

Northminster Christian School

August 1, 2020 Update

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In response to COVID-19 and following the Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the AZ Department of Health and our local Pima County Health Department guidelines, we have tightened our regular protocols. The health and safety of our students, staff, and families is a high priority issue. We are asking all parents and caregivers to be especially vigilant in assessing the health of their children and themselves. We reserve the right to excuse any child from the center if they appear to have any symptoms that may be connected to any illness. We plan to err on the side of caution to protect everyone. We ask any of our families to immediately disclose possible contact with or exposure to COVID-19 (occupational contact, social or familial contact or travel related contact.) We reserve the right to make decisions at our own discretion for the health and safety of everyone. For the sake of respecting others we ask you that you keep you and your child at home if you develop symptoms that are potentially COVID-19.

We ask that you read these new protocols and sign that you have read and are willing to comply. Thank you for helping us keep your children and our beloved staff as safe as possible. We will continue to update these as needed.

COVID-19 Protocols 20/21 School Year

Hours- In order to accommodate for more cleaning time for staff we will be reducing our hours of operation from 8:30am until 5:00pm.

Ratios- We will be reducing ratios to no more than 10 per classroom including the teacher. Children will be with their teacher and group for the whole day with the only switch being for before care and after care needs. The children will only play on the playground with the group of children they are with.

Masks- Teachers are required to wear masks at all times. The Mayor of Tucson and Pima County Board of Supervisors ruled on 6/19/20 for the use of masks in public in our city. Although the ruling is exempt for private establishments and children under the age of five, out of precaution for our staff and students, we are asking that parents send their children with masks to school each day starting tomorrow for children who are in the Apple (3/4s), Sea Creature (4/5s) and Sky (K-3rd) Classrooms. Masks will not be required while eating or outside and children will have the ability to take a break from their mask if they need.

Strict Drop Off Times- We will ask that your child is dropped off within 20 minutes of their paid time. No earlier and no later, (for before care between regular start time 8:30-8:50am) Due to new protocols needed for temperature checks, we will not be accepting children after 9:00am.

Drop Off Procedures- You will be met by a staff member who will check your child's temperature. If their temperature is 100.4 or higher they will be sent home. The thermometer will be wiped down with an alcohol swab after each use. All parents will be asked two questions: Are you or your child exhibiting any symptoms of illness? Have you had contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID in the last two weeks? This will be documented daily. If the answer is yes the child will not be able to enter campus. Children who attend before care will be dropped off at the North gate with a staff member greeting them. Children who arrive between 8:30-8:50am will be dropped off directly to their teachers at the back doors for the 1s, 2s, and 4/5s classrooms. The 3s and Kinder and up kids will be dropped off at the front gate. The staff member will then take your child to wash their hands at the sink and to class. You will say goodbye at the gate, or back door. We ask that only parents pick up and drop off as the more family members we have doing this the more potential exposure we have.

Pick Up Procedures- Pick up times will also be more strict as a staff member will be there to help facilitate the pick up. For students who leave at 12pm we ask that they be picked up between 12-12:15pm, for 2pm students 2-2:15pm, for everyone else message us when you are here and we will bring your child to you.

Sign in Books- Our staff will now be signing in your child each day upon arrival. You will need to sign our new sign in and out permission form in order to allow for this.

Hand Washing and Hygiene- We will continue with the hand washing protocols that we have been using including washing at arrival, before and after eating,

after bathroom usage, and if they have touched anything that requires washing again. Gloves will be used for diapering, wiping noses and helping with food serving.

Eating Times- We are going to work hard to keep children's personal belongings as separate as possible. We are asking parents to make sure their child's lunch box has at least one ice pack to keep their items cold. We will no longer be doing a snack bin, water bin, or be using reusable cutlery and dinnerware.

Classrooms- Our teachers will be cleaning spaces more frequently using a checklist provided to us by the Pima County Health Department.

Playground- The playground equipment will be cleaned daily.

Personal Items/Wear- All children will need two extra pairs of clothes in their cubby at all times. Additionally, we are asking children with long hair to have it pulled back or up. No toys or extra personal items will be allowed on campus.

Sick Area- If a child shows any signs of sickness we will have them stay in Room 1 with a staff member. Parents/guardians must pick them up as soon as possible. The class who was with that child will use our vacant classroom for the remainder of the day.

Sickness-

If a staff member or child has symptoms that are potentially covid which include but are not limited to:

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

The person must be symptom free for 72 hours without the use of medication. Additionally, they need to contact their doctor and we need a note stating they are okay to attend again. If their doctor requires a COVID test the staff member or child will have to remain home until the results are given.

If the staff member or child test positive they must meet the following requirements from the Pima County Health Department:

- You have had no fever for a least 72 hours (3 days) without the use of medications to reduce a fever

- AND Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved)
- AND at least 10 days have passed since your symptoms began.

If someone living with the child/or staff member tests positive for COVID:

- Child or staff member must remain home for 14 days as recommended by the Pima County Health Department

COVID-19 Positive- If we have a positive case of COVID-19 in our center we will follow the CDC recommendations which include:

- Reporting to the Pima County Health Department
- Closing off area where the person was
- Waiting up to 24 hours at minimum before cleaning and disinfecting
- Cleaning and disinfecting all areas the person used
- We have one vacant room on campus at all times for use if there is a positive case.

Medical Consultant- We have a medical consultant who we are using for guidance as needed.

Staffing- We will have an additional staff on board in case there are teachers out sick.

Simplifying Classrooms- Classroom set up has been simplified to mitigate shared touched items and distancing.

Orientations- We will hold a zoom call for parents to go over these protocols and allow for questions.

Cleaning Agents- We will be using a bleach solution to disinfect areas and toys. This will not be done with the children nearby. Clorox Wipes will be used for highly frequented areas such as door knobs, table tops etc for a quick clean as needed. Hand sanitizer and hand soap for hand hygiene.

Tours or Others on Campus-

At this time we are only conducting virtual tours. No one will be allowed on campus except our staff, students, and our maintenance staff.

Covid Refunds- If we decide to close the school we will not be issuing refunds for that month. If the parent has prepaid the next month we can refund for that month.

High Risk/Vulnerable Populations- It should be noted that if you, your child or a family member is considered high risk or in a vulnerable population please consult your doctor for recommendations before returning to school.

Thank you for your diligence and help as we work together to keep us all healthy and safe.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amy Baum', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

-Amy Baum
Director

I have read the following protocols and am willing to comply.

Parent Name

Signature

Date