



INCARNATE WORD ACADEMY

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COVID ACTION PLAN

Last revised on:
Jan 5, 2022

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Introduction

Incarinate Word Academy is committed to providing a healthy and safe environment that promotes the physical, intellectual, spiritual, social, and emotional wellbeing of all our students.

In recognition of the changing conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic in our community, we have implemented a multi-tiered, adaptable approach that prioritizes the health and safety of our IWA community while taking into account the social and emotional needs of our students. We are prepared to adapt our mitigation strategies appropriately in accordance with our community circumstances and infection rates.

In coordination with our local health department and the Diocese of Corpus Christi, we will continue to closely monitor the changing circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. We strongly encourage all members of our Angel community to observe recommended personal health protective measures to help keep everyone healthy and reduce the spread of COVID-19. Some of the current recommendations from the CDC and public health experts include:

- Protect eligible family members with COVID-19 vaccinations
- Monitor for COVID-19 symptoms and stay at home if sick
- Wear a mask in indoor public spaces
- Avoid crowds
- Wash and/or sanitize hands frequently
- Cover your cough or sneeze

The contents of the COVID-19 Campus Action Plan are subject to change based on campus and community transmission rates and updated guidelines/restrictions from local, state, and national agencies.

How to Help from Home

Creating and maintaining a healthy campus environment is essential and is going to require everyone's support and participation. Families can teach and reinforce these safety protocols from home.

Healthy Hygiene

Encourage frequent handwashing and the use of hand sanitizer. Practice coughing and sneezing in the elbow and stay home when you are sick.

Preventative Health Practices

Continue regular doctor visits and well-child appointments. Keep immunizations and physicals current and encourage physical activity and time outside. Remember that immunizations must be current and on file at school prior to the first day. While COVID-19 vaccines are not required, providing documentation of COVID-19 vaccines will allow vaccinated individuals to avoid mandatory quarantine upon exposure.

The Campus

Cleaning and Sanitation

Disinfectant cleansers will be used every night in all classrooms, restrooms, offices, and other common spaces. Sprayers will be used to disinfect lunch tables between user groups, and the restrooms several times daily. Areas will be disinfected immediately if a student with possible COVID-19 symptoms visits the health room.

Visitors

Except during times of high community transmission, visitors will be allowed on campus and must sign in to register their visit and declare they are symptom free. Unvaccinated adults are asked to wear a mask while on campus. Anyone experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or who has been exposed to COVID-19 should not visit the campus.

Lockers and Cubbies

EL students will utilize their cubbies and ML and HSL students will utilize lockers this year.

Stairwells

ML and HSL stairwells will continue to be one directional to minimize crowding.

Water Fountains

Water fountains are an important resource on campus, especially during summer when heat and dehydration can be the most dangerous. The risk of getting COVID-19 from touching a solid surface (like a water fountain button) is low, and COVID-19 has not been found in drinking water. Therefore, water fountains will once again be available for use at the Middle and High School Levels along with water-filling stations for refilling water bottles only. Students are asked to refrain from drinking directly from the water fountains. Bottle filling stations will remain on in the Elementary Level but water fountains will remain closed. All students should bring a water bottle with their name on it to school every day (ML and HSL bottles must be clear).

The School Day

Student Drop Off

Students may not be dropped off before 7:35 a.m. for any level. Specific drop off and pick up instructions will be provided by each level. Temperatures will not be taken in the mornings.

Cohort Model

We will carefully balance the practice of cohort modeling with a cautious return to a more normal school environment. The stringency of cohort model application will be contingent upon COVID-19 infection rates within our school and local community. EL students will stay with their classroom cohort through much of the day, but will travel to auxiliary instruction classrooms such as the Amor Meus Atrium, the Mater Dei Lab, and the D.C. EL students will return to eating lunch in the D.C. except during times of high community transmission, when they may remain in their classrooms for lunch.

