



COUNTRYSIDE DAY SCHOOL

Health and Safety Re-Opening Plan

September 2, 2020

Countryside Day School's Mission:

The mission of Countryside Day School is to provide an education that assists students in developing the qualities of Respect, Responsibility, and Resourcefulness so they become great students and exceptional adults.

Dear Countryside Community,

We want to start by thanking you for all of your support, communications and efforts to work in partnership with Countryside's faculty, staff, and board of trustees as we navigated this difficult transition from a fully on-campus program to a fully remote one. We are proud of what we all accomplished thus far and our determination to sustain our strong sense of community and shared mission.

As we look ahead to the next phase of this endeavor, we want to share with you the process by which we have created the following plan. Our administrative team consulted relevant websites, attended webinars, consulted with medical health professionals and fellow independent schools. We followed guidelines, mandates, and recommendations from these organizations in addition to consultation with medical health professionals: CDC (Center for Disease Control), IDPH (Illinois Department of Public Health), ISBE (Illinois State Board of Education), Restore Illinois (from the Illinois Department of Commerce), NAIS (National Association of Independent Schools), ISACS (Independent Schools Association of the Central States), NBOA (National Business Officers Association), and LMAIS (Lake Michigan Association of Independent Schools). We then synthesized this information into a plan of action.

As we continue to plan, reassess, and respond to changing conditions in the greater community, we will edit and revise this document. You can expect continued communications about changes to on-campus learning, but there is every possibility that we will be faced with mandates to close school facilities again. We will be working to continue to reflect on our Distance Learning Program.

We want to thank you again for your partnership in navigating this incredibly challenging time. You have done so with great fortitude and grace. Any comments or questions you have can be sent to Director of Operations, Jim Aspinall, at jim@countrysideday.org or wendy@countrysideday.org.

Sincerely,

Wendy Calise
Head of School Chair

Allison Shank
Chair, Board of Trustees

On Campus and Distance Learning Considerations

Current Plans

Unless mandated by the State, or otherwise advised by health officials, Countryside Day School will open on September 8th for in-person, on campus learning. CDS will follow all CDC (Center for Disease Control), IDPH (Illinois Department of Public Health) and ISBE (Illinois State Board of Education) guidelines and protocols regarding class/cohort sizes and faculty/staff deployment across multiple classrooms as well as health and safety protocols and guidelines.

Covid exposure, infections, and seasonal illness screening of all individuals will follow CDC and IDPH protocols. The Illinois Department of Public Health will guide decisions regarding the closure of a classroom, an office, or the school.

This Reopening Plan is based on the most recent information and is a work in progress. It will evolve and adapt as new information is considered.

Possible Causes for Complete or Classroom Facility Closure

Countryside will move to a school wide distance learning program if mandated by the state or recommended by the CDC, IDPH, or Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH).

A move to a distance-learning program may also occur at the class or program level. Circumstances for a closure of this sort include, but are not limited to, a confirmed case of COVID-19 in a particular class and based on direction from a Department of Public Health.

Parent Partnership

Families and staff are asked to follow all protocols for out of school activities determined by the Cook County Department of Public Health including, but not limited to, wearing of masks, social distancing, gatherings, travel and quarantining. Parents are attesting that their students are illness/symptom free and have not been exposed to someone with COVID-19 by sending their children to school. If a child is going to be absent for any reason, parents are required to notify school of the reason for the absence. Parents are expected to follow the illness policy regarding a return to school. These protocols are necessary for us to protect the health and safety of all of our community members. We are counting on your partnership.

Illness at School

If a student becomes ill while at school, the student will be isolated in an area specially designated for this purpose and parents will be called. Prompt pick up will be required. Details about returning to school are defined in the Safeguard section of this document.

On Campus and Distance Learning Considerations

Hybrid Learning Program

Even as CDS returns to On Campus Learning, we do recognize that some families may require a Distance Learning Program if the student or an immediate family member is medically documented at high-risk for COVID related complications.

In addition, if a student is diagnosed with COVID-19 or lives with someone who is diagnosed with COVID-19, this student would be eligible to participate in the Hybrid Learning Program for their age group. A hybrid learning circumstance may also occur if a single cohort has to self-quarantine, leaving some classes on campus and others in remote learning mode.

Distance learning programs vary by level.

Full Distance Learning Program

If the school is required to close our facility by either a state mandate or a department of public health, CDS classes will move into our full distance learning programs which vary from program to program. Details to follow by mid-August. Students kindergarten and younger have the option to withdraw from school during this period or transition to the amended tuition schedule for remote learning.

Arrival and Dismissal

Arrival

All Year Programs: Students will enter through the office if they arrive before standard carpool time (8:20). Temperatures will be taken, after which parents will be cleared to depart. Parents can also arrive during morning carpools, 8:20 - 8:40, and drop off through the carpool line.

Toddler, PreK/K: Students will proceed through the carpool line (8:20-8:40) as in the past. Temperature checks will occur before the student(s) has left the vehicle.

