

# COVID-19 SCHOOL PROTOCOL

Augustine Classical Academy | 2020-21

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# OVERVIEW

Due to the presence of novel coronavirus (COVID-19), Augustine Classical Academy (ACA) has adopted the following required protocols to promote the health and safety of its students and school community, to reduce the risk of outbreak, and to mitigate viral transmission and migration. These ACA protocols adhere to all relevant required state protocols. Recommended state guidelines will be followed insofar as academic program quality is not unduly diminished and the health and safety of the ACA school community is not jeopardized.

## TEMPERATURE & SYMPTOM CHECKS FOR EMPLOYEES

All ACA employees will take their temperatures at home each morning before leaving for school and answer the ACA Symptom Survey. Any employee with a temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher will stay home, as will anyone who answers “Yes” to any of the Symptom Survey questions.

### Employee Temperature Checks:

- If possible, employees should take their temperature soon after waking up each morning, not immediately before leaving for school.
- If an employee has a temperature of 100.4 F or above, they should confirm the reading with 1-2 similar readings to avoid a false positive reading or mechanical error.
- If an employee confirms a temperature of 100.4 F or above, they should immediately notify the ACA office and secure their substitute teacher for that day and the following day. Although a second consecutive day away from work may not occur, employees should secure a substitute or substitutes for two consecutive days given 24-hour symptom-free requirements (below).
- Employees must maintain a temperature below 100.4 F for 24 hours, and have no symptoms of a fever for 24 hours without use of symptom-reducing medication, before returning to work.
- Positive temperature reports by employees will be recorded and tracked by administration.

### Employee Symptom Surveys:

- Employees must take the ACA Symptom Survey each morning before leaving for work, according to ACA-specific published symptom questions.
- If an employee answers “Yes” to any question on the Symptom Survey, he must stay home until free from symptoms for a 24-hour period without use of symptom-reducing medication.

- If an employee answers “Yes” to any question on the Symptom Survey, she should immediately notify the ACA office and secure a substitute teacher for that day and the following day. Although a second consecutive day away from work may not occur, employees should secure a substitute or substitutes for two consecutive days given 24-hour symptom-free requirements (below).
- “Yes” Symptom Survey responses will be recorded and tracked by administration.

## COVID-19 WAIVER

All parents of enrolled students must sign the ACA COVID-19 Assumption of Risk and Waiver Form prior to the start of school. The language of the Form states:

*“This Assumption of Risk and Waiver Form relates to attendance at the in-person classes and school-related activities (“Events”) held for the benefit of the students (“Students”) of Augustine Classical Academy (“School”).*

*I hereby acknowledge that the novel Coronavirus (“COVID-19”) has been declared a world-wide pandemic by the World Health Organization. COVID-19 is extremely contagious and is believed to spread mainly from person-to-person contact. As a result, federal, state, and local governments, including the State of Colorado, and federal and state health agencies, have recommended social distancing and other protective measures in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and in many locations prohibited the congregation of groups of people.*

*I hereby acknowledge that an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place or meeting and that I am nevertheless desirous of my child(ren) attending the Events. By participating in the Events, I and my child(ren) voluntarily assume all risks related to COVID-19 exposure, including direct or indirect transmission to my child(ren), myself or our family members, and agree not to hold the School or any of its directors, officers, employees, agents, or volunteers liable for any illness or injury attributable to COVID-19 if contracted or received as a result. I understand that the above-named entities or persons may not be held responsible for illness, injury, or harm to my child(ren), myself or other family members at the Events due to COVID-19.*

*I hereby further acknowledge that I am aware of all other risks involved in my child(ren) attending the Events. In the event of an accident, illness, personal injury, death, or misadventure, I waive, on behalf of myself and my child(ren), and completely release and hold harmless the School, and all directors, officers, employees, agents, or volunteers associated with the Events. I understand that in addition to the above-mentioned possible casualties, the above-named entities or persons may not be held responsible, legally or otherwise, for:*

- *Injuries to Students due to the conditions of the premises where the Events are held;*
- *Injuries to Students at the Events;*

- *Injuries to Students due to the intentional or negligent acts of other Students, attendees, guests, or third parties, including but not limited to acts related to COVID-19;*
- *Loss, damage, or theft of personal property at the Events.”*

## SYMPTOM CHECKS FOR STUDENTS

### Requirements:

Before bringing students to school, parents must answer “No” for their student(s) to all questions on the ACA Symptom Survey in order to safely bring their child to school.

