



# COVID-19 Response Plan

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## COVID-19 Response Plan

Operating under the oversight of Mercy Culture Church, CCA is a private Christian school that provides a spirit-filled academic, athletic, and social experience for our students, all centered on a Biblical worldview. While nothing seems “normal” these days, for the 2020-2021 school year, we will offer as close to a normal school year with a normal schedule and on campus instruction as we always have.

Per Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton's July 17 Guidance for Religious Private Schools, "access" to "religious services" are "essential services, which must remain open." As with churches, any guidance for religious private schools is recommended but not mandatory. Further, "when the Governor issued orders applicable to public schools, he expressly acknowledged that private schools and institutions have the freedom to **make their own decisions.**" "Under the Governor's orders, local governments are prohibited from closing religious institutions or **dictating mitigation strategies to those institutions.**" "Religious private schools may continue to determine when it is safe for their communities to resume in-person instruction free from any government mandate or interference. **Religious private schools therefore need not comply with local public health orders to the contrary.**"

Our decisions and the information provided in this guide are not driven by the media or politics, but by prayer first, then by the latest and most pertinent research and information available. Our response to COVID-19, commonly known as Coronavirus, does not come from a place of fear, but out of a desire to prepare wisely and consider the health of our CCA family. As always, we trust in the Lord's plan and presence, and we are praying for our community and the world during this time.

While many schools, and entire school districts, have made the decision to push in-person instruction back a few weeks, or in some cases many months, we've decided to take a different approach. We've spoken with other schools, listened to our local and state representatives' recommendations, discussed our options with our staff and leadership, but most of all we've spent many hours praying about how we should proceed. We are encouraged by the words of Attorney General Ken Paxton:

*“Education of our children is an **essential Texas value** and there is no current statewide order prohibiting any school from opening. While local health authorities possess some authority to close schools in limited circumstances... **that decision rightfully remains with school leaders.**”*

**After much prayer and consideration, we're confident the Lord is directing our path to open in-person instruction beginning on Monday, August 17, 2020 at 8:15am (first hour).** As you will see in this guide, we are fully prepared to provide a safe campus for anyone coming onsite this coming school year.

## **About This Guide**

The information contained herein is intended to provide guidance and encouragement during these unprecedented times. As Paul wrote in Corinthians, as Christ's body, we suffer together, we rejoice together, and we move forward knowing that we are both different and united in Christ.

*"<sup>12</sup> For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves<sup>[d]</sup> or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. <sup>14</sup> For the body does not consist of one member but of many... But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, <sup>25</sup> that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup> If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together." (1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 24-26).*

CCA never really closed during COVID-19— we continued to offer daycare for “essential” workers, hosted summer camp for many weeks, and our administrative staff never stopped coming to work daily. In all, we’re thankful that we’ve yet to have a single person test positive for COVID. So, while many schools across the country are still deciding when and how to open their doors, we have been preparing since April to open our doors this August.

While we are excited about seeing students and parents again, we understand that many people have been wrestling with the questions of when and how to go back to school safely. While we want all our students and families to be together in person, we understand there are different factors involved in that decision for everyone. We have had some families inform us that they are not comfortable with coming back so soon, and that’s perfectly understandable. We’ve also had families recently enroll, because they are excited about attending a school that is opening on time. Regardless of what end of the spectrum people fall on, when we gather, we want to do so in a way that doesn’t bring unnecessary risk to our families or the vulnerable in our community. We understand that choosing to gather in person has caused some to experience conflicting emotions and concerns, which is why, in part, we have put this guide in place.

The information provided is focused on how we are working through COVID infections, symptoms, and exposure, as well as what students and their families can expect when they arrive at CCA on the first day of school. Our emphasis is following all the local and state guidelines to ensure people remain safe when visiting or attending our campus, but most importantly, trusting God for His protection from any kind of illness or calamity. To this end, we’ve been committed to following the principle of combining our faith and actions as we prepare for the new school year (James 2:14-16).

