desk will ask if staff and faculty have health checked prior to being on campus.

Eastside Campus: Teachers will self check in the classrooms.

West Palmdale Campus: Teachers will self check in the classrooms.

Students will have a temperature check and be asked health screening questions upon arriving on all of our campuses.

WHEN SOMEONE IS SICK

If a student or staff member displays symptoms of COVID-19 or any other illness, he/she must remain at home and notify the school office. It is expected that everyone complies with CDC recommendations for staying home when sick and follows isolation/quarantine criteria before returning to school.

Students who develop any COVID-19 symptoms while at school will be cared for in the DCS isolation room. Isolation rooms are located in the following areas:

Elementary School: Room: G-11A

Middle School: Room: S-1

High School: Room 17: Located on the High school campus

If a student becomes sick at school, a parent will be immediately notified. They are instructed to pick up the child within 60 minutes of notification.

Staff members who may develop any COVID-19 symptoms while at school will be sent home immediately.

IDENTIFICATION AND TRACING OF CONTACTS

If a COVID-19 case is confirmed, the affected staff and/or student must remain off all DCS campuses and follow the appropriate CDC-recommended steps. Employees should not return to work until the criteria to discontinue home isolation are met, in consultation with healthcare providers and in compliance with state and local health departments.

If a student or faculty/staff member does test positive to COVID-19, DCS will undergo contact tracing and notify all individuals that have had close contact with the faculty/staff member. In addition, DCS will notify the LA County Department of Health once a confirmed case has been reported.

TESTING FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF

School staff will be tested for COVID-19 in compliance with the California Department of Public Health. Staff to be tested includes teachers, paraprofessionals, cafe workers, maintenance, or any other school employee or staff member that may have contact with infected students or other staff. Therefore, DCS will require periodic testing for staff members during work hours. Employees are encouraged to contact their health provider for testing. In addition, free testing is available for LA County residents by using this link for more information. [Free Covid-19 testing is available at High Desert Regional Health Center.](#)

High Desert Regional Health Center
335 East Avenue I
Lancaster, CA 93535

DISTANCE LEARNING

In accordance with LA County Health Department guidelines, Desert Christian Schools will transition to distance learning should an outbreak occur on campus. DCS will also conduct distance learning if a Stay-at-Home order is declared by government officials.

COMMUNICATION TO FAMILIES

Communication to families and staff will come from Dave Pratt, School Administrator, and in some cases from the COVID-19 compliance team. Communication may take various forms, such as emails, letters, or

videos.

FACILITIES CLEANING, DISINFECTING, AND VENTILATION

Deep and thorough cleaning of the campus has been conducted in preparation of the new school year.

Classrooms will be cleaned throughout the day and after school to disinfect commonly used surfaces. Additionally, deep cleaning to disinfect classrooms will be conducted weekly. Cleaning agents used for daily and weekly cleanings will be safe for students of all ages.

In accordance with research regarding airflow, we are working to enhance ventilation in the classrooms and will maintain open windows unless outdoor conditions make this inappropriate.

A limited number of drinking fountains will be converted into handwashing stations on the elementary campus.