- If a parent answers “Yes” to any question on the student Symptom Survey, the student must stay home until free from symptoms for a 24-hour period without use of symptom-reducing medication, and the parent must immediately notify the school office of the absence.
- Siblings of students who answer “Yes” to the Symptom Survey but who themselves answer “No” to the Survey may still attend school, as answering “Yes” to the Survey is not considered a COVID outbreak.

### Symptom Survey Questions: Please answer “NO” to each question before coming to school

- ☐ In the past 24 hours, has the student had a body temperature of 100.4 °F or higher?
- ☐ In the past 24 hours, has the student had a persistent cough?
- ☐ In the past 24 hours, has the student had shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, unrelated to a pre-existing condition such as asthma?
- ☐ In the past 24 hours, has the student had chills?
- ☐ In the past 24 hours, has the student had muscle aches unrelated to physical exercise?
- ☐ In the past 24 hours, has the student had a sore throat?
- ☐ In the past 24 hours, has the student had a new loss of taste or smell?
- ☐ In the past 24 hours, has the student been exposed to someone with a positive COVID-19 diagnosis, or exposed to someone with COVID-like symptoms?

## ISOLATION OF SICK CHILD

If a student develops symptoms during the school day, ACA administration will isolate the student safely until a parent can come to pick up the child.

- **Definition:** “Develops symptoms” is defined as answering “Yes” to any of the Symptom Survey questions throughout the day or having a temperature of 100.4 F or above, even if the student answered “No” at the beginning of the day and had a temperature below 100.4 F.
- **Teacher protocol:** If a student develops symptoms during the day, the supervising teacher should send the student to the isolation area and immediately notify the office via radio. The isolation area for ACA-Lakewood (both buildings) is defined as the hallway

area on the immediate adjacent East side of the main Lakewood office. The isolation area for ACP-Edgewater is defined as the building's lobby / entry area.

- **Office protocol:** Office administration will confirm the student's symptoms. If the student answers "Yes" to another Symptom Survey by office administration, or if the student has a temperature of 100.4 F as determined by office administration, parents will be contacted to take the student home.
- **Duration:** Students who have been sent home due to sickness must stay home until free from symptoms for a 24-hour period without use of symptom-reducing medication.
- **Isolation area protocol:** The isolation area for sick children is a limited-traffic area. Class groups and cohorts are not permitted to cross through the isolation area at any time, regardless of whether a student has been isolated. Individual students are only permitted to pass through the isolation area if sent to the office for discipline, nurse treatment, after arriving at school late, or a similar scenario. The child must wear a mask while in isolation.

## OUTBREAK

If there is a COVID-19 outbreak in our ACA community, we will follow the state's published CDC and state protocols as they stand at that time. Current protocols which will be followed can be found on [Cases and Outbreaks in Schools](#) from the CDPHE.

## COHORTS

### Cohort Overview

Cohorts are intended to limit "cross-exposure", or interaction with broader student groups, and are defined as stable groups with fixed membership. Cohorts play a critical role in defining who may need to quarantine in the event of a positive or presumptive positive COVID case. For a classroom setting, the goal is to minimize the number of cohorts any one student participates in during the day when under ACA supervision.

Cohorts have been designed in such a way that if required to quarantine, they remain aligned such that teachers can teach their entire class remotely. This prevents a scenario in which a teacher must teach both in-person class and Online Learning classes simultaneously for a prolonged period.