## Reopening Our School Well

The physical health of our students and staff is important, but our priority is the spiritual health of everyone at CCA. As followers of Christ, we are commanded to love God **and people**; because we love people, we continue to closely monitor the COVID-19 situation here in North Texas. Our cleaning staff continues to deep clean the entire building and our teachers are prepared to disinfect their classrooms through the school days.

While we do our part on campus, we need your help at home. We're confident that you have been practicing good hygiene and teaching your children to do the same, especially during the past few months. As you prepare your family for in-person instruction at school, this will require proper planning. Going to bed early, packing lunches, preparing schoolwork, arriving at school on time, among many other details that will be needed to lower stress and maintain peace in your home.

In Scripture, we can see God call for wise and careful planning. It is evident in Genesis as Joseph planned for the famine, and it is clear in this verse from Luke.

*"For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?" (Luke 14:28)*

Our leaders at CCA have been counting the cost of reopening and preparing for several possible situations and contingency plans. Opening our school during these times requires careful planning as well as intentional and effective communication with every person connected to CCA. Staff need to be trained to clean, sanitize, and prepare the building for safe gatherings. Teachers need to have supplies to ensure desks, tables, and other items touched throughout the day. We share more below about specific actions we're taking, but here's a short list of actions that can be taken and what CCA is doing for each:

Suggested Safety Actions	CCA's Response
Screen staff, students and visitors before they enter, giving them a "health screening" to ensure safety.	CCA requires a health screening and temperature checks for anyone entering the building.
Promote sensitivity to social queues, respect distancing, and limit face-to-face activity.	CCA has portable desk shields, facial coverings during passing periods (secondary school), and distancing in open areas, all contributing to a safe campus.
Use larger rooms with high ceilings; open windows and doors; allow time to vent rooms and sanitize between use.	While classrooms can't be made any larger, we can limit class sizes. Certain classes will be limited for safe distancing. All classrooms will be sanitized throughout the day with windows being open occasionally for good ventilation.
Maintain essential activities and prompt an orderly entry and exit maintaining appropriate distances from one another.	CCA has established safe procedures for drop off, lunch periods, P.E., athletics, passing periods, and pick-up. These procedures will help maintain orderly entry/exit, appropriate distancing when groups are gathering.

## **What to Expect at CCA**

We're not naïve to the fact that many people will become infected by COVID-19 at some point; however, we are confident the measures we've put in place will protect the children and adults who come onto our campus. We have diligently followed all local, state, and federally mandated guidelines for reopening and honored the capacity limits from 25%, 50%, up to 100%.

Even now, while we're free to bring students back to school, we continue to do our best to ensure the safest environment possible for anyone coming to CCA, but we need your help too. This is not an exhaustive list, but here's what you can expect when you arrive on campus:

### **Arrival at School:**

- Our "screening" station is at the entrance of the school. Every family who arrives is screened and all children in the vehicle will have their temperature checked. If any of the children register a temperature of 100.4 or higher, we will take a second check and if the temperature remains 100.4 or higher, nobody in the vehicle will be allowed to enter the building until the proper procedures for returning are followed (see below).
- If the family is cleared to enter the building, they will be directed to the front door for entrance. Families with Learning Center child(ren) will be allowed to momentarily park at the front of the line to check-in. CCA staff will be out front assisting with check-in.
- There will be NO parking in the front lot or on Oakhurst Scenic Drive until after 9am. If a family needs to pay tuition, fees, or meet with someone in the main office, they won't be allowed to park up front until 9am. If they choose to park in the Mercy Culture parking lot and walk over, they will still be required to be screened and temperature checked before entering the building. All of this is to ensure arrival time is not interrupted by stopping traffic or confusion during this time.
- Clubhouse – drop offs before 7:45am will be counted as "Clubhouse." The cost for Clubhouse is \$6/day morning only (7am-7:45am), \$9/day afternoon only (3:15pm-6pm).
  - Weekly rates are \$20/week for morning only, \$40/week for afternoon only and \$50/week for morning and afternoon (weekly rates must be scheduled in advance).
  - If you do not sign up your child(ren) for Clubhouse, but drop off before 7:45am or pick-up after 3:45pm, your account will be charged the day rate accordingly.
- Student arriving before 7:45am will be directed as follows (with proper distancing measures in place):
  - Learning Center – to their pre-school classrooms
  - Elementary School – to the library
  - Junior High School – to the cafeteria
  - High School – to the gym

