

# **Cirrus Academy Charter School Pandemic Plan**

**2021- 2022**



Dr. Gail Morris Fowler, Superintendent/ CEO

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The following plan is based on information within **Georgia’s Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools**. *Georgia’s Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools* focuses heavily on the health and physical requirements necessary for reopening school buildings. This plan is not intended to be an exhaustive or detailed list of expectations, but will provide an overview for anticipated guidance for re-entry into the traditional setting on August 2, 2021. This plan is built upon guidance and recommendations of the CDC and health officials. It is strongly aligned with the reopening guidelines that have been provided by our state and federal leaders; and it’s designed to help prioritize the health and safety of students and staff as we open the school to deliver instruction for the 2021 –2022 school year.

We value the safety of our staff and students, and we know that some are ready for school to open. We also understand that we are amid a pandemic and realize that some parents feel Virtual Learning is the safest option. Both traditional and virtual learning models are important to our school district, and we will continuously monitor the guidance of state and federal leaders to determine the safest options for school reopening. We will keep student and staff safety at the forefront of our decisions.

*\*Please note that this plan will be revised as needed.*

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# Policies and Legal Compliance

Cirrus Academy Charter School will conduct mandatory training on the following policies to ensure state and federal compliance:

- Infectious Diseases
- Attendance
- Vulnerable Populations
- Enrollment/ Registration Procedures
- MTSS/ 504/ IEP Meeting Protocols
- IDEA
- FFCRA (Family First Corona Relief Act)
- Occupational Health and Safety Act (OSHA)
- National Labor Relations Act (NLRA)
- Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (SBOE Rule 160- 1-3-.03)
- Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA)
- Executive Orders

# Community Spread




Cirrus Academy Charter schools is using guidance from the Georgia Department of Public Health and Georgia Department of Education to help prioritize the health and safety of students, teachers, and staff. Cirrus Academy continues to utilize guidance provided by the CDC as it is updated.

- **Level of Community Spread of COVID- 19** (As determined by local health officials. \*)



Level of Community Spread	Instructional Model
High/ Substantial Spread	Distance Learning Schedule – School buildings will be closed. All students will participate in distance learning. Students will receive assignments and instruction through technology.
Low/ No Spread	Traditional Schedule – Students will come to school for face – to face instruction Monday – Friday. Online will be offered as a preventative measure.

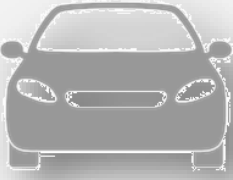
Cirrus Academy will participate in all contact tracing efforts of local, state, and federal departments. The Superintendent and the school nurse will be the school’s main COVID – 19 point of contact. Students and staff with COVID-19 symptoms or a temperature of 100.4°F and above will be immediately isolated and sent home. The Cirrus Academy Superintendent and school nurse will coordinate the notification of health officials immediately for guidance on next steps, including closures. Measures will be taken to ensure student and staff privacy. The school nurse will be responsible for training and updating staff and students on preventative measures and monitoring community spread.

## Definitions

<p>Face Coverings</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Masks are strongly encouraged for all staff and students and will be provided as needed.</li> <li>• Face Shields will be provided as needed.</li> <li>• Masks/Face Shields will be required when social distancing is not possible.</li> <li>• Administrative staff and teachers will provide instruction for proper use of face coverings and masks.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#"><u>CDC Guidelines</u></a></p>
<p>Hand Sanitizer</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hand Sanitizing stations have been strategically placed throughout the building and in classrooms.</li> <li>• Hand Sanitizer will contain at least 60% alcohol and only used with staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#"><u>CDC Guidelines</u></a></p>
<p>Clean/ Disinfect</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure safe and correct application of disinfectants and keep out of reach of students.</li> <li>• Frequently touched items will be clean/ disinfected throughout the day:</li> <li>• Doorknobs</li> <li>• Tables</li> <li>• Light Switches</li> <li>• Countertops</li> <li>• Handles</li> <li>• Desks</li> <li>• Toilets</li> <li>• Faucet/Sinks</li> <li>• Technology and Telephones</li> </ul>

