

Eukarya Christian Academy Reopening Plan: August 2020

ECA is dedicated to returning to school following all necessary precautions to provide our students with quality instruction, while also ensuring appropriate health and safety measures are in place for the well being of our students, staff, and the ECA community.

This plan is based on a “Healthy Only” framework for reopening ECA’s campus. This framework requires parents and employees to ensure that only healthy individuals are permitted on campus. Parents will be required to agree to a waiver of liability and health screening agreement as part of our return to school plan. The details of our health screening process, as well as our waiver, are outlined below. A “Healthy Only” framework provides the greatest level of “normalcy” but depends on students and employees to remain at home if they display any flu-like symptoms or have been in contact with others who are symptomatic, or have tested positive for COVID-19.

In addition to our focus on the health of our entire ECA community, we will expect and encourage personal responsibility for your own health and the health of others who are most vulnerable. Several of the protocols that we will be using have been in place by local pre-schools, including EKC King’s Cubs, since the widespread rise of COVID-19, and have resulted in zero cases among our staff and students within our local preschool facilities.

Our reasons **WHY** to reopen go well beyond worldly reasoning. We believe that now, more than ever, students are in need of consistency and stability for their academic, mental, spiritual, relational, physical, and emotional health. Since individuals are more than just physical beings, and are made up of a body, soul, and spirit, we desire to meet the needs of each of these areas within the lives of our students. We want students to safely return to some sense of normalcy where they can learn and grow both in their understanding of the primary core subjects, as well as in their understanding of God.

Please take some time to read the following report from the CDC, concerning reopening of schools:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/reopening-schools.html>

While most people understand that children are not at the same risk as adults, we also understand they can carry the virus home to parents, grandparents, and others who are at higher risk. However, that risk will be there to some degree no matter **HOW** or **WHEN** we reopen. If we put all the needs of our students on a scale with the physical needs on one side, and all of their other needs on the opposite side, by not reopening we’re saying that the physical risks of having students on campus (even with all of the COVID guidelines in place) outweigh all of the other needs that our school helps to address. While some of those needs can be

addressed through remote learning, not all will be. Our students need and deserve to be back on campus as soon as possible to address all of their needs, which are so critical during this unprecedented time.

The plan to reopen ECA for the 2020-2021 school year is multi-faceted and will be adjusted as needed. We have the understanding that there is no perfect plan, and that each member will need to work together to ensure the best results possible. The health and safety of every member of the ECA community is important to everyone. With that in mind, we recognize that with so many of us, there will be a variety of views and concerns related to COVID-19. Love for one another has always been a guiding principle in how we operate, and will continue to guide us, as we navigate through the school year.

Our task force team, made up of various ECA faculty, has created the following plan, in an effort to create the most effective and healthy learning environment for your student this school year:

The School Day/ Instruction:

- School will begin at its normal start time of 8:30 am and conclude at 3:30 pm each day.
- Arriving students in lower school (grades K-6) will enter using the library entrance and will remain in the library, using social distancing protocols, until they are dismissed to their classrooms by a faculty member by 8:25 am.
- Arriving students in upper school (grades 7-12) will enter the building using the office entrance. Upon entering the building, these students should quickly visit their locker to drop off or pick up any supplies and head directly to their homeroom classroom to await 1st period instruction. Hallway 'milling around' will be kept at a minimum during our first semester of school.
- Families with students in both lower and upper school, will enter using the office entrance.
- Classrooms will be set up using social distancing recommendations, with students sitting at least 3 feet apart when possible.
- Movement between classes through the interior of the campus will be minimized as much as possible, especially within the hallways.

Health Screenings Upon Entrance of Facility:

- A daily health check will be required of everyone before entering the school building. This 'check in' will consist of a temperature screening from designated staff prior to students being left at school, at each morning drop off entrance location. The designated staff member will meet each student at their vehicle and perform a temperature check. If

a temperature is 100.0 degrees or above, the staff member or student will not be able to enter the facility. Part time students will need to call the office upon entering the parking lot so that a staff member can come out to the vehicle to conduct a health screening before any student enters the building.