*\* at 7:45am all students will be directed to their first hour classrooms; students arriving after 7:45am, will go directly to their first hour classroom.*
- Staff and Student Drivers – parking for staff and student drivers will be behind the school and the southernmost part of the Mercy Culture parking lot. Anyone parking in the back will follow the same screening process as families before entering the building.

### During the day:

- All public areas have ongoing cleaning and sanitizing taking place.
- Bathrooms are cleaned multiple times during the school day.
- Passing periods for secondary school students and staff will be staggered slightly to minimize the number of students in the halls at any given time.
- Lunch periods will be in the cafeteria and will be serving hot meals. All tables have plastic shields, limited to no more than 5 students. Lines will have distancing measures.
- Physical Education periods will be in the gym with proper distancing activities, spacing, and safety protocols. Some activities will be outside as well.
- Classrooms will have portable plastic shields on each table and/or desk, creating a safety barrier between students. No protective shields, facial coverings, or distancing can guarantee an “infectious free” environment alone, but they work together to create a safe environment. Protecting students and staff from coughs, sneezes, and other forms of germ spreading is our goal.
- The Learning Center will have its own dedicated electrostatic disinfectant sprayer to be used throughout the day in their classrooms and a larger device will be used throughout the school for the larger areas. These devices help stop the spread of all kinds of infectious diseases, so while we are focused on protecting everyone from COVID, we believe these measures will keep everyone safe from illnesses we all face annually.
- If at any time throughout the day a student begins to show symptoms of illness, they will be isolated in a dedicated holding room in the main office. A parent or guardian will be notified to pick them up immediately. Students will have to follow the proper protocols before being allowed back in school (see Response Plan below).

### Pick-up Time:

- 3:15pm – k-3<sup>rd</sup> grade is dismissed. Parents with children in this range, but also have a student in 4<sup>th</sup> grade or higher should NOT arrive before 3:30pm. If parents who only have children in k-3<sup>rd</sup> pick up them up between 3:15pm and 3:30pm it will make for a smoother transition for all parents during pick up.
- 3:30pm – 4<sup>th</sup> grade and up are dismissed. Due to the 3:15pm dismissal time for the younger students, please avoid arriving and “getting in line” before 3:30pm. This will make the line go faster if we allow the younger students to be picked up before 3:30pm.
- Students will be released according to when parents arrive, preferably during the times outlined above. If a student’s ride has not arrived by 3:45pm, the student(s) will be moved into Clubhouse and your account will be charged for that day.

There’s no way for CCA staff to know if anyone in your home has been or is currently sick when you arrive at school; if you give your child(ren) fever reducing medication in an effort to “pass” the initial health screening, but by lunch time the medication has worn off and the fever comes back, you are putting the entire school in jeopardy. We need every parent to help us stay safe by taking responsibility for your health and the safety of your family.

## **How CCA is Responding to COVID Symptoms and Infections**

### **Public Health Considerations**

The virus that causes COVID-19 can infect people of all ages, and CCA is doing everything feasible to keep our students, teachers, staff, and community safe. This said, research from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), among others, have found that while children do get infected by COVID-19, relatively few children with COVID-19 are hospitalized or have severe symptoms. Furthermore, the American Academy of Pediatrics notes that COVID-19 risks must be balanced with the need for children to attend school in person, given that lack of physical access to school leads to a number of negative consequences, placing “children and adolescents at considerable risk of morbidity, and in some case, mortality.”