Breakfast and Lunch Services

Top Choice Catering will provide breakfast, hot lunch, and daily a la carte options in the Angel Avenue Student Center for ML and HSL students, and two daily lunch options in the D.C. for EL students. Microwaves will be available in the Angel Avenue Student Center for ML and HSL only.

Students can either bring a lunch from home, or purchase from the daily lunch options provided by Top Choice (www.myschoolaccount.com). Parents are asked not to drop lunches off at school (all levels). EL and ML parents can bring lunch when they are planning to join their students for lunch, however, please note that parents can only bring food for their own children. During times of high community transmission, visitors may not be allowed on campus, including during lunch.

Recess, P.E., & Wellness

EL students will enjoy outdoor recess and P.E. daily (weather permitting).

ML athletic and wellness classes will meet in the D.C., Mother Patricia Gunning Gymnasium, or outdoors on the athletic field.

HSL athletics and P.E. classes will meet in the Mother Patricia Gunning Gymnasium, assigned classroom, or outdoors on the athletic field.

Mass

Weekly, in-person Masses will be held for each level (EL and ML in the D.C., and HSL in the Mother Patricia Gunning Gymnasium). Special campus-wide Masses will be held once per quarter in the Mother Patricia Gunning Gymnasium. In the event of increased school and community infections rates, we may experience a temporary return to virtual Masses.

Classroom Materials

Students will be encouraged to avoid sharing materials (calculators, markers, pencils, devices, etc.) in the classroom as much as possible.

Absences

Parents should contact their school level front office by 8:00 a.m. to report reasons for student absences.

Classroom Spacing

Classrooms are arranged to maximize spacing.

Afterschool Care

Afterschool care will be offered through the YMCA for our EL students. If you wish to enroll your child in after school care, you can access the registration form on the EL Angel Check-in page and will need to take it to the YMCA in person on August 6, 2021 between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. (even if you completed the form during the enrollment process).

Afterschool care will be available for ML students with registration and more information available on the following link: Middle Level Aftercare. The cost for after school care is \$100 per 4-week segment. This monthly rate cannot be pro-rated or altered based on attendance (or lack thereof).

Calendar

The 2021-2022 school calendar can be found at www.iwacc.org by clicking the calendar link located in the menu at the top of the page. The calendar is subject to change with updated guidelines or restrictions from local, state, and national agencies.

Activities and Athletics

Clubs

Clubs and customary extracurricular activities will be back in session as we move toward a return to normalcy with enhanced precautions.

Community Service

Students will be able to utilize online and in-person options to complete their usual service hour commitments.

Ashley Cartwright, Campus Ministry, can answer specific questions about community service and may be reached at cartwrighta@iwacc.org.

Athletics

All families must sign, and have on file with the athletic department, the Novel Coronavirus Acknowledgment Waiver Form in order for their child(ren) to participate. All athletes and coaches should bring their own personal water bottles to practices and games. Coaches and guests are encouraged to wear masks indoors. Coaches and campus-level athletic coordinators will share sport-specific *Return to Play* documents and practice/game schedules with athletes and parents.

Players and coaches will self-screen for symptoms of COVID-19 using the criteria on pg. 6 before entering an IWA facility. In the event that an athlete/coach has symptoms of COVID-19 or has been exposed or potentially exposed to someone who has tested positive for the virus, the affected individuals must follow IWA's COVID-19 Safety Protocols located on pages 6-7 of this document. The athletic director will notify all team members in the event of a COVID 19 positive case among the team.

Safety Guidelines

Our first line of defense is you. We all must lower our threshold for deciding when it's necessary to stay home and when to keep our children home. If there is any sign of potential illness that could be COVID-19, we must not come to school. We as a community must work in partnership to safeguard our IWA family.

Health and Wellness Pledge

All families must commit to supporting IWA's health, wellness, and safety protocols and must agree to keep children home when they are not feeling well, have COVID-19 symptoms or have potentially been exposed. Each family will be required to complete the **IWA Health and Wellness Pledge** as part of registration prior to the start of school.