Students will be assigned to "cohorts" based on permitted gathering sizes to limit interactions among large groups of students which would otherwise occur, for example, during lunch, recess, specials classes, or assemblies. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) collaborated on the guidance for reopening schools and have stipulated that schools should strongly consider

"cohorting." However, the CDPHE and CDE have not defined cohorts with required or suggested numbers of members. Therefore, ACA has defined its cohorts independently.

### **ACA Cohorts**

- COHORT 1 - SQUIRE COHORT: Edgewater Preschool
- COHORT 2 - PALADIN COHORT: Lakewood Preschool
- COHORT 3 - JESTER COHORT: Kindergarten
- COHORT 4 - TROUBADOUR COHORT: Grades 1-2
- COHORT 5 - POET COHORT: Grades 3-4, Homeschool Co-op Grades 1-3
- COHORT 6 - BARD COHORT: Grades 5-6
- COHORT 7 - KNIGHT COHORT: Grades 7-12

### **Activity Within Cohorts:**

With cohorts, adults should maintain 6 feet distance from each other and 3 feet from students. When it is known in advance that 3 feet of distance is not feasible, additional precautions should be taken, if possible, such as a physical barrier that does not inhibit learning or communication.

Teachers should avoid intermingling with other teachers across cohorts, particularly in free periods, during lunch hours, or during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up.

## **MASKS**

### **Overview:**

Currently, the CDPHE requires face masks for teachers and recommends, but does not require, face masks for all students. ACA will adhere to all state mandates that are in effect and will continue to monitor guidelines as they evolve. The following protocols are based on State orders and Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH).

### **Definition:**

The definition of masks as applied to use at ACA is a 2-layer face covering over both mouth and nose which must be secured via a tie or ear loops. Masks may be of any pattern or color, but should not include content that is objectionable or distracting. A buff or neck gaiter specifically designed for COVID-19, and which you have confirmed will be functional for your child, is also acceptable. However, a piece of cloth, scarf, or other similar item is not considered a mask. Face shields are no longer considered compliant by CDPHE with the mandatory statewide mask order.

### **Requirements:**

- **Masks and employees:** Masks are required for all ACA employees when entering and moving within ACA facilities, and while teaching.

- **Masks and older students:** A cloth face mask is required for all individuals and students 11 years of age and older at all times when indoors. When six feet of distance can be maintained, students may temporarily remove their masks outdoors only.
- **Masks and younger students:** Cloth face masks that cover both nose and mouth are encouraged and should be worn if possible by individuals and students 5-10 years of age who can medically tolerate them when entering and moving within the building.
- **Masks and early childhood students:** Masks are not required for students under 5 years of age, but students are encouraged to wear them if possible.
- **Student masks in classrooms:** For parents/students/families who prefer, students 5-10 years of age who choose to wear a mask are not required to remove their mask during the school day, except in limited circumstances where a teacher may request a student temporarily remove their mask for instructional or communication-challenge purposes.
- **Face shields for teachers:** For all teachers, face shields may only be used in place of masks when effective communication is not otherwise possible, or when there is a health reason for not wearing a mask.
- **Face shields for older students:** Students 11 years of age and older must wear face masks and not face shields. Face shields may only be used in place of masks when there is a health or educational reason for not wearing a mask.
- **Face shields for younger students:** Students 5-10 years of age are asked, but not required, to wear a cloth face covering when entering and moving within the building. Because face masks are not required by state order, these younger students are permitted by ACA to wear face shields if preferred by parents.
- **Masks and early childhood students:** Face masks are not required for students under 5 years of age, but students are encouraged to wear a cloth face covering if possible when entering and moving through the building.
- **Touching masks:** All students and employees should be encouraged to avoid touching their masks and face shields.
- **Soiled masks:** All students must wear clean masks each day. If a student or employee soils a mask in any way (including but not limited to dropping it on the restroom floor, in the toilet, or walking on it), he should NOT continue wearing the mask. Non-disposable soiled masks should be put away until they can be taken home and washed. Disposable masks should be thrown away after single use. In both cases, the student or employee should ask for a replacement mask, which ACA will provide.
- **Tampering with masks:** Because soiled masks can quickly become a health hazard, any students who willfully tamper with, soil, or otherwise abuse their masks may be subject to school discipline.

