



Re-opening Health and Safety Plan

(Note: the following is subject to change via new guidelines and current data at any time)

North Georgia Christian Academy is committed to providing a Christ-centered academic education in the safest and most normal environment as possible during this unprecedented time. The NGCA Administration and Board in collaboration with health authorities and parent feedback have prepared a Health and Safety Plan for families, students, and staff. This plan will be updated and changed as needed to provide the best possible care.

We acknowledge that although we are a private Christian school and not under the public-school mandates, we are still under the Governor's orders for health and public safety that governs all citizens. No option we face is free of risk, but for educational, developmental, and social-emotional reasons, it is time for children and faculty to be together on campus once again. Barring something unforeseen in the on-going development of COVID-19, all students will be on campus for the first day of school on **Thursday, August 13th**. There are many details that will require the continued work of our administrative team over the course of the next five weeks. It is impossible to predict today what the prevailing medical opinions will be in mid-August regarding matters such as face coverings, taking temperatures, and social distancing. Because of the potential for unpredictable variability in these areas, our plans have to be fluid and flexible, easily modified, and realistically enforceable to reflect the best standard of care with the knowledge and resources available at the given time.

We are working toward a traditional model of face-to-face learning that places a premium on maximizing instructional time and minimizing disruptions during the school day. However, it is likely that the school day will have adjustments made for arrival, dismissal, lunch, chapel, class changes, transportation, cleaning, and other times in which we are unable to ensure reasonable social distancing.

The current plan is designed for reopening the NGCA campus. This framework requires parents and employees to ensure that **only healthy individuals are permitted on campus**.

Parents will be required to sign a Waiver of Liability and Health Screening Agreement, a copy of which is included in this Safety Plan.



A **"Healthy Only"** framework provides the greatest level of "normalcy" but it depends on parents, students, and employees being responsible and staying at home if they display any flu-like symptoms or have been in **direct** contact with others who are symptomatic or have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus.

NGCA will not be able to offer a Virtual-Only Online Learning option. We will be prepared to conduct temporary blended learning and distance learning to accommodate students who may be temporarily absent as a result, of COVID-19 related concerns. In the event that NGCA experiences a COVID-19 outbreak among several students from multiple grade levels, we will act in concert with advice and information provided by our local health officials, and in such event we may have to consider a temporary school-wide closure for at least 14 days to slow the spread and disinfect the school. During any such temporary closure, distance learning will be initiated for all grade levels.



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Plan Item	Procedures
<p>Prevention: Facilities and Classrooms</p>  	<p>The best prevention is not to contract the virus. We want to do all we can to keep school open.</p> <p>Encourage all students and staff to take every day preventative actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All students and staff will have temperatures taken as they enter campus and may be checked again throughout the day ● Students and staff with an internal temperature of 100.4+ degrees will be isolated for further evaluation and will be sent home as stated in the established current policies from the NGCA handbook. <p>Teach and reinforce health and personal hygiene practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All student and staff will be reminded of proper hand washing techniques ● All students and staff will be trained on coughing and sneezing techniques to help eliminate exposure ● Reminders and signage will be displayed throughout the school (classrooms, hallways, bathrooms, common areas) for students and staff on matter including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stay 6' apart when possible ○ Proper and frequent handwashing ○ How to stop the spread of germs ○ Coughing and sneezing into elbows ○ Keeping hands off of face and out of mouth <p>Intensify cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation efforts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Daily cleaning of lunchroom, common areas, and restrooms, by janitorial staff with increased emphasis on high traffic areas and surfaces ● Daily cleaning of desks, door handles, and common surfaces by teachers in the classroom ● Hand sanitizing stations will be placed in all common areas and inside classrooms ● Classrooms are equipped with high quality fan, ac, and heat units that will allow for filtered and frequent ventilated air flow <p>Safety Drills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fire drills, tornado drills, and lockdown drills will be modified to maintain proper physical distancing to the greatest extent possible.