While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of furthering the spread of COVID-19, the current science suggests there are many steps schools can take to reduce the risks to students, teachers, staff, and their families significantly. We are following three sets of practices that minimize the likelihood of viral spread:

- PREVENT: Required practices to prevent the virus from entering the school
- RESPOND: Required practices to respond to a lab-confirmed case in the school
- MITIGATE: Recommended practices to reduce likely spread inside the school

### **PREVENT**

#### **Screening Questions for COVID-19 Before Campus Access**

1. CCA is requiring teachers and staff to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming onto campus each day. Symptoms are listed at the end of this document. The self-screening should include teachers and staff taking their own temperature. Teachers and staff must report to the school if they themselves have COVID-19 symptoms or are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and, if so, they must remain off campus until they meet the criteria for re-entry as noted below. Additionally, they must report to the school if they have had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, as defined at the end of this document, and, if so, must remain off campus until the incubation period has passed.

2. Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school if the child has COVID-19 symptoms (as listed in this document) or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, until the below conditions for re-entry are met. There will be a health screening and temperature check for every family dropping off students each morning.

3. Before visitors are allowed onto campus, they will be screened and temperature checked to determine if the visitors have COVID-19 symptoms (as listed in this document) or a fever. If so, they must remain off campus until they meet the criteria for re-entry as noted below. Visitors who have had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, must remain off campus until the incubation period has passed.

## **Individuals Confirmed or Suspected with COVID-19**

1. Any individuals who themselves either: (a) are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 (listed below) must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the school screens the individual to determine any of the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:
  - In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:
    - i. at least one day (24 hours) has passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
    - ii. the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
    - iii. at least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
  - In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, such individual may not return to the campus until the individual has completed the first two steps listed above.

## **Identifying Possible COVID-19 Cases on Campus**

- We will immediately separate any student who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school until the student can be picked up by a parent or guardian.
- Students who report feeling feverish should be given an immediate temperature check to determine if they are symptomatic for COVID-19

## **RESPOND**

### **CCA's Response to a Lab-Confirmed Case in the School**

1. If an individual who has been in school is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, CCA will follow the guidelines, in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, including confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). CCA leadership has already been in contact with the Tarrant County Health Department and has provided them with our plans if someone from our school is confirmed to have COVID-19.
2. CCA will continue to clean, sanitize, and disinfect all areas used by any individual with a lab-confirmed case (student, teacher, or staff).
3. Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, CCA will notify all appropriate parties if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff.

### **Practices to Respond to Exposure**

If a CCA student, staff, or faculty (the "individual") is exposed to someone less than 5 days before they tested positive for COVID-19, the individual should take caution and isolate at least 3 days (72 hours) before exposing themselves to others outside of their family or returning to school. If after 72 hours no symptoms arise, take caution, but the individual is free to come back to school.

If it's been 5 days or more since exposure, the individual should isolate at least 24-hours before exposing themselves to others outside of their family or returning to school. If after this time no symptoms arise, take caution, but are free to come back to school.

In any of these scenarios if symptoms arise, the individual should seek a doctor's advice before exposing themselves to anyone outside of their home and follow the professional instructions for treatment.

### **Practices to Respond to Exposure Symptoms**

If a CCA student, staff, or faculty (the "individual") is experiencing symptoms and is caring for themselves at home, they should isolate for at least 3 days (72 hours). If after 72-hours they have no further symptoms, they're free to return to school. If after 72-hours they still have symptoms, they should isolate until symptoms subside. If symptoms persist, seek medical advice and do not return to school until symptoms subside or a medical professional clears them medically.

If at any time an individual has a fever higher than 100.4, they should isolate until the resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and for at least 24-hours after the fever has broken. If after this time there's no fever and no symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath, etc.), feel free to come back to school.

If an individual has experienced symptoms, self-isolated, had resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications, and at least 3 days have passed since symptoms first appeared, feel free to return to school.

### **Practices to Respond to a Positive Test**

If a CCA student, staff, or faculty (the "individual") has tested positive of COVID-19 and have followed all the professional medical protocols and have no further symptoms, they're free to come back to school.

If the individual has tested positive for COVID-19 and were directed to care for themselves at home, they may discontinue isolation only under the following conditions:

- Resolution of fever **without** the use of fever-reducing medications for at least 24-hours;
- Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath, etc.); and
- At least ten (10) days have passed since taking the COVID test.

