

HEALTH & WELLNESS PROTOCOLS

2021-2022 School Year



REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL
Home of the Bears

“The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.” – Psalm 18:2-3

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Redeemer Lutheran School, Englewood, Florida

2021–2022 School Year

I. ENSURING THE SAFETY AND WELLNESS OF STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS

As Redeemer Lutheran School reopens, there will be a number of procedures in place to ensure the safety and welfare of all students, teachers, administrators, parents, their families, as well as the community. The intent of these protocols is to ensure high-quality instruction, and to do our part to prevent the spread of COVID-19, as well as address and support wellness for all who enter any one of the three (3) Redeemer campus buildings (Church, School, and Child Care).

II. HEALTH AND WELLNESS

All students, teachers, administrators, and visitors at any campus building must be in good health in order to be on campus. Anyone exhibiting any COVID-19 like symptoms should stay home and consult their health care provider to make a plan for a safe return to Redeemer Lutheran School. The School Administrator or office administrator needs to be contacted via telephone if any student has contracted COVID-19. While attendance at school is critical for the success of students, no one should come to the Redeemer campus if they are unwell or exhibiting any COVID-19 like symptoms. This is crucial in order for us to prevent the spread of the virus.

III. STUDENT, EMPLOYEE AND VISITOR SCREENING

Students, teacher, administrators, and visitors will be screened to affirm their wellness each day prior to entering any campus buildings. Parents/Guardians are asked to assess their child's health (things to look for are listed in the next section), as well as check their temperature before leaving home in order to prevent an unfortunate return home from school.

IV. SCREENING QUESTIONS

Before entering any campus buildings all individuals will have their wellness assessed with the following questions:

1. Have you experienced any of these symptoms, not associated with previously diagnosed conditions, in the past 72 hours:
 - Fever of 100.4 or higher/chills,
 - Cough/shortness of breath,
 - New change to or loss of taste or smell,
 - Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea, or
 - Experienced multiple symptoms.
 - Always check the CDC Website for the most updated list of symptoms.

2. In the last 14 days, have you:

- been in close contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19;
- been placed on quarantine for possible contact with COVID-19;
- traveled abroad or to an area of the country where it is recommended that you self-quarantine;
- had a COVID-19 test pending?

If anyone (student, teacher, administrator, or visitor) shows any symptoms or conditions it is extremely important that they not enter any of Redeemer's buildings and it is recommended that they contact their healthcare provider for guidance.

At various times during the school day, such as before lunch or leaving for a field trip, teachers will do an informal wellness check with students to ensure all students and teachers are feeling healthy, well and wise through the course of the day.

V. SOCIAL DISTANCING AND PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

The School Board recognizes that there are differing opinions and guidance on the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), which includes the sensitive issue of masks/face coverings, worn by school-age children. It is also important to note that science is not in agreement with itself. In determining these protocols, the School Board, in consultation with the Administrator and teachers, decided not to mandate masks/face coverings. However, if a teacher, administrator desires to wear a mask/face covering, they are free to do so. If a parent instructs their child to wear a mask/face covering during the course of the school day, teachers and administrators will support the parent's requirements of their child. The School Board believes and supports God's Fourth Commandment to "Honor your father and your mother." Therefore, it is important that parents notify the School Administrator of their request to have their child wear a mask/face covering throughout the school day. At the request of students or staff, the School Board will provide cloth masks at the beginning of the year. However, the School Board encourages Parents/Guardians to provide the mask/face covering which will best fit their child's needs. Buffs and gaiters are acceptable types of face coverings. However, inappropriate words, phrases or symbols on masks/face coverings (including buffs or gaiters), are strictly prohibited. Masks/face coverings should have the student's name written in permanent ink on them to avoid cross contamination. The School Board believes face shields possess a potential hazard and therefore are prohibited to be worn at any time at Redeemer.

As we have grown to know, a school, by design, has numerous opportunities for socialization. Unfortunately, social distancing is not always possible throughout the school day. All students, teachers and administrators, will be encouraged to practice social distancing. The School Board understands that social distancing may not be possible when traveling on a field trip. Given the space and time restrictions of transportation on a van or bus, masks/face coverings will be encouraged to be worn by students and teachers when entering onto a school van or bus.

Redeemer Lutheran School will provide hand sanitizer throughout the classrooms for everyone's use. Students may be allowed to carry personal hand sanitizer as long as the bottle meets CDC safety requirements and is supplied in a container no larger than 3 ounces. The

bottle must have the student's name written on it and must be unaltered and in its original container.

Classroom set-ups will be arranged to maximize space and increase social distancing between students to the greatest extent achievable. The sharing of instructional materials or other objects (e.g., pencils, supplies, etc.) will be minimized to the best possible measure.

All students must bring each school day a no-spill water bottle with their name written on it. Disposable water bottles are prohibited. Please no metal water bottles. For the time being, there will be absolutely no direct drinking from the water fountain. The use of the water fountain will ONLY be used to refill water bottles.

VI. VISITORS, VOLUNTEERS, AND APPROVED OUTSIDE VENDORS OR AGENCIES

In order to limit exposure for students and staff, the School Board may limit campus and facility visits by any nonessential visitors, community organizations, businesses, municipal partners, and speakers. Essential visitors are defined as those with business critical to the operation of the school (e.g., contractors, vendors, representatives of the Department of Health, etc.). Essential visitors also include Board approved outside agencies which provide health related services to students (mental health counseling, etc.). All individuals entering a school building must follow the protocols outlined below.

- All individuals, before entering any building on campus, will undergo a temperature check and general health questionnaire.
- All individuals must be approved by the office administrator or the school administrator before entering any building on campus.
- All individuals will practice social distancing and will be encouraged to wear a mask/face covering when in the presence of students, teachers and administrators.