Face Coverings

During times of high community and/or in-school transmission rates, mask use may be required for faculty and students unless a medical exemption is provided by a physician.

At other times masks will remain optional, but are strongly encouraged for all students. Please consider the following guidelines provided by the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) and the [CDC](#) when making a choice for your family. During optional masking, faculty, staff, and guests are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings when on campus and within 6' of others.

The mask-use policy is subject to change based on campus and community transmission rates and updated guidelines/restrictions from local, state, and national agencies. Face coverings do not have to adhere to any specific uniform colors, but may not exhibit inappropriate language, messages, or images.

Hygiene

Students will be encouraged to wash hands frequently. Teachers will give lessons on how to properly wash hands. Sanitizing stations are available in each classroom and around campus and their use will be required throughout the day.

Learning From Home

Students who have to quarantine at home will receive assignments via FACTS/Renweb and/or Google Classroom as they would with any other extended absence. Students will not join the Online Academy during their quarantine.

In the event of an unforeseen campus closure, Distance Learning will be activated for all students. Campus closures can happen as a result of damage sustained by a hurricane, health concerns caused by a pandemic, or other unexpected disasters.

Student Coursework Extended Absence Plan

- Principals will notify applicable teachers when a student will be absent for an extended time
- Parents will be notified when student textbooks are ready to be picked up from the school
- Students will be provided asynchronous daily assignment deadlines via Google Classroom
- All tests and quizzes will be administered when the student returns to campus
- Students may communicate with teachers via IWA school email
- Students and teachers may mutually agree to a Google Meet
- Students must clear their return date with the principal or school nurse prior to returning

Please contact the school level principal, or director of curriculum, Kathryn Saenz (saenzk@iwacc.org) for assistance.

Health Screenings & Campus Procedures related to COVID-19

COVID-19 Screening

Daily self-screening is required for students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Regardless of vaccination status or natural acquired immunity, any person exhibiting any of the following possible symptoms of COVID-19 should stay at home and not come to campus:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Temperature of 100.0° F or higher | Chills |
| Loss of taste or smell | Sore throat |
| Cough | Body aches/muscle pain |
| Difficulty breathing | Vomiting or diarrhea |
| Headache or fatigue | Congestion or runny nose |

Response to COVID-19 Symptoms for Positive Cases

An important strategy for minimizing the risk of the spread of COVID-19 on campus is a commitment to staying home when sick. Staff members, students, parents and visitors are asked to self-screen at home daily prior coming onto campus.

- Parents/guardians are required to notify the school nurse at 361-883-0857 ext.178, or nurse@iwacc.org if their student receives a positive test result for COVID-19 and/or if their student has a known exposure to COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status. Unvaccinated students with close contact will be asked to follow quarantine guidelines. Asymptomatic students who have had test-confirmed COVID in the last 3 months or have completed the primary 2 dose vaccine series in the last 6 months, or have been boosted with a 3rd dose will be exempt from quarantine but will be asked to monitor for symptoms for 14 days.
- Household members are always considered close contacts. Parent discretion can be used to identify other close contacts based on being approximately within 6ft of a COVID 19+ individual for 15 minutes or more during the infectious period. The infectious period is defined as 2 days before the start of symptoms or 2 days before a positive COVID 19 test in asymptomatic individuals, and ends when the individual is medically cleared (5+ days with a negative test, or 10 days untested).
- Any student, faculty or staff member who develops possible symptoms of COVID-19 while on campus will be sent home (at school testing may be available).
- Eligibility criteria that define exclusion and readmission guidelines can be found in the following flow chart. These guidelines are subject to change. Please note that guidelines allow isolation for infection and quarantine for exposure to be reduced to 5 days with no symptoms and a negative test on or after day 5 (with 24 hour absence of symptoms), and with strong recommendation to wear a mask for the next 5 days.
- In the event of a COVID-19 positive case on campus, the principal of the level that experienced the positive case will send a general "COVID CASE NOTIFICATION" email to all families for that level. The identity of the infected individual will be kept confidential in accordance with medical privacy laws.