## MORNING DROP-OFF PROTOCOL

**Entry Doors:** Students will enter the building in one of four designated doors:

1. Edgewater Main Door

2. Kindergarten Door
3. North Garage Door
4. North Main Door
5. Belmar Education Wing West Door

**Assigned Entry:** Students are assigned to a door that they will use to enter the building based on their cohort assignment. The cohorts are as follows (with their door assignments):

- Edgewater Main Door: Cohort 1 - SQUIRE (ACP-Edgewater)
- Kindergarten Door: Cohorts 2 & 3 - PALADIN & JESTER (ACP-Lakewood and Kindergarten students)
- North Garage Door: Cohort 4 - TROUBADOUR (Grades 1-2)
- North Main Door: Cohort 5 & 6 - POET & BARD (Grades 3-6)
- Belmar Education Wing West Door: Cohort 7 - KNIGHT (Grades 7-12)

In the cases of two cohorts entering at the same door, those cohorts will form separate lines for entry.

**Building Admission Protocol:**

Morning drop-off is from 7:55-8:15 at Lakewood and 8:00-8:15 at Edgewater.

**Early childhood drop-off protocol for parents:** Early childhood students (Cohorts 1 & 2) will be dropped off and signed in by their parents at the appropriate door prior to student building entry. Preschool parents must wear a face covering while signing in their student.

**K-12 drop-off protocol for parents:** For K-12 students (Cohorts 3-7), parents may either remain in their cars and send their student(s) to walk to their assigned cohort door; or, parents may walk with their student of any age to their sign-in door. If parents choose to walk to the door with their students of any age, the parent must wear a mask or secured face covering, even if the student is not required to.

**Drop-off for multiple siblings:** For parents with multiple students in separate cohorts, drop-offs should occur separately in such a way that a student is not waiting in line with his sibling's separate cohort, regardless of whether that student is wearing a mask.

**Check-in procedure:**

- A teacher will be at each door with a non-contact thermometer and an attendance roster.
- Parents of students must have answered "No" to all Symptom Survey questions prior to coming to school, and students must have a temperature below 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit to be admitted into the school building. Parents should not leave the parking lot until they see their student walk into the building.
- If a student's temperature is at or above 100.4 F based on teacher readings, or have answered "Yes" to any Symptom Survey questions prior to coming to school, the student



will not be admitted into the school building and will be removed from the student line at a safe distance until their parent can pick them up.

- Teachers who are checking student temperatures must confirm all initial readings of 100.4 F or above by at least one additional similar reading of 100.4 F or above before non-admission to school, to avoid false positive readings or mechanical errors.
- If a student is not admitted to school due to a temperature at or above 100.4 F, their absence is recorded as an excused absence.
- Symptom Survey responses, positive temperature readings, and whether students bring masks when required will be recorded and tracked by administration.
- All students 11 years of age and older must bring a mask to school and wear it to enter the building. Students 11 years old and older who do not have a mask should be provided with a mask at the door, and parents will be contacted by the office to inform them of the omission.

### **Student Destination Protocol:**

Once cleared by the teacher outside for admission to the building, all students must proceed to their cohort restroom to wash their hands. From there, they will proceed to a designated classroom:

- Preschoolers in Mrs. Strawn's class will be walked from the door to the restroom and then to their regular classroom by a teacher. If the teacher is busy with another preschool student, additional preschool students who have been admitted to the building must wait with their parent outside until a teacher can walk them to the restroom.
- Preschoolers in Mrs. Bader and Mrs. Rennie's class, weather permitting, will be dropped off on the preschool playground for the first quarter.
- Kindergarten students will go to Mrs. Alvis' room.
- First and second graders will go to Mrs. Molen's room.
- Third and fourth graders will go to Mrs. Brown's room.
- Fifth and sixth graders will go to Ms. Valdez's room.
- Seventh and twelfth graders will go to Mrs. Karwoski's room.

