



2021-2022 AACCS Campus Opening Plan

Dear AACCS Community,

At Annapolis Area Christian School, it is our mission to *engage students in an education of excellence, enabling them to impact the world through a growing relationship with Jesus Christ*. In order to accomplish our mission as safely and effectively as possible we have created the following plan in order to highlight and reinforce procedures and protocols which allow us to best serve our students, faculty and families.

We have continued to gather information, researched and reviewed public health best practice guidelines, established protocols based on expert advice from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). Additionally, we continue to follow state and county orders related to public health and update our plan accordingly.

Thank you for your patience and your prayers. We look forward to what God will do in and through our AACCS community this coming school year.

Rick Kempton
Superintendent
Annapolis Area Christian School



***Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for,
the conviction of things not seen. -Hebrews 11:1***

Overview

Annapolis Area Christian School's 2021-2022 Opening Plan

Annapolis Area Christian School is returning to in-person learning for the fall of 2021. Students will be on campus for instruction at all campuses with adjustments and precautions to provide for a safe but robust program. The following protocols and practices are in place to allow our students to engage in an education of excellence while mitigating risk and creating a layered approach to preventing the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Adjustments will be made as needed to maintain our compliance with state/county orders and CDC guidelines.

Multi-Phase Community Transmission

An open campus requires special precautions and protocols in order to safeguard the health and well-being of our students, faculty, and staff. In accordance with local and state health departments as well as the CDC, here are the guidelines that define each phase. We are prepared to move between the following four distinct phases throughout the school year.

If indicators suggest different transmission levels, the higher level is used in decision making.	BLUE: Low Transmission Mask Optional	YELLOW: Moderate Transmission Mask Optional	ORANGE: Substantial Transmission Mask Optional	RED: High Transmission Mask Required
AA County Case Rate per 7 Days	0-9.99	10-49.99	50-99.99	≥ 100
AA County 7-Day Percent Positivity*	0-4.99%	5-7.99%	8-9.99%	≥ 10.0%
AACS Faculty/Staff/Student by Campus Percent Positivity	0-2.99%			≥ 3.0%

*Data for Nucleic Acid Amplification Tests (NAATs)

Chart adapted from CDC source: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>

NOTE: When evaluating the K-12 phase status, AACS will defer to the higher metric from the CDC. If a campus positivity percentage is 3% or higher, that campus will move to phase RED regardless of the CDC metrics or other campuses' phase statuses.

Health & Testing Decision Aid

We will use the following matrix from MDH and MDSE, based on CDC guidelines, to make decisions that support the health of our entire community. Use the image below to link to the matrix. [K-12 School and Childcare COVID-19 Guidance](#)



Procedure for Positive or Suspected On-Campus COVID-19 Case

The following procedure will be used if a student or employee becomes symptomatic during the day:

- **Student or employee will be asked to isolate themselves in the care room.**
 - For students, the front office will call parents or guardians for pickup.
 - For employees, the front office will coordinate with school administration to manage follow-up actions.
 - Any employee interacting with the suspected case will use PPE (mask and gloves).
- The following procedure will be used if we learn that a student or employee has tested positive.
 - School administration will contact the Anne Arundel County Department of Health (AACDOH) with appropriate details and exposure information.
 - The front office will coordinate (as appropriate) with parents or guardians of the student or directly with the employee to compile a list of potential exposures (contact tracing).
 - If required, a decision to close cohorts or buildings (including length of closure) will be made in consultation with the county health department and then communicated to the K-12 school community.
 - Close contacts will quarantine at home as directed by the county health department.
- School administration will update the K-12 school community with appropriate details.

Health & Safety Protocols

Masks

- Consistent with current CDC recommendations, faculty, staff, students, and campus visitors may choose to go mask-free outdoors.
- Consistent with current CDC recommendations, AACS recommends that faculty, staff, students, and campus visitors wear masks indoors while on campus.
 - Weighing all factors—including spiritual, physical, social, and emotional—during phase Blue, Yellow, or Orange, masks are optional indoors on campus.
 - Please refer to the [multi-phase community spread](#) indicator chart for more details.

Daily Health Screening

- Daily health screening is the parents' responsibility and is to be completed at home before arriving on campus.
- A student's attendance is confirmation that the daily health screening questions were administered as requested at home.
- A person with seasonal or chronic mild symptoms that present as questionable, and who has a documented medical condition on file at school that accounts for the symptom(s) may be permitted to enter the building at the discretion of the school. This is also true for a person with a doctor's note indicating that the person is not COVID-19 positive.

Classroom and Facilities

- Physical distancing of three feet or more in all indoor spaces.
- Faculty, staff, and students keep their hands sanitized using hand sanitizer that is available in classrooms, building entrances, and hallways. Antimicrobial Hand Sanitizer meets and exceeds requirements of the USDA and complies with WHO specifications.
- Our cleaning contractors and day porters use disinfectants to clean desks, common tables, countertops, doorknobs and handles, handrails, hands-on learning items, phones, and bathroom fixtures every day.
- According to CDC guidelines, physical distancing and frequent high touch surface cleaning and sanitizing helps limit opportunities to come in contact with contaminated surfaces and infected people outside the home.
- AACS contracts with a cleaning company that uses CDC-compliant sanitizing fluids
- Water bottle filling stations replaced drinking fountains on all campuses in August 2020.

Off-Campus/Before School/After School

- Bus transportation follows CDC mask requirements for public and private school buses.
 - This includes field trips and athletic team transportation.
- Field trips must follow all AACS public health and local public health guidelines.
- Before and aftercare has limited availability.

Hygienic Practices

- We rely on parents to promote the same hygienic practices we will direct students to practice at school, including:
 - covering coughs or sneezes with a bent arm or tissue and washing hands or using hand sanitizer afterward;
 - handwashing with soap/water for 20 seconds, drying hands with a paper towel;
 - keeping hands away from nose, mouth, and eyes; and
 - avoiding the sharing of food, drinks, and personal items.

Visitors & Families

- All visitors, including family members of students, faculty, and staff must follow the school's current mask-status.

Remote Learning & Absences from In-Person Instruction

- AACS is partnering with SevenStar for remote learning options. Families needed to enroll in this program last spring to take advantage of remote learning.
- Should a student be required to stay home due to a quarantine mandate or illness, please follow the make-up work expectations outlined in the campus handbooks for completing missed work in a timely manner.
- Faculty and Staff absence for quarantine or illness will be handled case-by-case based on the length of absence and severity of illness.

Transportation

The following protocols are in compliance with the latest CDC guidelines for school buses. Additionally, the AACS Department of Transportation has added extra protocols to ensure the safety of all bus riders and drivers.

- Before boarding the AACS bus, drivers will use hand sanitizer.
- All students will use hand sanitizer before boarding buses.
- Bus drivers and students must wear masks at all times on AACS buses regardless of the campus mask status.
- Students will have assigned seats.
- No eating on buses. No exceptions. Water bottles allowed. (no glass)
- No bus passes for occasional riders will be accepted this school year.