



Dear Covenant Families,

We hope this email finds you well and taking time to enjoy your summer break. As we have been planning for the upcoming school year, we want to express our thanks for your support and patience as we navigate through this unprecedented time. Please know it is our priority to make sure our students and staff are safe, while still providing quality education to your children. Our staff and administration have been diligently planning and considering all credible sources when making decisions. There is a possibility that we will delay the start of school to Wednesday, August 12 because we are expecting additional guidance from the Governor's office at the end of July/early August. A final determination will be made in the next week.

We have developed a reopening plan that will outline how academics, attendance, cleaning, student/staff health, etc. will be handled as we welcome students back. Covenant has a designated COVID team of Administrators for keeping abreast of changes and issues. The parent contact for COVID questions is Mary Ellen Holmes ([mholmes@covenantknights.org](mailto:mholmes@covenantknights.org)).

The Reopen Plan is based on different levels of COVID-19 spread:

- Level 1 – High Alert: Distance Learning
- Level 2 – Medium Alert: Enforced Social Distancing
- Level 3 – Low Alert: Relaxed Social Distancing
- Level 4 – Regular School

We are currently at Level 2 (Medium Alert: Enforced Social Distancing). Some of the more significant aspects of the Reopen Plan are summarized below.

- On the first day of school, Covenant's Nurse, Sarah Prudhomme, will provide instruction to students on appropriate hygiene practices consistent with the mitigation practices adopted by Covenant. Covenant's Counselor, Teresa Trousdale, will also be meeting with students to support their emotional and mental well-being.
- Covenant will have handwashing stations with soap and water at each entrance, hand sanitizer stations scattered around campus, and hand sanitizer in every classroom. Students will be asked to wash their hands before entering the building and during the school day.
- We are asking all staff to self-screen before coming to campus and we are asking parents to screen students before arrival.

- Visitors on campus will be restricted to only those that are essential to school operations until Level 4 (Regular School). Visitors will fill out the Covenant COVID Questionnaire and be screened prior to being on campus.
- Covenant will attempt to reduce in-person meetings or other opportunities for adults to congregate in close settings. Meetings should occur via electronic means. When meetings are necessary and cannot be done via electronic means, everyone must follow the mask protocol, remain at least 6 feet apart where feasible, and increase airflow from the outdoors if possible.
- General school routines include practicing social distancing when feasible and not disruptive to the learning process. Covenant has a plan for entry, exit, and transition procedures to reduce large group gatherings of students/adults in close proximity. These procedures will impact drop-off and pick up. Parents will be asked to drop off as close to school time as possible (7:45 Lower School and 8:00 for Upper School).
- In classrooms, desks will be distanced as much as possible and desks will be fitted with hooks so student backpacks and supplies are close at hand. Students will not be sharing supplies. Student will also need to bring a bottle of water to school as students will not be able to use community items, such as water fountains, candy jars, etc. to prevent the spread.
- Certain specials classes will be held in the classrooms - specifically, art and library. Other specials classes will be cleaned and wiped down before each class arrives. Whenever possible, PE will be held outside and hand washing stations will be placed outside the playground for use before and after recess. If we reach Level 4 (Regular School), all specials will be held in the specials classrooms.
- For lunch, only limited classes are able to use the cafeteria at a time. Therefore students will take turns eating in the cafeteria, outside, and in their classrooms. This schedule will allow for safe interactions and a variety of locations. Tables will be sanitized between each lunch period.
- Cleaning procedures include approved cleaning products for disinfecting for COVID and additional cleaning for the campus. Common areas, restrooms, student desks, etc. will be cleaned multiple times throughout the school day. Buses will be cleaned thoroughly between trips and students will be urged to wear masks when they cannot be socially distanced.
- Medical practices include a clean zone and quarantine room for suspected COVID cases. Our nurse will be equipped with N95 masks and gloves. Parents and staff will be made aware of any positive cases and required cleaning will occur for all areas the student has been in. In accordance with the Governor, an individual may return to school after all three of the following quarantine criteria have been met: (1) at least 72 hours have passed since recovery (resolution without the use of fever-reducing medication), (2) an individual has improvement of the symptoms, and (3) at least 10 days have passed since symptoms have appeared.
- Large event gatherings and assemblies, such as Traditions, will be delayed until we reach Level 3 (Low Alert: Relaxed Social Distancing).
- To encourage students to remain at home if sick, Covenant will be liberal with its attendance policy. Should students have to quarantine or be out for extended periods of time, they will be moved to distance learning for those two weeks in order to continue learning and to meet state attendance requirements.

- Covenant is not offering a school wide distance learning option but will consider individual cases where a health circumstance in the family could make it difficult for your child(ren) to attend school. Please contact your child(ren)'s principal if this is the case: Lower School – Dr. Erica Nevenglosky ([enevenglosky@covenantknights.org](mailto:enevenglosky@covenantknights.org)), Upper School – Dr. Claudiu Cimpean ([ccimpean@covenantknights.org](mailto:ccimpean@covenantknights.org)).
- A determination on masks has not yet been made. The Governor's office is requiring masks in certain counties based on COVID statistics; as a result, some school districts are requiring masks while others districts, like Conroe ISD, Humble ISD, etc., are not. We are in the process of determining how the Governor's guidance on masks applies to Covenant.

While all risks of COVID cannot be eliminated, Covenant intends to take many steps to reduce the risks to students, teachers, staff, and families. The prevention and mitigation practices in Covenant's Reopen Plan are designed to reduce the likelihood of an outbreak on campus. For those who would like additional details, our Reopen Plan and Frequently Asked Questions page will be posted on the Covenant website in the next week. We will also be providing more information as we receive it from the Governor's Office.

Warm Regards,

*Lorraine Hill*