## **MITIGATE**

### **Practices to Mitigate the Likelihood of COVID-19 Spread Inside the School**

#### *Health and Hygiene Practices: General*

1. CCA will have hand sanitizer at each entrance. We will also provide hand sanitizer in every classroom, the cafeteria, and main offices.
2. Students, teachers, staff, and campus visitors will be encouraged to sanitize and/or wash hands frequently.

3. CCA has instituted more frequent cleaning practices, including additional cleaning by janitorial staff, as well as providing the opportunity for students to clean their own spaces before and after they are used, in ways that are safe and developmentally appropriate.
  - We have arranged for additional cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces that are touched in common throughout the day. This includes door handles, common tables/desks, shared supplies such as art supplies, and high touch devices such as shared laptops or tablets.
  - We will clean commonly touched surfaces in classrooms between different class groups, especially if the same room will be used by multiple class groups.
  - We are ensuring all cleaning products are stored safely, including storing harmful products where children cannot access them, and ensuring that harmful cleaning products are not used near children.
4. Whenever possible, CCA will open windows or otherwise work to improve air flow by allowing outside air to circulate in the building.
5. On the first day of school all students will receive instruction on appropriate hygiene practices and other mitigation practices adopted in our school.

#### *Health and Hygiene Practices: Facial Coverings*

According to Governor Abbott’s Executive Order dated July 2, 2020, “Every person in Texas shall wear a face covering over the nose and mouth when inside a commercial entity or other building or space **open to the public**, or when in an outdoor public space, wherever it is not feasible to maintain six feet of social distancing from another person not in the same household; provided, however, that this face-covering requirement does not apply to (*to read the entire order and see all 11 exemptions, [click here](#)*):

1. any person younger than 10 years of age;
2. any person with a medical condition or disability that prevents wearing a face covering;
3. any person while the person is consuming food or drink;
9. any person who is actively providing or obtaining access to religious worship;
10. any person while the person is giving a speech for a broadcast or to an audience.”

Operating under the oversight of Mercy Culture Church, CCA is protected under the Executive Order as a place that actively provides religious worship. CCA is also not a commercial entity, building or space that is open to the public. We are a private Christian school; therefore, we are exempt from the requirement of facial coverings during operating hours.

For the purposes of this document, masks include non-medical and medical grade disposable face masks and cloth face coverings. Face shields may be used in place of a mask to protect eyes, nose, and mouth whenever a mask is not feasible or whenever the education context may benefit from the ability to see an individual’s full face.

We will have disposable masks and neck gaiters available for students, teachers, and faculty (first one is free; replacements will be \$10 each). We are also providing every teacher with a

face shield so that if needed, students may still see the teacher's facial expressions during instruction.

- We will not require facial coverings for children 10 years old and under. If you have a child under the age of 10 who needs to wear facial coverings due to underlying conditions, or another reason, please let the front office and teacher know.
- We will not prevent anyone from wearing facial coverings due to medical conditions or if they have other personal reasons why they want to wear a covering; however, teachers who need or want to wear face coverings will use a face shield.
- Facial coverings will not be required during lunch; we will have safety shields on every table limiting the number of students at each table to 5 or less.
  - Cafeteria workers will be required to wear face shields and gloves during times when food is being prepared and served.
- We will not require facial coverings during Connect With God classes, chapels, and/or gatherings where worship or Biblical teaching is offered, unless distancing or safety shields cannot be utilized.
- We will not require facial coverings during any in-class instruction, unless distancing or safety shields cannot be utilized. We will have desk top sneeze/cough guards and in some cases large safety shields in between tables and/or desks for proper protection and distancing in every classroom.
- We will not require facial coverings during passing periods for secondary students; however, students may use the CCA gaiter or other approved facial covering if they choose. We will have faculty in the hallways ensuring students do their best to distance properly at lockers and in the hallways.
  - Lockers are being assigned in a way that will contribute to distancing as well.

