

# **Cirrus Academy Charter School Pandemic Plan**

**2021- 2022**



Dr. Gail Morris Fowler, Superintendent/ CEO

Revised July 10, 2021



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 10, 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 continue to stay up to date with all of the latest updates on COVID- 19. We also understand that we are amid a pandemic and realize that some parents still 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.*

# Table of Contents

Policies/ Legal Compliance.....	4
Community Spread.....	5
Definitions.....	6
Practicing Prevention.....	7
Screening.....	7
Transporting to School.....	8
Entering School Building.....	9
Meals.....	9
Transitions .....	10
Large Group Gatherings.....	10
Supporting teaching and Learning.....	11
Mental Health and Wellness.....	12
Vulnerable Populations .....	13
When Staff and Students become Sick.....	13
Communication.....	14

# 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 CDC, Georgia Department of Public Health and Georgia Department of Education to help prioritize the health and safety of students, teachers, and staff. Levels are aligned to DPH's 'Return to School Guidance After Covid-19 Illness or Exposure' issue on June 13, 2020.

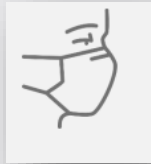
- **Level of Community Spread of COVID- 19** (As determined by local health officials. \*)

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 – Thursday. E-Learning on Friday while taking preventative measures.

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 human resources department will be responsible for training and updating staff of COVID- 19 Leave policies, and the nurse will update students on preventative measures.

# Definitions

## Face Coverings



- Masks are required for all staff and students and will be provided as needed.
- Face Shields will be provided as needed.
- Masks/Face Shields are required when social distancing is not possible.
- Administrative staff, the nurse and teachers will provide instruction for proper use of face coverings and masks.

[CDC Guidelines](#)

## Hand Sanitizer



- Hand Sanitizing stations have been strategically placed throughout the building and in classrooms.
- Hand Sanitizer will contain at least 60% alcohol and only used with staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer.

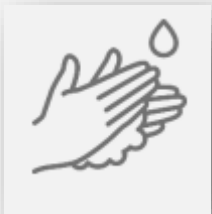

[CDC Guidelines](#)

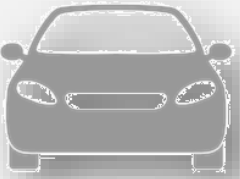
## Clean/ Disinfect





- Ensure safe and correct application of disinfectants and keep out of reach of students.
- Frequently touched items will be clean/ disinfected throughout the day:
- Doorknobs
- Tables
- Light Switches
- Countertops
- Handles
- Desks
- Toilets
- Faucet/Sinks
- Technology and Telephones



# Processes and Procedures


Practicing Prevention	Procedure
<p data-bbox="342 329 709 354">General Preventative Measures</p> 	<ul data-bbox="873 329 1885 771" 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="825 776 1003 800"><u>CDC Guidance</u></p>
Screening	Procedure
	<ul data-bbox="873 889 1896 1369" 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> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>Car Riders/ Van Riders/ Walk –ups</p> 	<ul 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 enter the carpool lane their temperature will be checked before they exit the vehicle. Masks will be provided as needed.</li> <li>• Parents will limit the number of passengers traveling with students to school.</li> <li>• Carpool area will have social distance signage.</li> <li>• Walk-ups will enter through main entrance and temperature checks will be conducted.</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><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><u>Dismissal</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will be dismissed using <i>Silent Dismissal</i> technology.</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>