The attendance taker will need to pick-up their assigned tote from the front office before reporting to their assigned door. Attendance takers and receivers must be in place, either outside their assigned door or in their assigned classroom, by 7:53. At 8:15, the attendance taker will leave the clipboard in the plastic tote inside their assigned door. The office manager will collect the totes and replenish them for the next day. The attendance taker will then pick-up their class or relieve their cohort teacher and begin their morning routine.

# 12:30 PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN PICK-UP PROCEDURE

Kindergarten and preschool teachers will walk students dismissed at midday to the Kindergarten Door at 12:25 to be ready for dismissal to parents.

- Kindergarten students will be dismissed from the Kindergarten Door and should line up to await pickup along the hallway inside the door.
- Preschool students will be dismissed from the Kindergarten Door.
- Parents should park and approach the Kindergarten Door. Students should walk outside when the parent arrives at the door. Parents should not come inside the school building.
- Preschool parents must sign their student out before leaving.

## AFTERNOON PICK-UP PROCEDURE

### Overview:

Parents will be provided with two dashboard tags. Edgewater cars should enter the parking lot from the north along 26th Avenue, turn left to line up along the front of the building near the Edgewater Main Door, and exit onto Lamar St. Lakewood cars should enter the south parking lot entrance and line up along the lawn. Once they have their student(s), they will proceed along the eastern edge of the parking lot and exit at the north exit by the church.

Cars picking up both ACP and K-12 students should first enter the carline to pick up K-12 students. Then, they should exit the carline, park, and walk to the Kindergarten Door to sign out and pick up their ACP students.

All students must be packed and ready to be dismissed at 3:30.

### Early Childhood:

Preschool students will be walked to the exit via the Edgewater Main Door (ACP-Edgewater) and via the Kindergarten Door (ACP-Lakewood) with a preschool teacher for daily sign out. Students should line up in the lobby area or adjacent west hallway to await pickup (Edgewater) or line up along the hallway inside the Kindergarten Door (ACP-Lakewood) to await pickup.

### K-6th Grades:

Students will remain in their classrooms at the end of the day. A staff member will call on the radio when a student's car has arrived. Once the teacher hears the call via radio, the teacher may dismiss their student to the main hallway and exit via the North Main Door. A second staff member will monitor the main hallway to ensure students exit efficiently.

### **7th-12th Grades:**

Students will wait in the gym with an assigned teacher. A staff member will call on the radio when a student's car has arrived. Once the teacher hears the call via radio, the teacher may dismiss their student to the main hallway and exit via the North Main Door. A second staff member will monitor the main hallway to ensure students exit efficiently.

## **CLEANING PRACTICES**

ACA will increase cleaning frequency to promote the health and safety of its students and school community, to reduce the risk of outbreak, and to mitigate viral transmission and migration.

- **Daily staff cleaning:** High-touch areas (including, but not limited to, bathrooms, doorknobs, light switches, PE equipment, and playground equipment) will receive frequent, scheduled sanitization throughout the day.
- **Daily professional cleaning:** ACA's professional cleaning service will clean and disinfect the school daily.
- **Cleaning hands:** Students and teachers will observe scheduled hand-washing times, including at the start of each day and upon leaving the classroom, and hand sanitizer will be available in every classroom.
- **Cleaning of shared learning materials:** ACA's existing protocols for cleaning manipulatives will increase per state recommendations.
- **Cleaning of student work spaces:** Student tables and chairs will be sanitized prior to snack, lunch, after lunch, and at the end of the school day.

## **LUNCH**

All students and teachers will have lunch in classrooms for the first quarter of the 2020-21 academic year at minimum.

