



Watersprings  
SCHOOL

# COVID-19 RESPONSE PLAN



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[waterspringschool.net](http://waterspringschool.net)

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## OVERVIEW

Our mission to provide a Christ-centered education for Christian families is best fulfilled when teachers and students come together on campus and in classrooms. However, until the COVID-19 pandemic has abated, an open school building requires special precautions and protocols in order to safeguard the health and well-being of our students, faculty, and employees. We have developed these protocols in close coordination with local, regional, and state agencies. It is our intention to open the school building when conditions permit. For the safety of our students and employees, and depending on conditions and guidance from coordinating agencies, we may also need to resort to a distance learning model.

Thank you for your patience and your prayers as we persevere through this challenge.

## COORDINATION WITH STATE AND COUNTY AGENCIES

The agency primarily responsible for providing recommendations for the opening of private schools is Idaho's local public health districts. We fall under the Eastern Idaho Public Health (EIPH).

### Eastern Idaho Public Health School Guidance

Watersprings School's protocols align with and follow the guidance provided by EIPH and the CDC.

## STUDENT PROTOCOLS

### Modified Medical Policy

If a student has a minor symptom (sore throat, runny nose, congestion, muscle or body aches, headache, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea) and it resolves itself within 24 hours of symptom onset, the student may return to school without a doctor's note.

A student who is ill, will NOT be allowed to return to school if they exhibit any COVID-19 related symptoms. If the student has been ill, they will NOT be allowed to return to school until five full days from the onset of symptoms has passed or until the school has received a written notification from a medical professional that the student is able to return to school and school leadership has approved the return of the student.

### Student Screenings

Our Preschool, Elementary, Middle School, and High School will be performing regular health screenings which may include a temperature screening, as needed.

Students whose temperatures are above 100° F will be sent home and not permitted to enter any Watersprings School building.

- Students are not required to wear masks at school. If a parent prefers that their child wears a mask, we ask that they provide the mask and communicate that preference with the Watersprings School office staff.
- It is the parent's responsibility to take their child's temperature each morning before coming to school.
  - If the student has a temperature of 100.0 or higher, they should be kept home five full days from the onset of symptoms or until the school has received a written notification from a medical professional that the student is able to return to school.
- It is the parent's responsibility to monitor their child's overall health and watch for any of the following signs or symptoms. If the child has any of these symptoms, the child may not come to school. It is recommended that anyone who exhibits any of the below symptoms should consult with a medical professional for an evaluation to determine if a COVID-19 test is needed.
  - Cough
  - Fever (temperature of 100.0 or higher) or chills
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Fatigue
  - Muscle aches
  - Abdominal pain, nausea, or vomiting
  - Sore throat
  - Unexplained loss of taste or smell
  - Diarrhea
  - Headache
  - Congestion or runny nose
- If a student has a minor symptom (sore throat, runny nose, congestion, muscle or body aches, headache, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea) and it resolves itself within 24 hours of symptom onset, the student may return to school without a doctor's note.
- If the healthcare provider diagnoses the child with Influenza or COVID-19, it is the parent's responsibility to notify Watersprings School as soon as possible so the next steps can be determined.

## PHYSICAL DISTANCING AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES (FOR HYBRID LEARNING)

### Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Masks are recommended but not required for employees, students, and volunteers.

### Hallways

Teachers will ensure that students maintain increased spacing in lines as they move through hallways.

Signage will be posted in highly visible locations that promote everyday protective measures and describe how to stop the spread of germs.

## Classroom Seating

Teachers will use increased spacing between desks or arrange seating at tables to maximize the spacing between students.

## Lunchtime

Students will be required to hand wash before and after meals.

Hand sanitizer will be provided for students and employees.

Disposable plates, utensils, etc. will be utilized.

Special sanitization will take place throughout the day in the eating areas.

As weather permits, students may enjoy their lunches outdoors. Some classes may eat lunch in their classrooms.

Students will use increased spacing at lunch tables to maximize physical distancing.

Students will be cautioned to avoid sharing of food and utensils.

## Physical Education Classes

Person-to-person contact sports or activities will be limited. All equipment will be sanitized with industrial strength sanitizer.

## Holding Area for Sick Students

We have a designated area that will be utilized for sick students that are waiting to be picked up. The symptomatic student will be required to wear a mask while in the holding area and as they exit the building. After the sick student has left the building, the room will be properly disinfected following CDC guidelines.

## Visitors and Volunteers

All visitors and volunteers will be given a health screening. All visitors and volunteers are strongly encouraged to wear a mask.

## Additional Daily Protocols

Face masks will be made available for students and employees; however they are encouraged to bring them from home. Employee duties and student activities requiring close contact will be modified as necessary.

## DAILY SANITATION PROTOCOLS

### School-Wide Disinfections

We utilize an industrial strength disinfectant to clean desks, common tables, countertops, doorknobs and handles, hands-on learning items, bathroom fixtures, phones, and customer service areas every day.

### Hand Sanitizer Stations

Teachers, employees, and students will keep their hands sanitized using the dispensers of hand sanitizer that are installed at every building entrance and in every classroom.

### Hygienic Practices

Parents are required to keep sick students home until five full days from the onset of symptoms or until the school has received a written notification from a medical professional that the student is able to return to school. 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;
- washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds, drying hands with a paper towel, and using the paper towel to turn off the faucet;
- keeping hands away from nose, mouth, and eyes; and
- avoiding the sharing of food, drinks, and personal care items (e.g. lip balm).

