



Towards a Safe and Healthy School Year

STEPS TO REOPENING ON-CAMPUS LEARNING ON AUGUST 17

July 24, 2020

COVID-19 has posed unprecedented challenges for our nation and in particular for students. PVCP recognizes the dual needs of continuing to safeguard the health of our students and faculty while at the same time ensuring that valuable education time is not lost as we prepare our students for service of Christ.

We also recognize that, as with so many topics, we have people within our community of vastly different opinions and beliefs surrounding the best way to move forward. Providentially, the 2020-2021 Spiritual Theme is “The Call to Humility.” Accepting that not all within this community will agree with each other 100% of the time – and that not all will agree with every position that administration takes in balancing dozens of competing interests – we ask that everyone moves into this year with humility and respect, believing the best about their brothers and sisters in Christ.

Paradise Valley Christian Preparatory is moving forward, with significant safety precautions in place, to reopen for in-person student learning on Monday, August 17. This is two days later than originally anticipated, a date that has been embraced by most private schools in the valley – Christian, Catholic, and Jewish. This decision has been made in consultation with ACSI, Christian school administrators, legal representation, and many individuals in the medical community. Most importantly, this has been a matter of prayer for months.

While impossible to anticipate every unique situation that might arise, below you will find PVCP’s protocol for moving towards a safe, healthy, and productive school year.

1. CAMPUS SANITATION AND CLEANING PROTOCOL



- Daily sanitation will continue to be a priority with disinfecting increased on surfaces campus-wide. PVCP utilizes CDC approved cleaning products and procedures.
- PVCP will be a “gel-in, gel-out” campus in which students will be asked to use hand sanitizer upon entering and exiting both campus and individual rooms on campus.
- PVCP has secured assistance in sanitizing high-traffic areas on campus throughout the day on a regular basis.

- Antibacterial soap and hand sanitizer will be in all classrooms, at hand-washing stations, and in restrooms. Students will be regularly reminded to wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds, and teachers will routinely overview for students proper hygiene strategies, such as sneezing into a tissue and covering one’s mouth when coughing. Some have expressed concern that their students are allergic to hand sanitizer. In such cases, students will be encouraged to use antibacterial soap when washing their hands.
- Teachers will undergo thorough training at orientation on how to employ regular surface (desks, chairs, keyboards, tables, light switches, door knobs, etc.) cleaning within their classrooms, between periods, and throughout the day.
- Common areas on the playground will be sanitized between recesses.
- Given that it would not be feasible to sanitize drinking fountains after each individual use, drinking fountains will be off-limits for the beginning of the year. Parents are asked to send water bottles marked with student names to school with their students.
- If a symptomatic person inhabits a room on campus, that area will be closed and cleaned according to CDC standards before reentry is permitted.

2. SOCIAL DISTANCING ON CAMPUS

- i** • Largescale campus gatherings, such as chapels and assemblies, will be delayed at the start of the school year with an aim to join together as a community again once the situation permits.
- Walkways on campus will be designated as “one way only,” with arrows indicating the direction of traffic flow. A map will be provided in the virtual orientation materials provided to families on Wednesday, August 12.
- Student seating will be distanced, insofar as possible in rooms of limited size, to minimize contact with other students. Parents whose students need additional space due to household health risks or other considerations are encouraged to communicate those needs directly with the teacher(s), and those requests will be accommodated to the extent possible.
- Student classroom setup will avoid “desk clusters” in the lower school.
- Seating at lunch tables will be limited to create more space between students. If a parent requests greater social distancing at lunch tables for their student(s), it will be accommodated. Requests should be made directly to the homeroom teacher.

- Students will continue to participate in lunch, recess, PE, and other curricular activities, but parents are encouraged to communicate the particular needs of their students relative to distancing in these situations. Staff and faculty will continue to educate students on social distancing on an ongoing basis.
- Parents are encouraged to speak directly with their students regarding parent expectations for student social distancing when on campus.

3. USE OF FACEMASKS



- PVCP has branded, adjustable, reusable, cloth facemasks available for students and employees.
- In respect and concern for those within the PVCP community who are part of a high-risk population or who live with or are caretakers of someone that is high-risk, it is expected that facemasks will be worn on campus, understanding that there are certain exemptions for exceptional cases per the City of Phoenix and Maricopa County mask declarations. See below for additional information.
- All masks worn on campus should be consistent with the standards of PVCP's dress code and display no inappropriate messaging or content. The use of facemasks on campus and in classrooms is expected.
- Teachers and/or families with special health concerns may *request* that others in a given class wear masks with the understanding that not all may be able to comply, and the reasons for non-compliance may be a private medical matter. Empathy and humility are requested on both sides.
- Recognizing that there are situations in which the use of a facemask may pose a risk to certain categories of individuals with breathing conditions or those who fall under other exemptions, teachers will not be in a position to mandate that all within their classrooms wear a mask. Exemptions under the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors declaration:
 - *The individual has a medical or behavioral condition or disability and cannot wear a face covering (including, but not limited to, any person who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious or incapacitated, or is otherwise unable to put on or remove the face covering without assistance)*
 - *When actively eating or drinking*
 - *When strenuously exercising or swimming*
 - *When seeking to communicate with someone with hearing loss in a way that requires the mouth to be visible*
 - *Children under two (2) years of age should not wear a face covering*
 - *Deaf and Hard of Hearing people often use lip reading to help understand what those around them are saying.*

- In certain teaching circumstances, such as with phonetic instruction, it may be necessary for an individual to temporarily teach without a facemask. In such cases, proper social distancing will be maintained.
- Parents should provide directives to their students as to their expectations regarding the usage of masks for their own students.