### *Transportation*

1. CCA will have hand sanitizer on busses or other vehicles.
2. CCA families should drop students off, carpool, or walk with student to school or desired location, to reduce possible virus exposure on buses.
3. Buses will be thoroughly cleaned after each bus trip, focusing on high-touch surfaces such as bus seats, steering wheels, knobs, and door handles.

### *Visits to Schools*

- Parents and other adults may visit CCA but must follow the virus prevention and mitigation requirements outlined herein.
- Visits should be limited to essential needs and school operations.

### **Close Contact**

For COVID-19, a close contact is defined as any individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated. (CDC 2020)

## **COVID-19 Symptoms**

In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, consider the following... have they recently begun experiencing any of the following (CDC 2020):

- Measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.4 degrees (F)
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea, Nausea or vomiting

## **How to Care for Yourself and Your Family Faithfully**

*“But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed” (Luke 5:16).*

During this time of heightened uncertainty and stress, it’s important to remember to take care of yourself and your family. Jesus modeled this in his life. And also remember that we don’t take care of ourselves alone. As Isaiah 41:10 says, *“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”*

In times like this, we need to remember that self-care is important and keeps us healthy. Our bodies are the “temples of the Holy Spirit” (1 Corinthians 6:19) and taking care of ourselves is one of the ways we can practice good stewardship. Practicing self-care will also help you serve and help others for the long-term. Following are some self-care practices to help you manage COVID-19 related stress associated with reopening decisions.

### **Pay attention to your body and your emotions.**

It’s natural to experience stress in the face of a threat we cannot control. Because every person reacts differently, notice what your body and emotions are telling you:

- Listen to your emotions, noticing any anxiety, sadness, anger, or detachment.
- Listen to your body, noticing any change in appetite, new aches and pains, or feeling particularly hot or cool.
- When you notice troubling symptoms, pause to care for your body and mind.

If you become unable to manage or function well, seek the assistance. As our spiritual covering, Mercy Culture Church offers Biblical counseling and emotional care support, but if the need of a licensed mental-health professional or healthcare provider is required, please seek out assistance as needed. Signs that you may need additional support include:

- Your stress symptoms seem intense.
- Your stress seems like it just won’t go away.
- Your stress starts to interfere with everyday life.

- Your behaviors are becoming more impulsive and riskier.
- You are self-medicating with alcohol or drugs to cope with stress.
- You are thinking of hurting yourself or someone else. (if you believe you are becoming a possible threat to yourself or someone else, call 911 or proper authorities immediately for help.)

### **Embrace best health practices.**

Though there's much about the COVID-19 outbreak over which you have no control, you can choose to embrace the kinds of practices that will keep you and your loved ones safe. A healthy diet, regular exercise, and plenty of time in the sun (vitamin D) is beneficial in staying physically and emotionally healthy. Parents must take personal responsibility in making sure they don't bring children to school who are experiencing symptoms of illness or fevers, even if they are not obviously sick. Opening our school will require everyone to participate in some basic habits designed to maintain safe spaces for anyone who attends or visits CCA to enjoy. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) suggests the following:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick; keep your children home if anyone in the house is sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Follow recommendations for using a face covering.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

While it may feel like there is a lot you can't control amidst concerns over COVID-19, you can still make proactive and positive choices to care for yourself, your family, and CCA. We need your help in maintaining a healthy environment, so we're asking every parent to participate by taking personal responsibility for what you can control and trust God for those things you can't.

### **Conclusion**

We realize that our guidelines, policies, and procedures will not address every person's concern about COVID or any other illnesses we're all faced with in the coming weeks and months. There's so much that we don't know, so we've done our best to establish a balance between what we know, what we're required to do, and what we feel is best for our school. Between the cleaning/sanitizing, safety shields, issuing facial coverings for those who want/need them, distancing measures, and training our staff on how to best deal with tenuous situations that might come up, we are confident that we're prepared to offer the best in-person instruction and on-campus experience for everyone who attends CCA this school year.

***Lord, teach us Your ways, so that we may know You, and find favor with You!***