2021-2022 Eligibility Criteria for In-Person Participation in IWA Classes, Events, Activities or Athletics

An important strategy for minimizing the risk of the spread of COVID-19 is a commitment to staying home when sick. Staff members, students, parents, and visitors are asked to self screen at home daily utilizing this eligibility criteria, prior to attending school classes, events, activities or athletics. **Individuals with probable or confirmed COVID-19, exposure to someone with COVID-19, or symptoms that may be COVID-19 should stay home, seek medical advice, and contact the school for more information.** Readmission criteria is outlined below. Thank you for helping us keep our school community healthy.

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>Do you have any (1) of the following new or worsening COVID-19 symptoms, not normal for self?</p> <p>Temperature of 100.0° F or more Loss of taste or smell Cough Difficulty breathing Chills Sore throat Body aches / Muscle Pain Vomiting or Diarrhea Headache or Fatigue Congestion or Runny Nose</p> | <p>Have you been diagnosed with probable or confirmed COVID-19 in the last 10 days?</p> | <p>Have you been in close contact with a test-confirmed COVID-19+ individual in the last 10 days?</p> <p>Household members are always considered close contacts. Parent discretion can be used to identify other close contacts based on being approximately within 6ft of a COVID 19+ individual for 15 minutes or more during the infectious period. The infectious period is defined as 2 days before the start of symptoms or 2 days before a positive COVID 19 test in asymptomatic individuals, and ends when the individual is medically cleared (5+ days with a negative test, or 10 days untested).</p> |
|--|--|---|



No

No

No

If **ALL** of the screening questions for eligibility can be answered no, the individual is eligible to participate in person today.



Yes

Yes

Yes

If **ANY (1)** of the screening questions is answered yes, the individual is not eligible to participate in-person today, until the corresponding readmission criteria has been met.

Individuals with 1 or more symptoms are encouraged to seek medical advice. The following criteria applies to individuals with symptoms, in the absence of known close contact. Due to substantial/high transmission rates in our region, readmission is permitted after the following:

After completion of a full 10 days from symptom onset

OR

Obtain a medical professional's note with clearance to return to school based on an alternate diagnosis

OR

Obtain a negative COVID-19 PCR or Rapid Antigen test

Individuals with probable or confirmed COVID-19 are encouraged to seek medical advice. Readmission is permitted after the following 3-step criteria has been met:

Fever free for at least 1 day (24 hours) without the use of fever-reducing medicine AND improvement in symptoms AND at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

OPTION TO SHORTEN:

May opt to return 5 days after the positive test. Must provide documentation of a negative COVID 19 PCR or Rapid Antigen test collected on or after day 5 AND feeling well with symptoms resolved AND fever free for 24+ hours without the use of fever reducing medicine, and with strong recommendation to wear a mask for the next 5 days.

Please always follow the advice of your medical provider if he/she recommends a longer isolation period.

Individuals with exposure to COVID-19 are encouraged to seek medical advice. Readmission is permitted after the following:

If the individual remains asymptomatic for the full 10 days from date of last contact he/she will be permitted to return.

If he/she became symptomatic during the quarantine period see column 2 for return to school following probable or confirmed COVID-19.

Asymptomatic individuals that have had test-confirmed COVID in the last 3 months OR have completed the primary 2 dose vaccine series in the last 6 months OR those that have been boosted with a 3rd dose will not be excluded from school for close contact exposure.

OPTION TO SHORTEN:

Exposed individuals may opt to return after completing 5 days from the date of last contact. Must remain asymptomatic all 5 days AND provide documentation of a negative COVID-19 PCR or Rapid Antigen test collected on or after day 5, and with strong recommendation to wear a mask for the next 5 days.

Consult with your pediatrician for advice regarding AAP guidance for youth returning to physical activity or sports after COVID-19 <https://bit.ly/3kbtziY>