



COVID-19 School Mitigation Plan

ACCLAIM Academy (the “School”) is committed to the health and safety of each student and staff member. This mitigation plan (“Plan”) details ACCLAIM’s strategies to minimize the risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic for on-site support services as required in Executive Order 2020-51, as well as the safe return of in-person, teacher-led classroom instruction. ACCLAIM will analyze the situation as it develops. Based on information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and considering the level of community transmission and benchmark recommendations released by Arizona Department of Health Services, this plan is subject to change as needed by School administration without the need for Corporate Board approval.

The School recognizes that it is impossible to completely eliminate risks that a communicable disease will be transmitted within the school environment. Thus, this Plan does not guarantee against transmission of COVID-19 in the School. Rather, it reflects the School’s commitment to maintaining a safe and healthy environment.

The School will determine which of the following strategies will be implemented when the School is operating in a traditional model (all students physically on-campus), a hybrid model (some students physically on-campus and others distance learning), and a virtual model (all students distance learning with on-site support services as required by Executive Order 2020-51). Because community spread levels will change and intermittent emergency school closures are possible, the appropriate strategies may also change from time-to-time during the school year.

Mitigation Strategies

1. Face Coverings

- The School will implement its face covering policy for students and employees, as required by Executive Order 2020-51.
- All students shall wear a face covering except when physical distancing of six feet is feasible or when outside in a playground setting and physical distancing.
- Face coverings will be made available to staff and students if they do not have one available for use.
- Cloth face coverings shall not be placed on:
 - ✓ Anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious
 - ✓ Anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance

- ✓ Anyone who cannot tolerate a cloth face covering because of developmental, medical, or behavioral needs

2. **Physical Distancing:**

- Students and staff shall be provided with reminders as needed to stay at least six feet apart from one another.
- Room layouts will be modified (spacing of desks; desks facing in the same direction) to provide as much space as possible between students.
- Physical barriers/guides will be in place (closing every other stall/sink in bathrooms, sneeze guards on student desks and on the office counter).
- Use of cafeteria and playground will be limited to 50 students at a time.
- Adjustments will be made to bus seating and loading procedures, as applicable.

3. **Hand Hygiene:**

- Staff and students will receive education to reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and/or the safe use of hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol by staff and age appropriate children.
- Adequate supplies will be provided to support healthy hygiene behaviors (e.g., paper towels, tissues, soap, and hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol) for safe use by staff and age appropriate children.
- Hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol will be available at entrances/exits, classrooms, cafeteria, and throughout the School.
- Children with skin reactions to hand sanitizer should use soap and water.
- Handwashing will be reinforced during key times such as before and after eating, after using the toilet, after blowing nose, coughing or sneezing, and when deemed necessary.
- Hand sanitizer dispensers will be routinely checked and refilled as needed.

4. **Cleaning and Disinfection**

- Frequently touched surfaces (door handles, sink handles, water bottle filling stations) within the School and on buses will be cleaned at least daily or between uses when reasonably feasible.
- Cleaning will be performed daily per established protocols followed by disinfection when appropriate.
- Spaces (cafeteria tables, picnic tables) will be sanitized between groups.
- Bathrooms will receive frequent cleaning and disinfection.
- Staff who are responsible for cleaning and disinfecting will be trained on how to use disinfectants safely and effectively.

5. **Signs and Messages**

- Signs will be posted in highly visible locations that promote protective measures and describe how to stop the spread of germs.
 - ✓ Hand hygiene
 - ✓ Wearing face coverings
 - ✓ Physical distancing

6. Air Quality

- Air purifiers will be placed in all rooms.
- Activities, including lunches, may take place outdoors, if possible.
- Ventilation strategies will be implemented on buses, as applicable.

7. Food Service

- In order to minimize transmission risk during meals, the following will be implemented:
 - ✓ Students will be served in their classrooms, outside, or in the cafeteria.
 - ✓ Lunch times and areas will be staggered.
 - ✓ Meals will be pre-packaged and use disposable utensils and dishes.
- Drinking fountains will be disabled, but water bottle filling stations will still be available.