4. MAINTAINING A HEALTHY CAMPUS



- CDC [infographic hygiene posters](#) (clickable link) will be placed across campus reminding students of proper distancing and hygiene procedures.
- Parents will continue to be the ones primarily responsible for monitoring their student(s) health. It is imperative that you monitor your students for any [symptoms of COVID-19](#) (clickable link) and follow the appropriate CDC guidelines.
- PVCP's longstanding general temperature policy continues to apply, and all families are asked to comply fully. A student must remain at home until he or she has been fever free, without the use of fever-reducing medications, for 24 hours. Please note, for the purposes of PVCP's temperature policy, an elevated temperature is one of 100° or more. This is .4° *lower* than CDC standards.
- While the majority of temperatures will not be related to COVID-19, families are asked to follow [CDC guidelines](#) (clickable link) relative to COVID-19 testing should they manifest symptoms.
- Parents are asked to check the temperature of their student(s) every morning before leaving for school and keep students home who manifest a temperature of 100° or more. This will prevent the student from being isolated upon arrival from campus should a temperature be found.
- Students will have their temperatures checked by non-contact thermometers upon arrival to campus at all campus entry points. Should a student manifest a temperature of 100° or more, the student will be isolated in the office until his or her parents can return to campus to take the student home.
- All employees will take their own temperatures prior to reporting to campus on a daily basis.
- The nurse will continue to screen students who become ill during the day, isolating potentially sick students, and notifying parents of students with temperatures that their student must be taken home.

- The nurse and administration will continue to remain abreast of health and safety standards relative to COVID-19 and will update the PVCP community when necessary.

5. COVID-19 EXPOSURE



- For the purposes of this protocol, COVID-19 direct exposure is defined as follows:

“Close contact to COVID-19 occurs when you are within six feet of someone who is showing symptoms of COVID-19, for at least 15 minutes, when neither person is wearing a mask, and the infected person later tests positive for the coronavirus. This can also apply to situations in which the infected person did not show any symptoms at the time of exposure, but it is much less likely. If either or both individuals were wearing face masks, it is not considered exposure.” (MD Anderson Cancer Center, University of Texas; accessed July 2, 2020)

- If a student, teacher, or staff member of PVCP is directly exposed to COVID-19, is awaiting COVID-19 test results, or tests positive for COVID-19, PVCP administration should be contacted immediately. Families in such situations are asked to follow [CDC guidelines](#) (clickable link) including staying home for 14 days, monitoring temperature, and avoiding contact with high-risk individuals. For COVID-19 testing locations, see the [Arizona Department of Health Services](#) (clickable link).
- If a family member of someone in the PVCP community tests positive for COVID-19 and isolation of the sick individual within the home is not possible per CDC guidelines, and close contact with the individual has taken place per the definition above, affected individuals within the PVCP community are asked to follow [CDC guidelines](#) (clickable link) including staying home for 14 days, monitoring temperature, and avoiding contact with high-risk individuals.
- If a student must remain at home in accordance with [CDC guidelines](#) (clickable link), faculty will work with the family to ensure that the student is able to continue his or her education while at home. PVCP will extend flexibility as we navigate individual situations and needs.
- If a teacher is required to isolate at home as a result of direct exposure to COVID-19, pending the teacher’s health and depending on the subject, the teacher may be able to continue teaching his or her students virtually from home while a substitute is with students in the classroom to monitor them.
- In the case of a positive COVID-19 cases on campus, PVCP will notify families, and those who meet the definition of exposure as stated above should follow the necessary [CDC guidelines](#) (clickable link).

- As required by the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, it is paramount that strict confidentiality be maintained in terms of not releasing the specific names of individuals within the PVCP community who might present with COVID-19.

6. OTHER ITEMS



- Dedicated campus personnel have attended and passed the WHO's "Emerging Respiratory Viruses, Including COVID-19: Methods for Detection, Prevention, Response and Control" class and Purdue University Global's "COVID-19 Contact Tracing" class.
- As of now, the Canyon Athletic Association anticipates moving forward with the fall season. Per CAA recommendations, students participating in athletics must complete a waiver relative to COVID-19.
- Per CAA requirements, PVCP has designated a "COVID-19 Responder" to coordinate the school's COVID-19 response relative to athletics.
- We are limiting, insofar as possible, the on-campus presence to staff, faculty, and students. At the beginning of the year, all parent volunteer opportunities will be delayed until it is feasible for parents to be back on campus. Guests from outside the immediate PVCP community will be prohibited from campus during the academic day.
- We realize that some meetings may not be able to be handled remotely, such as ROAR staffings, business office issues, etc. In such cases, please contact the appropriate individuals on campus to make arrangements.
- Hot lunches will be delayed until further notice.
- The microwaves will be off-limits for students until further notice. Please do not send your students to school with food items that need to be heated.