## HYBRID LEARNING FOR HOMEBOUND STUDENTS

We respect the right of families to keep students at home in the interest of their health and safety during this pandemic. We also expect to require some students to stay at home, if only for a short period of time, as a precautionary measure—for example, if their questionnaires indicate exposure to COVID-19 or if their screenings indicate a temperature of 100° F or higher.

We will offer the following flexibilities to accommodate students who are homebound:

- Teachers will offer daily instruction via Google Classroom, as appropriate. While these sessions will not cover all the in-class material, they will provide homebound students with the help to stay up on their core academic skills. All students will be expected to complete and submit classwork distributed to them by their teachers.
- Attendance policies will take into account the special circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. Homebound students will not be penalized for their absences.

- Teachers will be in close communication with homebound students and will make weekly phone calls to parents (at a minimum).
- School materials will be made available to homebound students. Details will be coordinated with each student's family.

## PROCEDURE FOR POSITIVE OR SUSPECTED COVID-19 CASE

The following procedure is to be used if a student is identified as COVID-19 positive or suspected positive.

**Action Item: A symptomatic student will be respectfully asked to isolate in the holding/isolation area for effective infection control management.**

- The front office will call parents or legal guardians for pickup.
- The symptomatic person will be required to wear appropriate personal protection equipment (PPE) and any employee interacting with the confirmed or suspected case will be provided with PPE (a mask and gloves).

**Action Item: School leadership will determine the next steps by:**

- Identifying anyone in the building who may have been in close contact with a confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case. Close contact is less than 6 feet for more than 15 minutes.
- Consulting with EIPH regarding the appropriate course of action. Recommendations will be given on a case-by-case basis, and could include:
  - Excluding positive, suspected, and close contacts from school as they follow isolation or self-quarantine instructions until they can safely return.
  - A short-term school dismissal.
  - Extended school dismissal.
- School leadership will coordinate the closure decision with the Watersprings School Board.
- Points of Contact:
  - Mrs. Katheryn King, [kking@waterspringsschool.net](mailto:kking@waterspringsschool.net)
  - Mrs. Wendy Putnam, [wputnam@waterspringsschool.net](mailto:wputnam@waterspringsschool.net)

**Action Item: School leadership determines and communicates to families the applicable return criteria.**

Return Criteria (per the CDC website)

- A symptomatic student may return to school five full days from onset of symptoms, provided they have not had a fever for at least 24 hours without the use of medication.
- With school leadership's approval, a student exposed to someone with COVID-19 may return to school five full days after the exposure, provided they do not develop symptoms of COVID-19.

**Action Item: School leadership communicates appropriate details to the school community.**

- School leadership will update the school community (parents/guardians and students) via email or Parent Alert mass communications system with appropriate incident details.

**Action Item: Clean and disinfect the facility thoroughly.**

**Action Item: School leadership reinstates strategies to continue education and related supports to students as needed.**

**Action Item: All school personnel will maintain privacy and confidentiality.**



## DECISION MATRIX FOR PARENTS & STUDENTS

<p><b>Situation</b></p>	<p>My student has a fever or is vomiting.</p>	<p>My student has COVID-19 symptoms <b>or</b> came in contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case.</p>	<p>I have a unique family circumstance.</p>
  			
<p><b>What's Next</b></p>	<p>The student must stay home.</p>	<p>Student must stay home/isolate for five full days.</p>	<p>Choose to keep your student(s) home?</p>
  			
<p><b>Next Steps</b></p>	<p>Inform Watersprings School office of student illness and coordinate with teacher(s) to obtain and complete assigned schoolwork.</p>	<p>Inform Watersprings School office of the situation, obtain medical diagnosis or recommendation, and move to Distance Learning.</p>	<p>Inform Watersprings School office of the situation and move to Distance Learning Model.</p>
  			
<p><b>Return to School?</b></p>	<p>Student should be kept home five full days from the onset of symptoms or until the school has received a written notification from a medical professional that the student is able to return to school.</p>	<p>After obtaining medical clearance to return to school <b>and</b> after obtaining approval from Watersprings School Administration.</p>	<p>When ready <b>and</b> in consultation with Watersprings School office.</p>

## DECISION MATRIX FOR EMPLOYEES

<p><b>Situation</b></p>	<p>The employee has a fever or is vomiting.</p>	<p>The employee has COVID-19 symptoms <b>or</b> came in contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case.</p>	<p>The employee has a unique family circumstance.</p>
  			
<p><b>What's Next</b></p>	<p>The employee must stay home.</p>	<p>Employee must stay home/isolate for five full days.</p>	<p>Does the employee feel compelled to work from home?</p>
  			
<p><b>Next Steps</b></p>	<p>Inform Watersprings School Administration of illness and discuss alternative teaching arrangements (if applicable).</p>	<p>Inform Watersprings School Administration of the situation, obtain medical diagnosis or recommendation, and coordinate with Watersprings School Administration for alternatives.</p>	<p>Inform Watersprings School Administration of the situation and coordinate alternatives.</p>
  			
<p><b>Return to School?</b></p>	<p>Employee should stay home five full days from the onset of symptoms or until the school has received a written notification from a medical professional that the employee is able to return to school.</p>	<p>After obtaining medical clearance to return to school <b>and</b> in consultation with Watersprings School Administration.</p>	<p>When ready <b>and</b> in consultation with Watersprings School Administration.</p>