
We're Ready! (Again)

2.0

Timothy Christian Schools

2021–2022 Health Plan



TIMOTHY
CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS



INTRODUCTION

Timothy Christian Schools successfully navigated the 2020-2021 school year as one of the only large PreK-12 schools in all of Chicagoland to provide a fully in-person model for the entire school year. Timothy played a key role in helping several other Christian schools navigate the year, as well; and as a leader, we undoubtedly will play this role again in 2021-2022.

We started the year in August 2020 with nearly 90% of our students joining us in-person and finished the year in May with more than 97% of our students regularly joining us in-person. The Timothy community rallied and demonstrated an extraordinary level of cooperation to achieve our goals. The same level of dedication will be required of us again, and I have no doubt that each one of our families will meet that challenge.

As you carefully read through the 2021-2022 Health Plan, which has been approved by the Timothy administration, the Timothy Board of Directors, and the Timothy Health Task Force, we ask for your unwavering and uncompromised cooperation. Whether you print this and put it on the refrigerator or simply read through it leisurely with your family, there's one requirement that is paramount for our success: if your child is sick, please keep him/her home!

Our plan is based on consideration of our own internal data from the 2020-2021 school year, data and information from other schools, the expertise of our health task force, guidance from the CDC, IDPH, ISBE, and the local health department and other local entities, and a lot of prayer. Later in the document, you will see various responses (notable quotes) from various leaders who have each reviewed our plan.

It remains our conviction that a responsible and adaptable plan accompanied with opportunities for parental choice will yield the best results. No different than any other year, we are ready and willing to pivot to lesser or stricter protocols if warranted. There are plenty of factors that could lead to adaptations in the plan. It seems unlikely that our plan will remain "as is" for the entire school year, or even the entire summer. Every successful organization maintains a posture of constant learning, growth, and flexibility.

We are excited about the 2021-2022 school year! It will take all of us to achieve our mission. Let's stay united as a team and stick together...through it all. Our students are counting on us. By the grace of God and the power of His might, we can do it! We appreciate your support and covet your prayers.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M D", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Matt Davidson
Superintendent

■ EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Once again, the 2021-2022 Health Plan for Timothy Christian Schools has been drafted early for your review. Similar to last year, it is intentionally and openly fluid. This document breathes...and will undoubtedly adapt over time. We've learned over the past year that far too many organizations remained frozen in the arena of conjecture, thus being rudderless for long periods of time. Leadership demands decision-making. As a leader in the private school movement and following a similar timeline to last year, we are out early in stating our goals for the upcoming school year in this document. Early planning along with early communication gives us a head start in working toward and achieving our goals.

Throughout the document, you will see that our plan more closely resembles what we remember as "normal school." We have made adjustments to our previous health plan as it relates to masks, contact tracing, symptom reporting, and a few other issues...and yet there are other portions of our previous health plan that remain fully and strictly in place. Plenty of expert opinions from varying viewpoints and backgrounds have collaborated to launch this plan. We intentionally allowed

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for an honest exchange of ideas and plenty of back-and-forth in our planning sessions.

We experienced great success and even acclaim with our previous health plan, and we are confident that we can do this again. Plenty of other schools nationwide have already proven that plans similar to ours are effective. Think of it this way -- prior to 1969, it was plausible to argue among friends that mankind will never walk on the moon. You could rightfully stand your ground and hold to your personal convictions on the matter. But in 1969...it happened. It's no longer debate-worthy. Timothy Christian Schools, along with hosts of others, are proving that our students shouldn't have to be the last ones back to normalcy.

In an effort to make the plans for 2021-2022 as practical and user-friendly as possible, we've put our plan into a question & answer format. We've gone through enough troubleshooting from the previous year that we believe this will be the simplest and most effective way to translate the plan for everyone. Please take time to familiarize yourself with the plan. It's success depends on everyone's participation. We can do it!

■ HEALTH PLAN | QUESTION & ANSWER FORMAT

Will Timothy offer a fully remote option for the 2021-2022 school year?

- No. We have consistently reported this since March. However, we will have a practical and user-friendly education plan for those students who are out of school for an extended period due to Covid. This plan will closely resemble conventional plans from previous years for extended sickness or other reasons.

Will families be required to continue to daily self check their child(ren) for symptoms?