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<p>Life on campus: Physical Distancing, Minimizing Exposure, and Face coverings</p>   	<p>Daily Routines: Classroom:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon entering the classroom students will sanitize their hands. • Temperatures may be taken • Students will be instructed not to share items with their classmates • Students will be instructed to practice social distancing as much as possible • Students in PreK-5th grade will continue to remain in self-contained classrooms and move for elective options only with their class (Art, PE, Music, Library) • Students in 6th – 12th grade will continue to move classrooms by subject and teacher. • Students will sit in assigned seats near the same students in each classroom and lunchroom. These arrangements will be adjusted as needed. • Students will not gather in large groups for more than 10 minutes and social- distancing will be encouraged • Chapel will be split into two groups of PreK-5th and 6th-12th and held in the Performing Arts Center where students will be able to properly social distance • Students will need to bring individually wrapped snacks to the classroom for snack breaks, as we will not allow community/shared snacks in the classrooms • Water fountains will not be operational. • Students will bring their own water bottles labeled with their name. Students will be able to refill their water bottles throughout the day in classroom and common area sinks. • If a student does not bring a water bottle, disposable water bottles will be available for purchase or charge for \$1.00. <p>P.E. & Recess:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All classes will have PE and Recess with only their class • Social distancing will be encouraged • Recreational and sports equipment will be regularly cleaned and sanitized.
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 	<p>Drop Off / Dismissal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student drop-off begins at 7:30 AM at designated area in front of school• Students will report directly to the classroom after temperature is checked• Students checking in after 8:00 AM are to be dropped off and checked in at front office by a parent• All students will be dismissed at same time from different locations• Pre-K and Kindergarten will dismiss from the classrooms• 1st grade and 2nd grade will dismiss from the community room• 3rd – 5th grade will dismiss from the lunchroom• Middle School and high school students will wait in the gym area during dismissal. <p>Face coverings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• At this time, the wearing of masks by students and staff in the classroom will be optional. We will not provide face coverings or require them.• Any family/student or staff is welcomed to wear a mask or face covering if they desire to do so.• Teachers will wear a face covering for close interaction with students.• Face Coverings and masks must be worn appropriately and not become a distraction to the wearer• Students may be asked to wear masks on the school bus where suggested social distancing is not as possible, because of mixed grade levels, and lack of extra ventilation in the colder months.
<p>Cafeteria</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will discontinue the use of any self-service food or beverage distribution.• Meals, snacks, and beverages will be individually packaged and served directly to the student.• Pre-packaged lunches from local restaurants will continue to be offered as well as lunches from home.• Classes will alternate times and be seated in the cafeteria to accommodate physical distancing as much as possible• Parents will not be allowed to eat lunch with students until further notice



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students in after school care will be provided a pre-packaged individual snack and a drink.
<p>Transportation</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students and bus driver may be asked to wear masks on the school bus where suggested social distancing is not as possible, because of mixed grade levels, and lack of extra ventilation in the colder months.• Temperatures will be taken as students board the bus• School vehicles will be disinfected after each morning and afternoon bus routes.• Hand sanitizer will be provided and used by each student prior to boarding and exiting• Larger vehicles will be used to accommodate a larger number of students when allowable to accommodate for physical distancing to the greatest extent possible.• Siblings will be required to sit together and around each other
<p>Lost and Found</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It will be very important for all school items, including jackets, lunch boxes, water bottles, and other items of clothing, to be labeled with the first and last name of the student.• All lost items will be secured in the school office where the items will be held for only one week.• After one week, items will be donated to THRIFT.
<p>Health Screening on Campus Waiver of Liability, and Home Health Screening Agreement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Temperatures of all persons will be checked as they enter the campus.• Temperatures may be randomly checked on any person throughout the day.• Parents and employees must complete a Waiver of Liability at the beginning of the school year with required signatures releasing NGCA of any liability in relation to exposure and risks of COVID-19 (see below).• Parents and employees must also sign a Health Screening Agreement that confirms that they will neither send a student to school nor enter the campus themselves if they are exhibiting, or have been in recent direct contact with any person exhibiting the following symptoms: People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to