Cleaning/ Sanitizing:

- All classrooms will be equipped with hand sanitizer, disinfectant sprays, wipes, and paper towels. In between class, hand washing will be implemented within each classroom.
- Frequent hand washing, for at least 20 seconds per hand washing 'session', will be encouraged throughout the entire school population.
- Areas in which students change classes will be disinfected during transition times.
- Common areas including the library, eating areas, and bathrooms will be cleaned and sanitized throughout the day.
- End of day cleaning teams, led by ECA staff members, will be sanitizing each area of the school at the end of each school day, following our set of cleaning jobs and guidelines, which will be posted at each cleaning station.
- End of the day cleaning teams will receive instruction on giving attention to specific areas that need cleaning, including door knobs, light switches, and other frequently used items within the facility.
- Students will not share any school or classroom supplies and will attempt to handle only their own learning materials. Lower school students will be provided with their own set of supplies for daily use, rather than having shared classroom supplies. Upper school students will be advised to handle their own learning materials only, including textbooks, pens, etc...
- Deep cleaning and disinfecting the school building will be done each Friday afternoon by a professional cleaning company, in an effort to provide a sanitized facility at the start of each school week.
- Staff and students are encouraged to bring personal water bottles each day.
- Drinking fountains will be cleaned and disinfected regularly, however, fountains should ONLY be used for refilling water bottles and not for drinking. Rooms that have sinks can also be used to refill student and staff water bottles.

- Bottles of water are available for purchase through the office, for students who have not transported a water bottle from home for the school day.
- Parents should be sure to send their child/ children with a LABELLED water bottle, for each day's use.

Ventilation:

- When possible, windows and non security/ fire doors will be opened throughout the facility, in hallways and classrooms, to increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible.
- Classes are encouraged to go outside for fresh air as often as possible, weather permitting.
- Classes can meet outdoors, as appropriate in good weather, for instruction.

Face Coverings/ Masks/ Shields:

- Since there are many health considerations, as well as those on our campus who cannot wear masks due to medical conditions that preclude it, masks will not be mandatory. We will address the students during orientation concerning this topic, directing them to respect and operate in love toward those who have differing viewpoints on this issue. We can provide a relationally healthy environment concerning those things that are not essential to our salvation, showing love and respect toward one another. Romans 14, from the New Testament, is our example of how to deal with others who may have differing viewpoints.
- The CDC indicates that face coverings/ masks/ shields are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not have symptoms. They are not surgical masks, respirators, or other medical personal protective equipment.
- Surgical masks and/ or N95/ KN95 masks may be worn if preferred by the student or parent and if provided by the student or parent.
- Any masks or shields worn by staff or students choosing to do so inside the buildings, will follow the CDC's guidelines for proper use, removal, and washing of face coverings.

- Face coverings, for those preferring to wear them, will be brought from home. Face coverings will not be provided by the school, unless we deem it necessary to offer a student exhibiting symptoms of illness a face covering.
- The CDC recommends the wearing of face coverings. Exceptions to wearing a mask of any kind include:
 - * Any K-6th grade student for whom it is not deemed developmentally appropriate
 - * Any staff or student with a special need where wearing a mask would not be in his or her best interest
 - * Anyone who has trouble breathing, who becomes panicked, or could become unconscious while using a face covering (ie, asthma, etc...)
 - * Anyone who has a medical reason or signed note from a doctor
 - * Anyone who cannot place or remove a face covering without assistance
 - * During lunch, while eating
 - * During PE class, recess, or anytime when exercising or exerting energy may prohibit regular breathing
 - * When alone in a room/ area of the school
 - * When outdoors

COVID-19 Basics:

- It is recommended that any person who has traveled out of the country or to a COVID-19 “hot spot” self- quarantine for no less than 14 days at home with no symptoms appearing prior to returning to school.
- Any student or staff member that exhibits the following symptoms will be expected to stay home:
 - * Shortness of breath
 - * Loss of smell or taste
 - * Fever of 100.0 or above
 - * Chronic, forceful cough that is not due to a documented bacterial infection
 - * Tiredness / malaise
 - * Sore throat
 - * Runny nose
 - * Body aches and pains
- Students who show signs of any of these symptoms while within the school building will be held in the isolated sick room and parents will be notified to pick up their child. Parents should have a contingency plan already in place so that no student is left for more than 1 hour after the parent has been notified that their child is sick.
- Any employee that exhibits any of the above symptoms will be directed to leave the campus immediately.

- Return Protocols: Part A: If a student/ staff member has a negative COVID-19 test after exhibiting symptoms, they can return to school once there is no fever *without the use of fever-reducing medicines* and they have felt well for 48 hours.
- Return Protocols: Part B: In order for a student/ staff member who tested positive for COVID-19 to be allowed to return to campus, they must be able to answer YES to the following questions:
 - * Has it been at least 10 days since the individual first had symptoms?
 - * Has it been at least 3 days since the individual had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine)?
 - * Has it been at least 3 days since the individual's symptoms have improved, including cough and/ or shortness of breath?
- Return Protocols: Part C: If a student/ staff member has been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, they should be able to answer YES to the following questions:
 - * Has it been 14 days since they were exposed to the person who tested positive?
 - * Have they been free of any COVID symptoms for 14 days since they were exposed?
- No perfect attendance awards or 'perks' will be given this school year.
- There will not be public acknowledgements by name of those who test positive for COVID-19.
- Staff and students should notify school officials if they or their child become sick with COVID-19 symptoms or have a confirmed or suspected case. Any siblings within the same family unit should also stay at home and monitor their health.

Gatherings, Visitors, Field Trips:

- All ECA visitors will undergo a health screening, in order to enter the building. A limited visitor policy will be in effect until COVID-19 diminishes over the course of the school year. Parents are not encouraged to enter the building during drop off or pick up, unless special arrangements have been communicated. All nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations will be limited. In the case of a non-parent visitor entering the building (ie: a chapel speaker), social distancing protocols will be encouraged.

- Anyone entering the building after their health screening temperature check, will be asked to use the hand sanitizer that is provided at the office entrance and will receive a badge, indicating they are an approved visitor (as per or normal visitor protocols).
- Field Trips will be limited to events that can be outdoors or ensure safe social distancing protocols, especially during our first semester.

Staggered Scheduling:

- A staggered lunch and recess schedule will be implemented for all students who have lunch and recess in the ECA building, in order to minimize the amount of students in one place.

Virtual Instruction:

- Virtual instruction will be provided for those who are at home due to illness, or are quarantined due to COVID exposure. Communication of this need will be given by parents to the office, so that virtual instruction can be offered in these instances.
- Virtual instruction will be congruent with the instruction that is taking place within the classroom.
- Students who have to use virtual instruction due to illness or COVID exposure, may return to in person instruction following the return protocols established (see above).

Athletics:

- Athletics seasons are running as normal as possible, with limited games outside of our team. The season will be used primarily as a training season. We will play other teams who are following the same COVID guidelines that we are, including temperature checks, and waiver agreements.
- Additional information may be added to these guidelines as we receive updates and further guidance.

Other:

- Preventing COVID-19 completely in our school, even with all our safety measures in place, may not be possible. To have an expectation that no one within our school community will test positive with the virus at some point is unrealistic.
- Students and their family members as well as our staff go places other than our school. If the time comes when someone finally tests positive, we will likely not know the origin of where the virus was contracted.
- Staff and students should notify school officials if they or their child become sick with COVID-19 symptoms or a confirmed or suspected case. Any siblings within the same family unit should also stay at home and monitor their health.
- If someone within our school community tests positive for COVID-19, our protocols (similar to cases of the flu, or any other virus) will be to remove them from the school environment, until they can safely return, and to protect against the spread to anyone else in the school, as best we are able.