- Yes. But at this time, Timothy will not require the daily reporting form that was in place last year. Even so, let's continue to be strict in keeping sick students home -- the single most important part of our plan. We need everyone's cooperation!

Will the Covid email inbox be open again next year?

- Yes. Covid-related questions and reporting will continue to be submitted to **COVID@TIMOTHYCHRISTIAN.COM**. Our nursing staff and health team members will closely monitor the inbox.
- In place of the daily reporting form, we will continue to track all absences due to illness, so please report any illness/symptoms to **COVID@TIMOTHYCHRISTIAN.COM** or to the appropriate building secretary and a member of our health team will follow up.

Are masks optional for the 2021-2022 school year?

- Yes, that is the plan. We have consistently reported this since March 2021. All staff, students, and parents, whether wearing a mask or not wearing a mask, will equally be a part of Team Timothy with dignity and respect. This works both ways, and we will not allow this to become a divisive matter in our school. You can help in reiterating this in your homes. Thank you!
- Many states, districts, or schools (and the list is growing!), including those directly bordering Illinois, have already announced mask optional policies.
- We have been in communication with schools in other states that have been mask optional for quite some time and even some who have been mask optional all year. They have all experienced success.
- We have a few teachers at a higher risk due to health issues. Timothy will support these teachers and require students to wear masks in those respective classrooms. We're asking everyone in our community to support this. Remember: 100% of our classroom teachers marched into work for the 2020-2021 school year so our students could have in-person instruction and learning.

What about sports for the 2021-2022 school year?

- We are anticipating full sports seasons this year; however, we are awaiting direction from the IHSA for high school athletics. Depending on the direction we receive from the IHSA, we may have pivots in our health plan for the high school. We have always placed

- a high value on our relationship with the IHSA.
- Protocols for our middle school sports programs will be directed primarily by our athletic conference.

Will Timothy contact trace during the 2021-2022 school year?

- Upon notification of a positive Covid case, the health team will notify by email the classroom(s), bus route (if applicable), and club/team (if applicable) of the positive case; however, we will not specifically identify close contacts. Families will be aware of any positive cases in their child's classroom(s) and can make determinations for their own child. If a family decides to voluntarily quarantine their child, the quarantine cannot exceed 14 days.
- We will not uniquely contact trace every student who was within 6' or 3' of a positive case during the day. Please do not ask our health team or teachers for this information. Rather we will generally contact trace with these notifications outlined in the bullet point above. This is similar to the procedure Timothy has used for a diagnosis of strep in the classroom, etc. We also believe this portion of our health plan will remove peer pressure barriers to getting tested.
- Reminder: Timothy saw more than 450 students in quarantine during the 2020-2021 school year, and only 8 of them reported symptoms (1.8%) -- several of which noted close contacts/exposure in places other than school, too. To state this differently, more than 98% of all close contacts by definition never got sick during the 2020-2021 school year. Our expert health team has kept all of this data to help inform future planning and decision-making.

Will Timothy require or track Covid vaccination status?

- No. Timothy will not require or track this. However, at this time, you will see some shortcuts in the health plan for families who volunteer this information.
- The Health Task Force would also like to note that vaccines have shown effectiveness. Consider talking with your personal physician about whether this vaccine is right for your children.

What if my child is sick? How soon can he/she return to school?

- Students with a fever, loss of taste/smell, sore throat, and/or body aches will require clearance from a medical provider before returning to school. For these specific symptoms, vaccinated students may return after 24 hours of no symptoms.
- Students with a cough, runny nose, vomiting, and/or diarrhea will require 24 hours of no symptoms before returning. This is true for all students, regardless of vaccination status.
- Siblings without symptoms may come to school.

What if my child or someone in my household has an exposure to someone who has tested positive for Covid?

- If anyone in the student's household tests positive for Covid, the student must quarantine for 14 days. Fully vaccinated children in the same household will not need to quarantine if they are without

symptoms. This information would have to be confidentially volunteered to our health team, as the health team will not ask.

- For an exposure outside of the student's household, assuming your child does not have any symptoms, we are largely leaving it up to the home -- he/she may return to school. We simply ask that you closely monitor your child for symptoms...and all children in the household stay home if symptoms develop. You are also welcome to voluntarily quarantine your asymptomatic child in these circumstances for any period of time up to 14 days.