- **Location:** Students will have lunch with either a single class group or with their cohort.
- **Preparation:** Tables and chairs must be sanitized prior to lunch and immediately after lunch using CDC- and EPA-approved products.
- **Masks:** Masks must be removed and placed in a safe and sanitary location prior to eating. If masks remain on, they should not be able to be easily soiled by food or saliva while eating. Masks should not be stored on eating surfaces during lunch.
- **Distancing:** Students and teachers should maintain 6 feet of distance while eating whenever possible.
- **Cleanup:** Masks should be put on prior to cleanup. Floors must be thoroughly swept or vacuumed immediately after lunch around eating areas.
- **Employees without a classroom:** Employees who do not have direct supervision over students during the lunch period should follow the above cleanliness, distancing, and masking guidelines insofar as they apply to the ACA area in which they choose to eat lunch.

- **Washing hands:** All employees and students must wash their hands after eating lunch according to hand-washing protocol posted within restrooms.

## RESTROOM BREAKS

All current ACA health and safety protocol relevant to restroom use applies. However, the following additional protocol is in effect due to COVID-19:

- **Capacity:** No more than two students are permitted in any ACA facility restrooms at one time, and those students must be of the same cohort in order to be in the restroom at the same time.
- **Masks:** Students and employees should wear their masks in the restroom. Students and employees should NOT touch their masks or remove their masks while in the restroom, as a mask soiled in the restroom quickly becomes a health hazard.
- **Washing hands:** Students and employees must wash their hands after using the restroom according to the posted hand-washing protocol.

## PROGRAM CHANGES

Because of cohort limitations, ACA students and teachers will avoid gathering outside of cohort groups when possible at minimum for the first academic quarter.

**Assembly & Chapel:** Students will no longer begin their day together in the gym for assembly or chapel. After checking in each morning, each student will proceed to their specific classroom or cohort group to begin their day.

**After-School Care:** After-School Care will be unavailable for the first month of the school year at minimum. Based on current health standards and parent interest, ACA may revisit program availability in September/October 2020.

## VISITORS & TOURS

### **Reduced non-essential visitors:**

For the first quarter, ACA will limit visitors to those who must be in the building (e.g., preschool licensing professionals). ACA will require all visitors to wear face coverings and complete temperature and symptom checks. Facility or classroom visits by parents and friends will not be permitted during school hours.

Essential parent visits, such as to drop off a forgotten lunch or uniform item, or to administer medication to their own child, may be done outside the office doors or, if necessary, inside the school office after temperature and symptom checks have been performed.

### **Tours & Open Houses:**

For the first quarter, ACA will not hold school tours or open houses during school hours. All tours will be scheduled outside of school hours.

### **Room Parents:**

Room parents serve an important function in ACA's classrooms and will continue to partner with teachers. However, their volunteer service will be remote only and will not involve classroom visits or on-site volunteer work during the first quarter.

## **TRANSITION TO ONLINE LEARNING**

Prior to the start of the school year on August 18, all teachers will set up a single Google Classroom with the basic framework of the underlying curriculum and internally dividing all subjects they teach (within the single Google Classroom) according to "Topics." Final complete content may be added in the event that a teacher has one or more students who must quarantine. This approach will allow ACA to quickly respond if a student, teacher, or cohort does have a presumptive or positive case of COVID-19.

The standard Google Classroom setup is designed to be used minimally, if at all, at points where instruction is occurring completely in-person, but is used to track assignments and provide materials, etc., in instances where one or more students are required to be out of class for more than 1-2 days. This avoids promoting or launching a blended or online program, but it allows ACA to remain agile in its ability to continue instruction and thereby not unduly require individuals to be at school if they are not well. Prior to any outbreak or conversion to online learning, teachers should assign Friday work, or a single simple assignment per week, via their Google Classroom.

New and current families will receive information about ACA's Online Learning platform, in addition to access information, user guidance, and policies. While weekly Friday work will be assigned by teachers via the Online Learning platform at the start of the year, our traditional face-to-face learning environment will remain our required educational method until such time as we are required to shift a portion of students to Online Learning. In the event of a cohort-wide or school-wide shift to Online Learning, ACA will communicate an official launch of the platform. Until that time, ACA is committed to maintaining its face-to-face traditional model.