**Processes and Procedures**

Practicing Prevention	Procedure
<p data-bbox="342 240 709 266">General Preventative Measures</p> 	<ul data-bbox="873 245 1885 683" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proper hygiene measures will be taught, reinforced, and encouraged (i.e. proper and frequent hand swashing, frequent use of hand sanitizer, properly covering coughs and sneezes, keeping hands away from mouths.)</li> <li>• Hand sanitizing stations are strategically placed throughout the building as well as in classrooms.</li> <li>• Signage will be posted in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread, recognize COVID – 19 symptoms, implement preventative measures (including staying home when sick, practicing good hygiene, and other school/ district specific protocols.</li> <li>• Frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the day.</li> <li>• Students and staff will be permitted to bring hand sanitizer and face coverings from home.</li> <li>• Deep cleaning of schools will be conducted on a regular basis.</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="825 690 1003 716"><u>CDC Guidance</u></p>
Screening	Procedure
	<ul data-bbox="873 805 1892 1349" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training will be conducted and literature will be posted on proper hygiene and self – screening. Policies will be enforced.</li> <li>• Cirrus Academy will be conducting regular screenings for symptoms and encourage ongoing self – monitoring throughout the school day for staff and students.</li> <li>• Parents should screen students before leaving home.</li> <li>• If the temperature is at or above 100.4F, staff or students should not report to school.</li> <li>• Upon entry staff and students will go through body scanners that will conduct a temperature check.</li> <li>• Persons with 100.4F or higher will report directly to the school nurse who will then assess and quarantine if necessary.</li> <li>• Staff and students are asked to self- report to the school nurse if symptoms persist throughout the day.</li> <li>• If staff or students have exhibited symptoms within the 24 hours prior to the student leaving for school, staff or student should remain at home.</li> </ul>

Transporting to and from School	Procedure
<p data-bbox="317 272 735 302">Car Riders/ Van Riders/ Walk –ups</p> 	<ul data-bbox="968 245 1885 654" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prescreen students before leaving home/daycare.</li> <li>• Students will be reminded of proper hygiene measures throughout the day.</li> <li>• Students will be reminded to use hand sanitizer as they enter the building.</li> <li>• Once students are dropped off in the carpool area they will enter their designated building and through the body scanner.</li> <li>• Parents will limit the number of passengers traveling with students to school.</li> <li>• Car pool area will have social distance signage.</li> <li>• Walk-ups will enter their main entrance.</li> <li>• Staggered Schedule for Elementary and Middle schools: K-5: 7:45 AM Dismissal 3:45 PM 6-8: 8:15 AM Dismissal 4:15 PM</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="825 659 1835 719"><i>Parents with more than one student enrolled at CACS whose start times differ may bring all students at the earliest start time of the earliest students coming in.</i></p> <p data-bbox="825 760 947 789"><u>Dismissal</u></p> <ul data-bbox="873 797 1703 935" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will be dismissed using <i>Silent Dismissal</i> number system.</li> <li>• Walk-up parents will not be able to enter the building.</li> <li>• Students may not leave any belongings at the school building.</li> <li>• Staff will not conduct temperature checks as students leave.</li> </ul>
Entering School Buildings	Procedure
<p data-bbox="327 1352 722 1382">Building Procedures and Visitors</p>	<ul data-bbox="873 1325 1885 1414" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to the building will be restricted to essential personnel and students.</li> <li>• “Stop the Spread” signs will be placed inside and outside the office lobby and other key entrances.</li> </ul>



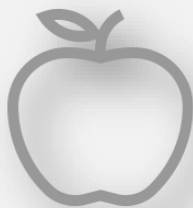


- Marked space lines to enter the buildings and flow paths will be created to direct traffic.
- Parents and visitors will not be allowed past front office for any reason.
- Parents will not be allowed to walk students to classrooms. Exceptions may be made for Kindergarten parents.
- Staff members will be placed strategically at carpool and walk-up ramps will remind parents and students to social distance.
- Parent conferences will be virtual.
- PTO/ Parent Engagement meetings will be virtual.
- Office Area will be sanitized throughout the day.
- Students are encouraged to bring their own water.
- Water Systems have been updated to provide students with water in a personal bottle.