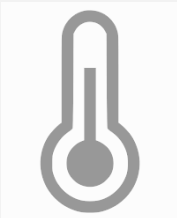


Entering School Buildings	Procedure
<p data-bbox="331 310 718 337">Building Procedures and Visitors</p> 	<ul data-bbox="873 280 1881 862" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to the building will be restricted to essential personnel and students.</li> <li>• “Stop the Spread” signs will be placed inside and outside the office lobby and other key entrances.</li> <li>• Marked space lines to enter the buildings and flow paths will be created to direct traffic.</li> <li>• Parents and visitors will not be allowed past front office for any reason.</li> <li>• Parents will not be allowed to walk students to classrooms.</li> <li>• Staff members will be placed strategically at carpool and walk-up ramps will remind parents and students to social distance.</li> <li>• Parent conferences will be virtual.</li> <li>• PTO/ Parent Engagement meetings will be virtual.</li> <li>• Office Area will be sanitized throughout the day.</li> <li>• Students are encouraged to bring their own water.</li> <li>• Everyone who enters the building must conduct screening questions and temperature checks.</li> <li>• Visitors must present COVID-19 vaccination card or negative COVID test to enter.</li> </ul>
Meals	Procedure
<p data-bbox="438 1052 609 1079">Serving Meals</p> 	<ul data-bbox="873 1023 1881 1398" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students must wash hands before and after meals.</li> <li>• Hand sanitizing stations in classrooms.</li> <li>• Prepackaged meals with disposable utensils will be delivered to classrooms.</li> <li>• Meals will include as much variety as possible, while maintaining efficient and safe service.</li> <li>• Any meals served in cafeteria will have a modified seating arrangement to support social distancing.</li> <li>• Arrangements will be made for virtual learners to have access to receive meal services.</li> <li>• Students should bring their own water or water bottle.</li> <li>• Water faucets have been installed to support filling water bottles.</li> </ul>

Transitions	Procedures
<p data-bbox="443 305 604 337">Transitioning</p> 	<ul data-bbox="871 277 1848 730" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will be no mixing between groups.</li> <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>• Shields are provided for teacher's and student desks.</li> <li>• Restroom procedures are modified to support social distance measures.</li> <li>• Bell Schedules have been altered to limit traffic.</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="919 735 1297 764">Grades K-5 7:45 AM – 3:45 PM</p> <p data-bbox="919 769 1281 799">Grades 6-8 8:15 AM- 4:15 PM</p>
Large Group Gatherings	Procedure
<p data-bbox="380 915 667 948">Large Group Gatherings</p> 	<ul data-bbox="871 919 1890 1226" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will be 3ft apart, social distance as much as possible.</li> <li>• Large gatherings normally conducted at school have been limited and social distance precautions will taken.</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 or drive thru and practice social distancing measures.</li> </ul>

Supporting Teaching and Learning	Procedure
<p data-bbox="317 240 732 269">Supporting Teaching and Learning</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="873 240 1507 269">• Two instructional learning models will be offered:</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="919 310 1866 407">Option 1 - Students will come to school for face -to- face instruction Monday – Friday while taking preventative measures. The building will be deep cleaned on Wednesday.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="873 415 1850 444">• The master schedule will be used to balance class numbers as much as possible.</li> <li data-bbox="873 451 1482 480">• All unused desks and furniture will be removed.</li> <li data-bbox="873 487 1717 516">• Distance between all seating will be increased to the extent possible.</li> <li data-bbox="873 522 1472 552">• Use of face coverings in classes are mandatory.</li> <li data-bbox="873 558 1877 620">• Students personal belonging will remain with them. Students will leave with what they enter with.</li> <li data-bbox="873 626 1818 724">• Students will use digital platforms as much as possible to enhance traditional instruction for all students. (Clever and Classlink will house digital learning resources, Google Classroom will be implemented.)</li> <li data-bbox="873 730 1297 760">• Students will not share supplies.</li> <li data-bbox="873 766 1892 828">• Cirrus offers 1:2 technology. All students will be assigned a Chromebook and have one to use in case of virtual learning.</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="825 898 1717 927"><u>TEMPORARY Virtual Learning</u> (all students transition to distance learning)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="873 935 1850 997">• Teacher Led online instruction will take place through an online platform. (K-8 Clever, Classlink, and Google Classroom)</li> <li data-bbox="873 1003 1234 1032">• Participation is mandatory.</li> <li data-bbox="873 1039 1255 1068">• Attendance will be recorded.</li> <li data-bbox="873 1075 1646 1104">• Weekly interaction between teachers and students is expected.</li> <li data-bbox="873 1110 1881 1208">• 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.)</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="825 1243 1871 1406">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 that have underlying conditions or due to COVID. Parents of students in the virtual academy must commit to regular attendance and ensure students are completing assignments.</p>

<p>Supporting Teaching and Learning (Cont.)</p> 	<p>Virtual Learning Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The student is enrolled at Cirrus Academy and attends and participates in class on virtual platform.</li> <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 will continue to have it's back to school drive and will provide all students with supplies.</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 to ensure students are receiving the emotional or mental health support they need.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>
<b>Protecting Vulnerable Populations</b> Special Programs and Services 	<b>Guidance</b> <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 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 will practice social distancing guidelines and wear a mask. 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>
When a child or staff member becomes sick at school 	<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
Traditional Media Outlets	