

New Life Community Christian School COVID-19 Policy and Procedures

November 24, 2021

In light of the Covid-19 global pandemic, our school continues to have protocols in place to protect our students and staff, guide our response when Covid-19 directly impacts our community and communicate what we believe to be the best policies and practices which enable us to love one another well in the midst of continued concerns. Living within these guidelines is part of a call to image Christ in his self-sacrificial love for us as is commanded by the apostle Paul in Philippians 2.

The below guidelines are effective November 24, 2021. Guidelines are subject to change based on recommended current health and safety protocols. Notifications of changes will be made by email and a printed copy sent home with each family. It is the responsibility of each family to receive and read updated policies. The policy is posted on our website (<https://www.newlifeccs.org/covid-19-updates>) and a printed copy is also available upon request.

Symptoms of Covid-19

The following are symptoms consistent with Covid-19. These symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Consider whether you have begun to experience any symptoms in a way that is not normal for you, and if you have experienced any of these symptoms, we ask that you would not come to campus.

- ✓ Feeling feverish or having a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit.
- ✓ Loss of sense of taste or smell
- ✓ Cough
- ✓ Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- ✓ Headache
- ✓ Chills, shaking, or exaggerated shivering
- ✓ Sore Throat
- ✓ Significant muscle pain or ache
- ✓ Diarrhea, vomiting, stomach ache

Members of our community who have begun experiencing any of the above symptoms should not come to campus and should contact the Director, Assistant Director or Office Manager at 281-288-7744. All medical information will remain confidential.

In the case of a staff member or child who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and does not get evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, the person is assumed to have COVID-19 and may not return to the facility until they meet the following criteria:

- 10 days since symptoms first appeared, **and**
- 24 hours with no fever and without using fever-reducing medicine, **and**
- Other COVID-19 symptoms you have are improving.

If the staff member or child has similar symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to the facility before completing the above self-isolation period, the person must obtain written documentation from a medical professional clearing them to return based on an alternative diagnosis.

A student or staff member who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 must stay at home throughout the infection period. These individuals cannot return to campus until the school director screens the individual to determine whether the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met.

Procedure for when a child or staff member tests positive for Covid-19:

- Whether you are vaccinated or unvaccinated, if you have tested positive for COVID-19, you should isolate in order to protect others.
- If you do not develop symptoms, you can be around others after 10 days have passed since your positive viral test for COVID-19.
- If you have symptoms, you can be around others after:
 - 10 days since symptoms first appeared, **and**
 - 24 hours with no fever and without using fever-reducing medicine, **and**
 - Other COVID-19 symptoms you have are improving.

Procedure for when a child or staff member has had close contact with someone who has Covid-19:

Close contact is defined as if you've been within 6 feet of a person who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more in a 24-hour period.

I'm fully vaccinated and know I've been around someone with COVID-19. Should I get tested?

If you are fully vaccinated, and do not have any symptoms of COVID-19, you do not need to quarantine at home. However, you should get tested 3–5 days after the exposure, even if you don't have symptoms, and wear a mask indoors in public for 10 days following exposure or until your test result is negative.

I'm unvaccinated and know I've been around someone with COVID-19. What should I do?

If you have had close contact with someone who has COVID-19, you should:

- stay home for 10 days after your last contact;
- watch for symptoms such as fever, cough or shortness of breath;
- if possible, stay away from people you live with, especially those at high risk of getting very sick from COVID-19.

The child or staff may return to campus

- after day 10 without testing if you are symptom free, **or**
- after day 7 after receiving a negative COVID test result (test must occur on day 5 or later)

What about those who have had Covid-19 and then have close contact?

Someone who tested positive for COVID-19 with a viral test within the previous 90 days and has subsequently recovered and remains without COVID-19 symptoms does not need to quarantine. However, close contacts with prior COVID-19 infection in the previous 90 days should:

- Wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days after exposure.
- Monitor for COVID-19 symptoms and isolate immediately if symptoms develop.
- Consult with a healthcare professional for testing recommendations if new symptoms develop.

School Response to Lab-Confirmed

NLCCS has established the following guidelines to respond should a confirmed case arise in our school and to respond to students who become ill while at school.

- The Director will notify Harris County Public Health and Environmental Services, in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, including confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.
- NLCCS will notify teachers, staff, and families of all students if it is determined they have been in close contact with a lab-confirmed Covid-19 diagnosis.

Disruption of Services

Regarding public health emergency closures, the NLCCS board will evaluate our school impact as well as our community impact in determining NLCCS closures. Every decision will be made with the utmost care and consideration for the wellbeing of our students and staff.

As a general guide:

- If there is a positive case of COVID-19 in our staff or students, we will follow the direction of the local health authorities on specific class or whole school closure. The health authority's direction will also determine the amount of time for the closure.
- If due to the change of spread in the community, requirements from childcare licensing, or the governor mandating a stay-at-home order, the NLCCS Board will determine if the school can stay open as an essential business and continue to operate safely within all regulations or if we need to close for the safety of our students and staff.

If NLCCS closes, it will remain closed until it is deemed safe to re-open. Public health closures will not be added to the end of the school year or made up at any later date.

Tuition Policy for Disruption of Services:

Tuition credits or refunds will only be granted for a disruption of more than 2 consecutive weeks. This policy applies to all families if the whole school closes or only to families who are affected by particular class closures or who have a child that is required to quarantine due to testing positive or being in close contact with COVID-19.

The 30-day notice policy for withdrawal from NLCCS will be suspended if the school is closed for more than 2 consecutive weeks.

NOTE: The two above sections of Disruption of Services and Tuition Policy for Disruption of Services correspond to what is listed in the NLCCS Parent Handbook about Attendance (Page 6) and School Closure Information (Page 19).

The NLCCS board reserves the right to modify this policy based on the evolving circumstances of COVID-19.