### Meals

### Procedure

Serving Meals





- Students must wash hands before and after meals.
- Hand sanitizing stations in classrooms.
- Prepackaged meals with disposable utensils will be delivered to classrooms.
- Meals will include as much variety as possible, while maintaining efficient and safe service.
- Any meals served in cafeteria will have a modified seating arrangement to support social distancing.
- Arrangements will be made for virtual learners to have access to receive meal services.
- Students should bring their own water bottle.

### Transitions

### Procedures

- There will be no mixing between groups.

<p style="text-align: center;">Transitioning</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will remain with their same group.</li> <li>• Transition times will be built into daily schedule to allow for social distancing.</li> <li>• Middle Grades Teachers will move from class to class to teach students.</li> <li>• In cases where students need to transition, masks/shields will be worn.</li> <li>• Student transitions will be staggered.</li> <li>• The use of lockers is suspended.</li> <li>• Students will be educated on proper transition practices.</li> <li>• Cleaning of hallways and high touch surfaces will be conducted throughout the day.</li> <li>• Restroom procedures are modified to support social distance measures.</li> <li>• Bell Schedules have been altered to limit traffic.  Grades K-4 7:45 AM – 3:45PM  Grades 5-8 8:15 AM- 4:15 PM</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Large Group Gatherings</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Procedure</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Large Group Gatherings</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students Teacher ratio 1:15 to maintain social distance protocols in classrooms.</li> <li>• Large gatherings normally conducted at school has been cancelled.</li> <li>• Virtual Meetings are encouraged including but not limited to PTO, School clubs and teams, and PLCs.</li> <li>• CACS will follow Georgia High School Association Guidelines for sporting events and practicing.</li> <li>• Open Houses and Orientation will be virtual.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Supporting Teaching and Learning</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Procedure</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Supporting Teaching and Learning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two instructional learning models will be offered:</li> </ul>



Supporting Teaching and Learning (Cont.)

Option 1 - Students will come to school for face -to- face instruction Monday – Thursday while taking preventative measures. E-Learning on Friday for all.

- The master schedule will be used to balance class numbers as much as possible.
- All unused desks and furniture will be removed.
- Distance between all seating will be increased to the extent possible.
- Use of face coverings in classes are recommended.
- Students personal belonging will remain with them. Students will leave with what they enter with.
- Students will use digital platforms as much as possible to enhance traditional instruction for all students. (Clever will house digital learning resources, Google Classroom will be implemented.)
- Students will not share supplies.
- Cirrus offers 1:1 technology. All students will be assigned a Chromebook.



TEMPORARY DISTANCE LEARNING (all students transition to distance learning)


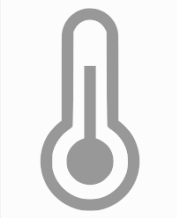
- Teacher Led online instruction will take place through an online platform. (K-8 Clever, Google Classroom)
- Participation is mandatory.
- Attendance will be recorded.
- Weekly interaction between teachers and students is expected.
- Chromebook checkout will be available for those without a device. (Parent should exhaust all devices in the home first before checking out a Chromebook from the school.)

Option 2 – Distance Learning will be offered through the “Virtual Academy at Cirrus”. Students will be taught by a Cirrus Academy Teacher using online platforms that support the CACS curriculum. The Virtual Academy is available for grades K-8.