What if my child tests positive?

- Please report all positive (and negative) test results to **COVID@TIMOTHYCHRISTIAN.COM** or 630.782.4087.
- Upon reporting the positive test to the health team, you will receive specific instructions for your child, which may include isolation of your child and quarantine of others in your household. As a reminder, fully vaccinated children in the same household will not need to quarantine if they are without symptoms. This information would have to be confidentially volunteered to our health team, as the health team will not ask.
- While your child or anyone in your household waits for test results, please stay home.
- Your child will be able to continue with their Timothy education during quarantine, although significantly different and more simplified than the plan for the 2020-2021 school year.

Will Timothy still separate students with plexi-glass?

- In general, we do not plan to continue this practice, but may if needed.

Will Timothy require social distancing in the 2021-2022 school year?

- In general, this will not be a consistent practice, but may implement it if needed.

What should I expect regarding lunch?

- The free lunch program has expired and is no longer available.
- For the most part, we will discontinue lunch in the classrooms and return to our designated lunchrooms on campus.

What about cleaning and hygiene protocols?

- We will continue with nightly cleanings using approved and effective products. We have contracted with a professional company for this once again.
- We also will continue to maintain our hand sanitizing stations throughout the campus and encourage regular handwashing. Good hygiene practices will be a regular topic with our students.

Will the HEPA air filtration systems still operate in the classrooms?

- Yes. We will continue this practice daily.
- On a related note, where and when possible, we will continue to open windows and find time to be outdoors.

■ **FACTS AND FIGURES**

The pediatric Covid survival rate for ages 19 and younger in all of DuPage County is 100%. And for ages 20 and younger in the entire state of Illinois it is 99.998%. This assumes all positive cases have been captured in the last 16 months, which seems illogical and improbable. In other words, the percentages statewide are likely even more favorable. Although in DuPage, it's impossible to improve upon 100%. We frequently hear that the approach to Covid must be purely scientific, which of course has strong merit...and yet has also drawn different scientific interpretations across the country. Others insist that all of this has become far too political. But here at Timothy, this deep into the pandemic (16 months later), we can look at data. So we believe we can actually use mathematics -- simple arithmetic -- to assist in our decision-making.

We finished the 2020-2021 school year with 113 total positive cases (51 ES, 22 MS, 29 HS, and 11 Staff) -- all fully and quickly recovered -- and 825 negative tests recorded. We consistently had more than 1,200 people on our campus every weekday, collectively frequenting our campus more than 200,000 times! We had 6 entire grades with 5 positive cases or less, 9 entire elementary classrooms with only 1 positive case, and 2 elementary classrooms with 0 cases. We did not have a single full time staff member test positive during the entire second semester.

■ **WORTH NOTING**

As stated in the introduction, if necessary, these plans will change. It is important for any organization to stay nimble and willing to pivot.

Timothy will devote even more attention throughout the year to making sure our community knows the health plan and is informed of any changes, thus taking our commitment to success to a higher level.

If you haven't seen **THIS VIDEO** yet, check it out!



■ **NOTABLE QUOTES**

“I believe the plan articulated in this document strikes the right balance between the need to protect the health of students, faculty and staff and the critical need to provide a meaningful educational experience that fully engages students in their learning goals. During this difficult year, I’ve been impressed with the manner in which Timothy Christian Schools have operated. I applaud them. Their experience provides a model as we move out of the pandemic and plan for the year ahead.”

—Dan Cronin, Chairman, DuPage County Board

“The investment and commitment demonstrated by Timothy Christian Schools to assure the safety and health of their school community while providing a robust educational experience is remarkable. The ability to take those resources and generate enthusiasm and investment across the students, staff, faculty and families has been an equally impressive achievement that provides a solid base to move into this upcoming school year with excitement and anticipation.”

**—Karen Ayala, Executive Director,
DuPage County Health Department**

(Note: DuPage County was recently ranked the **HEALTHIEST COUNTY** in all of Illinois)

“Timothy Christian Schools has demonstrated a concerted effort to ensure the health and well being of their students and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. Your commitment to excellence during an unprecedented year is to be commended. The students and families you serve are indeed fortunate to have you on their side! The DuPage County Regional Office of Education wishes you all the very best as you look forward to the 2021-2022 school year.”

