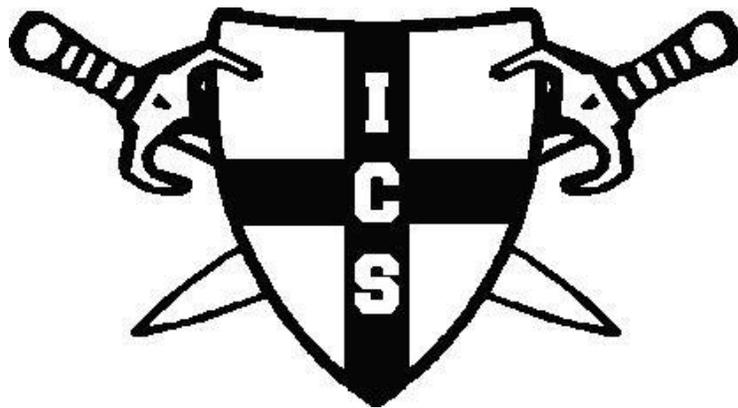


# Immanuel Christian School

## Covid-19 Preparedness Plan 2020-2021 School Year



This document was created based on the latest information at the time of writing.

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Immanuel Christian School exists to glorify God by providing students with an excellent academic education based on a Christian worldview in a safe and traditional learning environment.

While ICS already follows safe and common-sense cleanliness and hygiene practices for maximum protection against the spread of germs, ICS continues to help be part of the solution for health and safety promotion.

This document provides ICS's safe-reopening plan based on Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer's recently issued Executive Order (EO) 2020-142 regarding the opening of schools and the education of K-12 children for the 2020-2021 school year.

EO 142 (¶ 2) states, "Every ... nonpublic school must develop and adopt a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan" consistent with the State's "Return to School Roadmap." However, the Roadmap itself is not state law and is not mandatory.

([www.michigan.gov/documents/whitmer/MI\\_Safe\\_Schools\\_Roadmap\\_FINAL\\_695392\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/whitmer/MI_Safe_Schools_Roadmap_FINAL_695392_7.pdf))

The rest of ¶ 2 (subsections a through d) only applies to public schools, not private schools.

The following documentation provides a plan for best practices and mitigation procedures in ensuring the continuation of excellence at ICS.

When mentioning "parents," for purposes of this document, it would also include legal guardians.

#### **MITIGATION PROTOCOLS:**

- ICS will not offer early morning drop-off. Students will need to arrive at 8:45 or later, and go directly to their homeroom. Students arriving before the 8:45 bell must remain outdoors or in their own vehicle or their driver's vehicle.
- ICS will not offer fall athletic sports (namely, girls volleyball) against other schools, as current pressure against having spectators, unsurety of location-tracing of all visiting players, officials, and spectators, and continual sanitizing procedures of athletic equipment would be fiscally-counterproductive.
- ICS will hold in-school learning on Monday-Thursday each week, with distance-learning at home held each Friday. This offers student-teacher continued involvement, provides an additional work-day for sanitizing purposes, and creates a blended-learning environment that best suits the mitigation environment ICS wishes to provide.

- Students and parents are asked and expected to treat Fridays as a “school day” from 9:00AM - 12:15PM, and teachers may reserve the right to use digital means during that time period to still teach on a Friday, if conditions warrant.
- ICS will not currently offer school field trips or all-student gatherings.
- Students will bring their own lunches each day and will be offered social-distanced seating at the lunch area.
- ICS will continue the daily, long-held sanitizing procedures the school has implemented for many years, including sanitizing of all surfaces, building-wide sanitizing products, and student-handwashing and general cleanliness mitigation practices.
- ICS will continue to allow parents/legal guardians to make decisions concerning the wearing of masks/face coverings by ICS students. While ICS is encouraging social-distancing, handwashing, and the germ mitigation procedures and practices set forth by the CDC, the wearing of masks/face coverings by students while at ICS is a parent/legal guardian-directive. Students who choose to wear masks/face coverings by parental decision will not be slighted or made-fun-of by others, nor will students whose parents/legal guardians choose to not have them wear masks/face coverings be respected likewise.
- All classes will practice social-distanced seating and teachers may wear masks/face coverings if so desired or necessitated by a lack of social distancing.
- Parents/legal guardians will perform daily health-checks to ensure their children are attending at ICS only if they are “fever-free” (100.4 degrees or less) and are symptom-free. Staff may also perform daily health-checks to ensure the same.
- ICS will be requiring a parent to sign a waiver for each child attending ICS this fall, in which they indicate that they understand that school, although unlikely, could become an inherently high-risk environment. Nothing the school does will ever make ICS 100% safe from the spread of any disease: including COVID 19. The waiver absolves ICS of any responsibility should their child contract COVID in school, or at a school event. Families who feel that they cannot sign this waiver will meet with the school administration to explore possible alternatives for educating their child(ren). (ICS employees would be required to sign a similar waiver that applies to them.)
- Secondary classrooms are sanitized by teachers between classes with a safe germ-killing product. Elementary classrooms will be sanitized with a germ-killing product as often as the teacher sees fit. Germ-killing products have been purchased for all classrooms.