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severe illness. Symptoms may appear **2-14 days after exposure to the virus**. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
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- Any child that exhibits a fever of 100.4+ will be held in the isolated sick room and parents will be notified to pick up their child/staff to be transported home.
 - Staff members that exhibit a fever of 100.4+ will be directed to leave campus.
 - Students and staff that were sent home with a fever may not return to school until fever free (without fever reducing medication) for at least 72 hours, unless prior to the expiration of said 72 hour period they present a Physician's note stating that they do not have a contagious disease and are able to return to school.
 - If a student/staff presents any possible COVID-19 symptoms, the school office will complete an assessment and notify parents.
 - If a student/staff has a negative COVID-19 test, they can return to school once they no longer have a fever (without the use of fever-reducing medicines) and they have felt well for 24 hours.
 - In order for a student/staff who tested positive for COVID-19 to be allowed to return to campus they must be able to answer YES to the following questions:
 - Has it been at least 10 days since the individual first had symptoms?
 - Has it been at least 3 days since the individual had a fever (without using fever-reducing medicine)?
 - Has it been at least 3 days since the individual's symptoms have improved including cough and/or shortness of breath?
 - Absences due to sickness and Health Screening restrictions will be counted as excused school day absences.



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<p>Absences and Closure: Blended Learning and Distance Learning</p>  	<p>As we do not have the abilities or resources to offer a Virtual Only option to our students. The two options for temporary at home learning are: Blended Learning and Distance Learning</p> <p>**Protocols and practices to ensure a high level of consistency and engagement in learning will be implemented across all grade levels to support both blended and distance learning</p> <p>Individual cases and affiliate exposure: Temporary Blended Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a case of COVID-19 appears on the campus we will assess the situation on a case by case basis and work with the local Health Department to determine the best course of action for all students and staff. Any student or staff member who has had direct contact with a person that is diagnosed with COVID-19 will be required to self-quarantine. “Direct Contact” is defined to mean being within 6 feet of a person for 15 or more minutes • Depending on the circumstances of any such positive case, some or all of the students in the same classroom may be asked to self-quarantine. We will make decisions on a case by case basis with the guidance of the local health department. Individual students who miss school due to COVID-19 concerns will be allowed to begin Blended Learning from home. • Students and Staff that have had an immediate family member (living in household) test positive for Covid-19, must notify the school office and must stay home from school for at least 14 days to self-quarantine. <p>Blended Learning- Temporary at home learning with limited teacher access and instruction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is possible that some students will be in in class learning with full-time teacher instruction, while their classmates are at home sick or quarantined. • In such event, at home students will have access to all materials, assignments, and written teacher communications • In such event, at home students will be provided access to recorded teacher lessons as may be feasible throughout the day with as much guided support as possible from the teachers • Student assignments will be graded and recorded
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- All testing and assessments will be given on campus when students return to school to maintain integrity and to ensure retention of covered content

Multiple cases across grade levels: Temporary Distance Learning

- In the event that NGCA may experience a widespread outbreak across multiple grade levels, we will work in conjunction with local health officials and have to close for a period up to 14 days to slow the spread and disinfect the school.
- In such an event, distance learning would be implemented across all grade levels

Distance Learning- Temporary at home learning with maximum teacher access and instruction

- In the event of a temporary closure, all students will participate in Distance Learning from home
- At home students will have access to all materials, assignments, and communications
- Participation will be mandatory
- A set schedule will be established by teachers and students will be expected to participate in the schedule and attendance will be taken per class
- Assignments will be graded and recorded
- A complete Distance Learning plan will be provided to parents and students as we begin school and revise guidelines with the teachers during pre-planning

Needed Hardware and Software for student success during blended and distance learning:

- In order to ensure a smooth transition at any time in the future that the school may need to shift from campus-based to home-based instruction, all teachers will be proficient in the use of the following online tools:
- **Google Classroom:** This system will be utilized for posting all assignments and communications regarding assignments.
- **Live Zoom Meetings:** This system will be utilized by teachers to connect and provide instruction
- **FACTS/RenWeb:** This on-line school site will host all grade-book information as well as all parent communication.