8. Drop-Off and Pick-Up

- Points of ingress/egress will be assigned by grade level to maintain as much distance as possible between students.
- Staff will meet students at their car, make sure they have a face covering, and take their temperatures. Any student whose temperature is above 100.4 will have to return home. A face covering will be offered to any student who arrives without one.
- School face coverings will be collected at the exit at dismissal.
- Parents will stay in their cars and wait for their child to be delivered to their car at dismissal.
- At arrival time, students will be monitored to ensure they report directly to their classrooms; and at dismissal that they leave campus promptly.

9. Gatherings, Field Trips and Extracurricular Activities

- The School will hold *virtual* meetings when possible. When in-person meetings are held, the group size will be limited, and social distancing will be observed.
- Teachers will pursue virtual field trips with their classes.
- Extracurricular activities will be cancelled until the community reaches “green” on all three benchmarks.

10. Cohorting

- Once students are back on campus, they will remain in the same classroom and at the same desk throughout the school day.
- Teachers will move from classroom to classroom to deliver their content area instruction.
- There will be no shared school supplies. Students will be supplied with individual items as needed.

11. Visitors/Volunteers

- Only essential personnel will be permitted on campus.

- No visitors, including parents/guardians, will be allowed to enter the campus beyond the main office, except those with an appointment.
- All visitors must follow all safety protocols.

12. **Staying Home When Appropriate**

The School will require employees and students to stay home when they:

- Feel sick
- Have tested positive for COVID-19 or are showing COVID-19 symptoms
- Have recently had “close contact” (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days before illness onset; or for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection)

Students or staff members who become sick at school or are identified as having had close contact with a person with COVID-19 will be promptly isolated from other students and sent home as soon as possible.

The School will encourage students/families to notify School office if the student or a household member has COVID-19 symptoms.

Staff members must notify HR if they or a household member have COVID-19 symptoms:

- Fever of 100.4 degrees or higher
- Chills
- Congestion or runny nose
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Cough
- Muscle aches
- Vomiting
- Sore throat
- Diarrhea
- Headache
- Excessive fatigue
- New loss of taste or smell

The School strongly encourages parents and caregivers to monitor their children for signs of infectious illness, to immediately inform the School office any time their children have close contact with a person with COVID-19, and to instruct their students who are sick or have had close contact with a person with COVID-19 not to attend school.

The School will instruct employees to watch for signs of possible student illness during the school day.

If a student is absent from school, he/she may continue to participate in class and submit assignments via Distance Learning.

Throughout the School Day:

- Staff will receive training to enable them to visually screen students throughout the day.

- Students who are observed to have symptoms of illness will be separated from all other students and staff in the isolation room dedicated for symptomatic individuals.
- These students will remain under the visual supervision of a staff member who is at least six feet away and wearing appropriate PPE.
- The front office staff will contact the parents and evaluate the need to send the child home.
- When a parent comes to pick up a sick child, he/she will call from their cell phone and a staff member will walk the child out to the car. The parent will be asked to show ID.
- A parent or emergency contact will be immediately notified and asked to pick up the student, and 911 will be called if the student appears to be in medical distress.
- Maintenance will be asked to promptly disinfect the areas the sick child was in.

Monitoring and Evaluating Suspected, Presumptive and Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

- CDC guidelines will be followed with regard to necessary quarantine, isolation, and return to work or school protocols.
- Local public health authorities will be notified of confirmed COVID-19 cases among children and staff.
- School personnel will coordinate with local public health officials to notify staff and families immediately of potential exposure to COVID-19, while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with FERPA and all other state and federal laws.

Services During Closure

- During distance learning (until we have gotten a “green” on all three benchmarks), both breakfast and lunch will be available for pickup to all students Monday through Thursday.
- On-site support services will be offered following the requirements of Executive Order 2020-51.
- Distance learning will be provided according to schedule Monday-Thursday.
 - ✓ Students are expected to attend all their classes online through Google classroom and do all their assignments to the best of their ability.
 - ✓ Tutoring and individual assistance are available to support students in all subjects if requested.
 - ✓ Student work will be graded, and Progress Reports will be distributed through email mid-quarter.
 - ✓ Report cards will be emailed at the end of the quarter.
- Teachers are available to answer questions from parents through Class Dojo.
- The front office staff is available to answer questions at 623-691-0919 from 8am-4pm Monday-Thursday.