# FAQ

*Q. Child A demonstrates a symptom (or answers “Yes” to a question on the Symptom Survey) on a Tuesday. Child B and Child C are that child’s siblings in different classes within the same cohort. Child A was in school on Monday. Does Child A’s whole class quarantine until Child A’s test results come back? What about Child B’s and Child C’s classes? What about Child A’s cohort?*

**A. A child who exhibits a symptom must stay home and remain free of symptoms for a 24-hour period before returning to school. Child B and Child C (siblings) may continue attending school if they are not symptomatic, and it is not necessary for Child A’s class or cohort to quarantine until any test results return.**

*Q. Child A exhibits symptoms and receives a positive COVID-19 diagnosis. Child A quarantines for 14 days. Do his siblings?*

**A. Yes, Child A’s siblings stay home for 14 days.**

*Q. A specials-class teacher exhibits symptoms. She’s been with all the students within the last week. What then?*

**A. A specials teacher stays home according to the [“Child/teacher/ staff feels or appears sick after arriving at school” tool](#) from the CDPHE. ACA will additionally follow the [“What about the class?” tool](#) from the CDPHE to determine if classmates/cohort members/close contacts of a sick person need to stay home. This protocol will be used for all teachers, not just specials teachers.**

*Q. Child A’s sister goes to another school and gets a COVID diagnosis. However, Child A tests negative. Can Child A come to school, or does Child A quarantine? Does Child A’s whole class quarantine?*

**A. Child A would stay home for 14 days. Child A’s class and cohort would not automatically quarantine and might continue attending school. However, ACA will use the [“What about the class?” tool](#) from the CDPHE to determine if classmates or cohort members or close contacts need to stay home.**

*Q. If a teacher or student is symptomatic, are they required by ACA to get a COVID-19 test?*

**A. No. Testing after experiencing symptoms is recommended but not required.**

*Q. What about a COVID-19 / symptom scenario not mentioned here?*

ACA will follow [CDPHE guidelines for all symptom- and outbreak-scenarios here](#), unless there is a legally-permissible alternative which, specific to our school, would better serve the health interests of our school community.

*Q. Will ACA students sing in music class, and if so, will they wear masks while they sing? Must PE students wear masks during PE?*

**A. Yes, ACA students will sing in music class, and all students who are required to wear masks (11 years of age and older) must wear masks while singing. All other younger students are strongly encouraged but not required to wear masks while singing. During any PE activity, all students who are required to wear masks (11 years of age and older) must wear masks during all PE activities. However, the PE instructor may permit any student to remove his mask during activities when 6 feet or more of distance is easily maintained during an activity, or when a student shows signs of abnormal stress while wearing a mask during physical activity.**

*Q. My student is over 11 years of age. However, I don't want them to wear a mask. Can my family opt out of the requirement to wear masks?*

**No. However, if a doctor's note is provided with specific medical instructions that a mask should not be worn, then ACA will honor those instructions and not require a mask for that particular student.**

*Q. Perspective #1: Why isn't ACA requiring all students to wear masks at all times? Some schools and health professionals recommend this, so isn't ACA acting uncharitably and putting its community at risk by its current policies? Perspective #2: Why is ACA requiring masks of students at all? The evidence is inconclusive at best that masks mitigate risk, and yet student learning is jeopardized with masks, and student discomfort is increased. Additionally, some schools are not requiring masks for their students. Isn't ACA restricting freedoms and creating a culture of fear?*

**A. ACA's board and administration is committed to upholding the mission, vision, and values of ACA as best it can within the COVID-19 environment. Therefore, decisions have been based first and foremost on what is legally required, which ACA is committed to abiding by at all times. Second, ACA is committed to following recommended guidance (as distinct from legal requirements) insofar as it does not unduly inhibit ACA's mission, vision, and values. While professional opinions about the efficacy of masks are diverse, and while school districts are adopting a diverse range of legally-permissible mask policies, ACA has adopted CDPHE's recommendations for mask-wearing for its students.**