**—Dr. Darlene Ruscitti, Superintendent,
Dupage Regional Office of Education**

“I applaud you and the Timothy community for successfully navigating through the 2020-21 school year in a very positive way. The thoughtful approach to the 2021-22 year is exemplary. I appreciate your investment in the students and the teachers.”

**—Dr. Paul Merrick, Chairman,
DuPage Medical Group Board of Directors**

**“YOUR COMMITMENT TO
EXCELLENCE DURING AN
UNPRECEDENTED YEAR
IS TO BE COMMENDED.”**



■ **NOTABLE QUOTES**

“While I am not personally qualified to evaluate the Plan from a medical or epidemiological perspective, I am impressed by the qualifications of the school’s Health Task Force Members and the thought that has gone into the Plan. COVID-19 has presented a unique set of issues and constraints that Timothy Christian Schools has committed to addressing in a manner that balances educational needs with public health care concerns. I commend the thoughtful planning that has been undertaken for the coming school year.”

—Scott M. Levin, Mayor, City of Elmhurst

“Congratulations to Timothy Christian Schools on successfully navigating the 2020-2021 school year by conducting in-person school the entire school year. Kudos to the administration, staff, families and students who all accepted responsibility for taking appropriate safety precautions for this to be possible. I have reviewed the plan for the 2021-2022 school year and expect similar outcomes for student engagement during the school day and for all extra-curricular opportunities. We are proud to have Timothy Christian High School as a member of the IHSA gaining all of the benefits of sports and activities participation.”

—Craig Anderson, Executive Director, IHSA

“I have had the opportunity to review the Timothy Christian Schools readiness plan. In short, it is well considered, rooted in clear research and empirically established observations of what is truly happening in schools relative to Covid-19, and masterfully written. As superintendent of the largest private school in the southwest United States, I affirm the plan and certify that nearly identical strategies, deployed this last year within our school, resulted in a safe, strong, in-person school year. I applaud the families and faculty of Timothy Christian for their commitment to Christian unity within their community, in-person education, and Biblical worldview. I am looking forward to connecting with Mr. Davidson throughout the upcoming year--the best is still ahead for your school!”

**—Geoff Brown, Superintendent,
Northwest Christian School; Phoenix, Arizona**

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BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW”**

■ SUMMARY CARD

1. COOPERATE!

Please keep sick children home. This is critical to our success.

2. COMMUNICATE!

Please report symptoms, absences due to sickness, test results, and direct questions to the health team.

3. CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER!

Let's stay united throughout the school year. Psalm 133:1

4. COMMIT OUR SCHOOL TO PRAYER!

Let's regularly take time to pray for Timothy Christian Schools. Ephesians 3:20,21

■ HEALTH TASK FORCE MEMBERS

- Anthony M. Auriemma, MD, JD, Family Medicine, Amita Health
- Vanessa V. Clohessy, Partner, Hodges, Loizzi, Eisenhammer, Rodick & Kohn LLP
- Matt Davidson, MA Educational Leadership and Administration, Superintendent, Timothy Christian Schools; Task Force Chair
- Laura Groenewold, Educational Support Teacher, 7th-8th grades, Timothy Christian Schools
- Jackie Hayes, RN, BSN, Emergency Department, Loyola University Medical Center
- Justin Horne, NBCT, MA Educational Leadership, Principal, PreK-8, Timothy Christian Schools
- Corinne Jones, RN, BSN, PEL-SN, School Nurse, Elmhurst School District 205
- Amanda Keizer, RN, BSN, CRRN, Clinical Coordinator, Inpatient Rehabilitation, Amita LaGrange Memorial Hospital
- Heather Lindemulder, RN, BSN, Pediatric Unit, Loyola University Medical Center
- Erica Plaisier, RN, BSN, MS, School Nurse, Timothy Christian Schools
- Brent Rieger, MD, Internist and Pediatrician, Loyola Medicine
- Shelly Smith, Executive Director, Covenant Living at Windsor Park
- ShawnTe Welch, Partner, AnceL Glink, P.C.
- Kris Wise, MA Reading Specialist, Director of Curriculum and Instruction PreK-6, Timothy Christian Schools