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	<p>Hardware: Technology/Computers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students will need access to a desktop, laptop, chrome book, or I-pad and internet service to be successful at blended and distance learning• NGCA does have a limited number of laptops that may be checked out to students in need on a first come first serve basis for temporary use



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***WAIVER OF LIABILITY AND HEALTH SCREENING AGREEMENT**

North Georgia Christian Academy, Inc is hereby providing notice to me that it intends to reopen its school program on Thursday, August 13, 2020. I/we understand that NGCA cannot protect my child/student and/or me from risks, which may be encountered as a result of my child attending the school and/or participating in any school-sponsored program. I/we realize there are natural, mechanical, and environmental conditions and hazards which independently or in combination with any activities engaged in while participating in this program may result in the exposure to certain risks including exposure to coronavirus (COVID-19), or other biological agents, virus or similar bacteriological agent, and the risk of being quarantined, or illness that may result in medical care, hospitalization or death.

In consideration, of NGCA's agreement to permit me and my child/student to enter the NGCA campus and participate in NGCA education and other NGCA related programs, sports, and extra-curricular activities, I hereby agree not to enter the campus of NGCA nor permit my child/student to enter the campus of NGCA if I/they within the previous 72 hours have exhibited symptoms of the COVID-19 virus, and I represent that I am familiar with the symptoms of the COVID-19 virus, which have been promulgated by the CDC. Additionally, I agree not to enter the campus of NGCA nor permit my child/student to enter the campus if I/they have been in direct contact with another person who has tested positive for the COVID-19 virus, until I/they have been quarantined for at least 10 days and have been symptom free for at least three days without the use of fever reducing medications. If I or my child/student have tested positive for COVID-19 virus or have been in direct contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 virus, I agree to inform NGCA's administration and comply with all NGCA's administration and comply with all NGCA requirements before returning to campus.

I hereby state that I, on behalf of my child/student and myself, that I am an adult, over the age of 18, and legally competent to sign this form. I understand the inherent risks and dangers involved with participation in the school providing their activities and acknowledge the existence of risks which are not obvious or predictable, and hereby intend this release to extend to injury or loss which results from both obvious or predictable risks, as well as risks that are unpredictable and not obvious and to extend to myself and my child/student, as applicable.

On behalf of myself and my child/student, I/we, hereby release, waive, and discharge North Georgia Christian Academy, Inc, its officers, directors, employees, agents, and representatives from all liability for any loss or damage, and any claim or damages resulting therefrom, on account of any injury, illness, death, or exposure to the coronavirus (COVID-19) or other biological agents, virus or similar bacteriological agent,



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including but not limited to damages arising from the contraction of the COVID-19 virus, by me or my child/student resulting from or potentially resulting from my or my child's attendance at any school related function, including but not limited to preschool, afterschool programs, sports, clubs, intramurals, and any NGCA related event.

I agree to indemnify North Georgia Christian Academy, its officers, directors, employees, agents, and representatives from any loss, liability, damage, or cost that may be incurred due to my child/student participation in any NGCA related activities, programs, or events whether caused by the negligence of NGCA or otherwise. I fully understand, on my behalf, and behalf of my child/student the risks associated with the aforementioned participation and assume any risk associated therewith.

This notice, release and indemnity agreement contains the entire agreement between and among the parties hereto, and the terms of this release are contractual and not a mere recital.

The parties to this agreement hereby agree that the interpretation and enforceability of this Release shall be governed by the laws of the State of Georgia.

I expressly agree that this release, waiver, and indemnity agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by applicable laws and that if any portion thereof is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall, notwithstanding, continue in full legal force and effect.

I understand that by signing this agreement, I am giving up on behalf of my child/student and myself certain legal rights and remedies including the right for my child/student and/or myself to recover damages in the event of death, personal and/or bodily injury of any kind, property loss or damage, expenses of any nature whatsoever including attorney's fees, and other losses that my student(s) or that I may sustain in association with my child's participation in the program.

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THE FOREGOING RELEASE AND KNOW AND UNDERSTAND THE CONTENTS THEREOF. I SIGN THIS RELEASE VOLUNTARILY AS MY FREE ACT WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE OF ITS SIGNIFICANCE, INTENDING TO BE LEGALLY BOUND THEREBY.

Parent or Legal Guardian

Date

Witness

Date