Virtual Learning Requirements:

- The Student is a Cirrus Academy Student enrolled in an online program off campus.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work is completed independently and supported by teachers and guardian/learning coach.</li> <li>• The student is responsible for daily attendance and completed daily assignments and tasks.</li> <li>• The student must adhere to virtual learning schedule.</li> <li>• Parents must arrange for students to come on campus to take any required exams as determined by school administration.</li> <li>• Parents and guardians must keep an active telephone and email address.</li> <li>• Students must participate for 9 weeks. *</li> </ul> <p>Additionally, virtual students will be offered electives and access to clubs and activities.</p>
<p><b>Mental Health and Wellness</b></p>	<p><b>Guidance</b></p>
<p>Mental Health and Wellness</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wellness Committee at CACS has been formed to support the emotional wellbeing of staff, student and parents.</li> <li>• CACS is aware that all students, staff and families have been impacted by COVID-19 and are prepared to support staff, students and families regardless of the option they have chosen.</li> <li>• The Wellness Committee has established partnerships to support students such as Peach State Healthcare.</li> <li>• Cirrus Academy has begun to get sponsorships for back to school and has started a back to school drive.</li> <li>• Resources are available to assist students with mental health needs. This ranges from support for the Eagle’s Bridge Program, school counselors, the school nurse, as well as connecting staff, students and parents with community resources.</li> <li>• There will be frequent wellbeing checks upon school opening to ensure students are receiving the emotional or mental health support they need.</li> <li>• Health and Wellness Committee will provide tutorials on process and procedures that will be used in the building and posted on the school website and social media.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Protecting Vulnerable Populations</b></p>	<p><b>Guidance</b></p>

<p>Special Programs and Services</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students with disabilities, including those with underlying health conditions will continue to be served in person and/or virtually when school reopens to the greatest extent possible.</li> <li>• CACS is committed to providing the families the opportunity for meaningful participation in the special education process.</li> <li>• Students receiving RTI, EIP and REP services will continue to receive services to the greatest extent possible.</li> <li>• Field Trips within the community and beyond have been suspended. Virtual field trips and activities will be recommended and encouraged.</li> <li>• School health staff will develop or review medical plans in consultation with the family and child's doctor for medically vulnerable students.</li> <li>• Hospital Homebound (HHB) services will be provided to eligible students, including students with disabilities.</li> <li>• Alternative teaching assignments will be available to those who have underlying health conditions.</li> </ul>
<p>When a child or staff member becomes sick at school</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An isolation room has been designated in the building for anyone who exhibits COVID- like symptoms.</li> <li>• The school nurse will use Standard Transmission – Based Precautions when caring for sick people.</li> <li>• Employees and students who present symptoms of illness will be sent home and advised not to return to school until they meet the requirements following the K-12 Decision Tree. <a href="#">GADOE K12 Recovery District Decision Tree</a></li> <li>• CACS will participate in contact tracing efforts while maintaining staff and student confidentiality.</li> <li>• The Clinic will be sanitized following each treatment.</li> </ul>

# Stake Holder Communication

Effective and ongoing communication is a critical component before, during and after any school crisis. Cirrus Academy will implement specific communication procedures and protocols that will allow staff, students, families, and the community to safely re-engage in the education process.

Cirrus Academy has surveyed parents and staff regarding reopening for the 2020 – 2021 School year.

Parents were asked to choose their preferred instructional model for the 2020 – 2021 School Year.

Staff were surveyed regarding their concerns with returning to work during the pandemic.

Cirrus Academy will primarily release information to staff, parents and stakeholders using the following platforms:

School Website	<a href="http://www.cirrusacademy.org">www.cirrusacademy.org</a>
Social Media	Facebook, Twitter, Instagram
Print Copy/ Mail	
Email	
Automated Phone Calls	
Class Management Systems	Class Dojo, Clever, GSUITE
Traditional Media Outlets	