VII. PROCESS SHOULD A STUDENT, TEACHER OR ADMINISTRATOR BECOME UNWELL AT SCHOOL

Any student feeling unwell or exhibiting any COVID-19 like symptoms (*page 1*), by a teacher or administrator will be sent to the school office to undergo a temperature check and may be asked some health check questions in order to help assess the student's health condition. Students who exhibit COVID-19 like symptoms will have a parent contacted and sent home. Parents will be advised to consult their health care doctor for further professional care. If a student is tested and the result of the test is positive for COVID-19, the student will unfortunately be excluded from school until they meet CDC Guidelines in order for a safe and healthy return to school.

Any teacher or administrator feeling unwell or exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms will go to the school office to have their temperature checked and may also be asked some health check questions in order to assess their health condition. Teachers or administrators who exhibit COVID-19 like symptom will be excused from the Redeemer campus and advised to consult their health care doctor for further medical care. If they are tested and the result is positive for COVID-19, they will unfortunately be excluded from entering onto the Redeemer campus until they meet CDC Guidelines for a safe and healthy return to Redeemer.

When a student, teacher or administrator contracts COVID-19 and is confirmed with a positive test result, all other parents will need to keep a careful watch for COVID-19 like symptoms of their students. Likewise, teachers and administrators not infected but were in direct contact with the individual who contracted the virus, should also be alert of any COVID-19 like symptoms they might experience. (*See section IV. I.*)

It is important to note, that students, teachers and administrators who were isolated or quarantined can return to Redeemer Lutheran School, with or without a negative test result, when their entire household is symptom-free for 24 hours.

VIII. FIELD TRIPS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Field trips or trips to scheduled activities occurring during the school day will be managed in a responsible fashion, keeping the health and welfare of students and teachers at the highest level. Parents will be notified as soon as possible in the event a field trip or other scheduled activity is canceled due to circumstances beyond our ability.

IX. PARENT ACTIVITIES

Parent/Teacher Meetings, Open Houses etc., will be planned and organized with the health and wellness of everyone in mind. Parents/guardians will be allowed to attend activities but must follow all health protocols. Parents have the option to attend a parent conference virtually, but must be scheduled within a reasonable time with both teachers and parents.

X. WELLNESS PROCEDURE EDUCATION FOR THE ENTIRE REDEEMER COMMUNITY

To ensure all students, families, teachers, administrators, and visitors understand the health and wellness protocols implemented by Redeemer Lutheran School Board, communications will be shared prior to the beginning of the 2020-2021 School Year. These protocols will be posted on the school website, <https://www.redeemerfl-school.com/>. Age-appropriate information on what COVID-19 is and what we can do to stay healthy (e.g., handwashing, social distancing) will be shared with students, teachers and administrators. Signage will be placed throughout the school reminding students, teachers, and visitors to wash hands frequently and thoroughly.

XI. INVESTIGATION OF POTENTIAL AND/OR CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES

Case investigation and contact tracing are said to be effective tools to slow the spread of COVID-19 in a community. All investigations and contact tracing are led by the Department of Health of Charlotte County (DOH). As investigations of this nature include personal medical information and health data, much of the information is private and protected by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and other applicable state and federal regulations. Redeemer Lutheran School must abide by HIPAA laws. Therefore, medical information will not be disclosed to any person within or outside of the Redeemer community. The process below outlines the steps that will be taken for each potential or confirmed case as well as the type of communication that will occur.

XII. CASE(S) REPORTED AT SCHOOL

The School Board encourages that any student or employee who has a confirmed case or has been recommended for quarantine/isolation by the Department of Health or medical

professional report this to your school administrator. While Redeemer Lutheran School will most likely be made aware of cases by the DOH, support from our families, teachers and administrators to self-report will assist the School Board in taking the steps in an expedited manner in order to ensure a safe and healthy educational environment.

1. The school administrator, in conjunction with the office administrator and teachers, will report potential exposure or reported confirmed case(s) to the School Board to determine whether individuals, the entire school, including teachers and administrators, need to isolate or quarantine. Personal information will not be disclosed, only the circumstances related to the situation. Questions may include:
 - a. Documentation/confirmation of positive testing.
 - b. Symptoms exhibited.
 - c. Last day present at school or in any of Redeemer campus buildings.
 - d. Individuals or groups of people who had close, prolonged contact.
2. Based on the responses to the questions above, the School Board, in consultation with the School Administrator will determine if the need exists to isolate/quarantine which includes:
 - a. Persons who self-report a positive test, or a parental report of a positive test of their student.
 - b. In general, household members and individuals who had close contact for a prolonged period of time.
3. All confirmed cases will be handled in accordance with CDC guidelines.
4. Any school closure decisions will be made by the School Board with the counsel of the School Administrator.

XIII. GENERAL COMMUNICATION

The School Board will continue to provide regular updates of health-related issues in the following ways:

- If there is a confirmed COVID-19 case involving a student, teacher or administrator at school, families and staff will receive a telephone call and/or an information letter from the Department of Health. Due to HIPAA regulations, all identifiable information of the student, teacher and administrator will remain confidential.
- All general health related information will be continuously updated on the school webpage located at: <https://www.redeemerfl-school.com/>
- It is the intention of the School Board to keep in-person education continuous throughout the entire 2020-2021 School Year. If the need for a closure arises, this information will be shared using the following methods:
 - A phone call, text and email to all families, teachers and administrators;
 - Post on School website homepage;
 - Post on all School social media; and
 - Media alert distributed to all local media outlets.

XIV. COVID-19 RELEASE AND WAIVER OF CLAIMS ADDENDUM

In consultation with legal counsel, the School Board requests all parents to read, sign and return the letter of release and waiver of claims to the school office.