- Cleanup personnel/custodians will perform daily sanitizing in coordination with already-utilized germ-killing cleaning procedures, including using germ-killing products, washing down all surfaces, and sanitizing classrooms. Personnel would also need to be prepared to sterilize any area in the highly-unlikely of discovery that a COVID-19 positive student, or teacher, may have come into contact with, if they had to leave during the day because of COVID-19 symptoms. In this scenario, the custodian would wear a face shield and mask.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided in strategic locations throughout the school.
- Drinking fountains will be used to fill water bottles only. Using the spigot to drink straight from them will not be an option, as fountains will be locked down for the use of only filling water bottles. (The one exception to this would be the gym fountain during certain designated times.) Students will be expected to drink from water bottles or bring bottled water.
- All visitors to ICS will enter the school through the main West entrance of the main building and report to the school office. Main office staff will handle transfer of student textbooks, lunches, etc., to students. They will also get students and bring them back to the office to meet with whomever is there to get them if students are required to leave/return during school hours for necessitated appointments (medical/dental/etc).
- Student drop off and pickup at the beginning and end of each school day will continue as normal.
- EO 142(¶ 6) requires ICS to cooperate with the local health department if a person at ICS contracts Covid-19. This will include contact tracing, including giving names and addresses of affected students and staff.

#### **PROTOCOLS FOR SICK STUDENTS/STAFF:**

- Students who are retained at home by parents due to illness will need to be 24 hours fever-free before returning to school. Communication between parents/teacher, or student/teachers will be required to figure out the homework situation (In other words, this will proceed as it has in the past...the student is sick...talk to the teacher about work.)
- Students who are retained at home by parents and in the very unlikely event, would be CONFIRMED to have COVID-19 by a healthcare professional, will be required to remain quarantined for 14 days (according to most local health departments) AFTER the healthcare professional provides written confirmation that they are symptom-free. Parents are asked to practice a limited quarantine within their home by attempting to isolate the patient as much as possible.

- In the highly unlikely event that a student is confined to home because of COVID, they will be switched to distance learning as soon as they feel well-enough to start working on curriculum again.
- Teachers may use digital means such as Google services, FaceTime, Skype, Zoom, or Microsoft Teams in order to communicate with homebound children.
- In the highly unlikely event that a student would begin displaying symptoms during the school day, they would immediately be isolated. The school will set aside a room with a cot near the office so that a student displaying COVID-19 symptoms can be safe, secure, and monitored by office personnel. This room would be located by the secondary office, and it would be utilized for both elementary and secondary students.
- Parents (or someone designated by the parents – parents are asked to notify the office beforehand if using a designated driver) would be required to immediately come to school to get a symptomatic student.
- In the unfortunate event that one child in a household develops symptoms, including fever of 100.4 or above, all children in that household would need to remain absent that day for home or medical health checks.
- The school and parents would be in communication about getting the student(s) needed support materials, and homework pick up/drop off times would need to be established for paperwork, projects, etc.
- In the highly unlikely event that student attendance as a whole would drop below 80%, school would, by necessity, be suspended until numbers are back to acceptable levels of attendance. This would be the case with any disease outbreak, destructive severe weather, or with any unfortunate circumstance that might occur during the school year. In those situations, “snow-day learning” would ensue on a school-wide basis. If the situation did not resolve itself within a week’s time, a pre-determined distance learning plan made aware to students and parents would then be implemented.
- In the highly unlikely event of symptomatic staff members, they would immediately be sent home. The administrator and staff supervisors would be required to find a temporary substitute teacher. Quarantine rules would be the same for staff as they are for students.
- Normal attendance rules would need to be flexed because of COVID-19 and ICS would consider absences on a "case by case" basis. This would also apply to staff "sick leave."

According to EO142 and based upon precedent, ICS will file this preparedness plan online at the IBC and ICS website, and with the Michigan Association of Christian Schools, of which ICS is a member.

Additional questions or concerns about the COVID-19 preparedness plan of ICS may be addressed to the school administrator, the Executive Director of the Michigan Association of Christian Schools, and/or attorneys serving with the Great Lakes Justice Center.

Approved on this 14<sup>th</sup> day of August 2020, by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Hansen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

Dr. David Hansen, PhD  
Administrator, Immanuel Christian School