Lower Elementary: Parents and students can arrive between 8:00 – 8:20 and enter Jena Hall office. Temperatures will be taken, after which parents will be cleared to depart. Parents can also arrive during morning carpools, 8:20 - 8:40, and drop off through the carpool line.

Upper Elementary and Middle School: Parents can arrive between 8:00 – 8:40 and wait in their cars while students have temperatures taken, after which parents will be cleared to depart.

On Campus and Distance Learning Considerations

Dismissal

All Year Programs: Parents should call five minutes before arrival and then come to the office door at Jena Hall. Students will be dismissed from the office.

Toddler and PreK/K: Carpools will be conducted as usual at 11:50 and 3:05. Children will be spaced out in the carpool room and the gymnasium to allow for separation of cohorts.

Lower Elementary: Carpools at Jena Hall will begin at 3:25 and end at 3:35.

Upper Elementary: Carpools at Middle School will begin at 3:25 and end at 3:35. Upper Elementary students in All Year Montessori will move to Jena Hall and occupy a designated space just for them in the Elementary Class for the remainder of the day in order to keep cohorts separate.

Middle School: Students can be picked up between 3:30 and 4:00 at Middle School. Please wait in cars, students will come out to parents.

On Campus Learning Details By Program

Program	Toddler	PreK/K & AYM	Elementary	Middle School
Class Size	10 - 12	up to 24 & 28	Lower El: 34 - 38 students – split in 2 groups, separate sides of elementary class; lunch, recess and phys ed in separate groups Upper El: 1 group 18 - 20 (now in Middle School Building)	10 - 12
Workspaces	Assigned individual work spaces	Assigned individual work spaces	Assigned individual work spaces	Assigned individual work spaces
Materials	Some individual material kits Students will wash hands before and after use of materials	Some individual material kits Students will wash hands before and after use of materials	Some individual material kits Students will wash hands before and after use of materials	Some individual material kits Students will wash hands before and after use of materials
Technology			Use of class laptops, disinfected after each use.	School issued 1:1 laptops
Lunch (no hot lunch program offered)	In class	In class	In class	In class
Recess	Toddler Playgrounds	Rotated and zoned playground use	Rotated and zoned playground use	Rotated and zoned playground use
Physical Education	In playgrounds or gym daily	In playground or gym daily	In playground or gym daily	Outdoor play and guided exercise
Art	Taught by class-room teacher	Taught by class-room teacher	In class 2x per week	At Middle School weekly
Music	Taught by class-room teacher	Taught by class-room teacher	In class 2x per week	At Middle School weekly
Spanish	Immersion	In class daily	In class daily	In class 3x per week

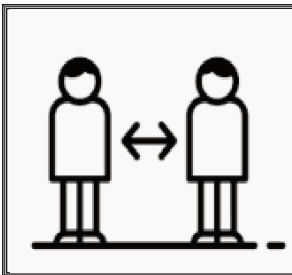
Note: No After School Enrichment programs will be offered at this time.

Health and Safety Procedures

The plans and protocols in this document have been carefully considered to address and promote the safety, health and welfare of our entire school community. The community health guidelines and policies are subject to change as new information becomes available. Procedures to protect the health and safety of the Countryside community fall into three main categories:



Safeguard



Social Distance



Sanitize

Safeguard

Parents are attesting that their students are illness/symptom free by sending them to school and by answering NO to all of the following:

Covid Symptom Checklist



Do you have a fever (temperature equal to or greater than 100.4 without taking fever reducing medication)?



Are you experiencing shortness of breath or difficulty breathing?



Do you have a cough and/or runny nose? Do you have the chills?



Have you lost your sense of smell or taste? Do you have a headache?



Do you have a sore throat? Do you have muscle aches?



Have you experienced any GI symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or loss of appetite?



Have you been asked to self-isolate or instructed to quarantine by a medical professional or local health department official?



Have you been in close contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or been placed on quarantine for possible contact with COVID-19?



Are you experiencing fatigue?

Safeguard

All staff/faculty and students are expected to follow the sick policy and stay home if they are exhibiting any signs of illness. If symptoms arise during the school day, the individual will be isolated and sent home promptly. Siblings will also need to go home and can return to school at the same time as their sibling is cleared for return (unless they develop symptoms, in which case they must follow the same return to school protocol).

* If the student has symptoms of COVID-19 and it is subsequently determined by a medical provider that the individual likely does not have COVID-19 infection, the student can return to school if the following is met:

- Symptoms have improved.
 - No fever for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication (a fever is a temperature greater than 100.4F)
- And
- Tests negative for COVID-19.
- Or
- A note from a medical provider documenting no clinical suspicion of COVID-19 infection.

* If a student has been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, s/he must quarantine at home for 14 days from the date of close contact. Student can return to school after 14 days if:

- S/he has a negative Covid test .
- And
- Symptoms have improved.

* If we are notified of a positive case of COVID-19 within the school by a parent or staff member, our first call will be to the Cook County Department of Public Health and/or Illinois Department of Public Health for direction. We will notify the school community via email. Families will also be notified via email of any known COVID-19 direct exposure of their child.

* If someone in our community has tested positive for COVID-19, they should be advised by the IDPH or their healthcare provider and instructed as to when they will be released from isolation.

* If a student tests positive for COVID-19, s/he can return to school when all three of the following are met:

- No fever for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication (a fever is a temperature greater than 100.4F).
- Symptoms, including cough, have improved.
- It has been at least 10 days since the onset of the illness.

These protocols will also be followed by CDS faculty and staff.

Safeguard



All adults who enter the school beyond lobbies and vestibules will be asked if they are illness/symptom free and temperatures will be taken upon arrival. Parents are attesting that their students are illness/symptom free and have not been exposed to someone with COVID-19 by sending their children to school.



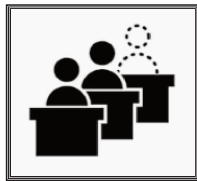
All Countryside employees will wear a facemask while in shared spaces on campus. Students must wear facemasks while inside, and while they are outside if they are unable to maintain social distancing, as much as is feasible. Toddlers: children under 2 years of age cannot wear masks. Children 2 years old can wear masks at the discretion of their parents.



Students will be provided with a set of individual supplies when appropriate.



The school staff will teach and reinforce proper handwashing techniques and covering of coughs and sneezes among students and staff.



The school will monitor absenteeism to identify any illness trends amongst the students and staff.



Signage regarding signs and symptoms of COVID-19, proper handwashing, respiratory etiquette, and social distancing will be placed around the school.



Any individual exhibiting signs of illness during the day will be isolated and sent home.

Social Distance

All staff and students will practice feasible, modified social distancing.



Visitors will be restricted to those that are essential and will be asked to wear a mask, answer health screening questions indicating that they are illness/symptom free, and have their temperatures taken upon arrival.



No field trips until it is deemed safe for the students to travel into the community.



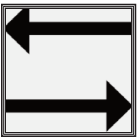
Interaction between student cohorts will be restricted as feasible. This means that students grouped together with their primary instruction teacher will not mix with other groups of students. This will minimize the number of students that any student is exposed to.



Zones will be defined for outdoor play and/or playground use and will be staggered to limit mixing of cohorts. Use of indoor gym will also be staggered to limit mixing of cohorts.



Students will be assigned “home table” work spaces, distanced 5’ - 6’ apart, that will be theirs exclusively. Moving around the classroom will be monitored to reduce interaction among students as much as is feasible.



Circulation of common spaces will have arrows to direct individuals to stay on one side or the other to maintain social distance as much as is feasible while moving throughout the school.



Large community gatherings are being reimagined.



Staff breaks and other gathering times will have proper procedures and protocols.



Food Service: At this time, we will not be reinstating our Hot Lunch Program. This is not necessarily a permanent decision. Students need to bring their own lunches with juice boxes, or equivalent, **that do not need heating or refrigeration**. Social distancing during mealtimes will still be practiced as feasible.



Breakfast (AYM only) and snacks will be provided for students. These foods will be served in individual portions. Students will not prepare foods nor will they serve any. Teachers will distribute food to students. Social distancing during mealtimes will still be practiced as feasible.



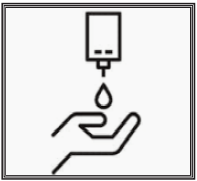
Water Bottles: All students should bring their own well-labeled water bottles that they will keep at their tables.

Sanitize

High touch areas of the building will be wiped down periodically throughout the day and the school will be deep cleaned every weekend.



Adequate supplies will be provided for proper hand hygiene (soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes and spray).



Hand sanitizer stations will be placed at all building entrances and be appropriately placed in all classrooms. Use of hand sanitizer by children in Toddler and PreK/K will be monitored by an adult. Hand washing is still recommended as the best way to prevent illness.



All desks/tables/chairs classrooms will be disinfected by the staff throughout (as feasible) and at the end of each day. All disinfectant is approved by the CDC for fighting COVID.

Sanitize

Hand hygiene education will be provided.

- All students will be taught proper hand washing techniques. Ongoing hygiene will be consistently reinforced.
- Hand hygiene (hand washing for 20 seconds with soap and water if available or use of hand sanitizer) will be expected when entering a building, changing your environment, after using the bathroom, and before and after eating.
- Teachers will build time into their class schedule to teach and enforce proper hand hygiene.

Respiratory etiquette education will be provided.

Practices include:

- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.
- Use tissues and throw them away after one use.
- Wash your hands or use a hand sanitizer every time you touch your mouth or nose.

THIS PLAN IS BASED ON THE MOST RECENT INFORMATION.
ANY UPDATES OR CHANGES WILL BE PUBLISHED AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE.
COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING THE HEALTH & SAFETY PLAN AND RE-OPENING PLANS
WILL BE SENT PERIODICALLY THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER.

UPDATES ARE SENT VIA EMAIL.