

UPDATED
21/01/02



INTRODUCTION

Since June 19, 2020, the Ontario government released its safety plan for reopening the 2020-21 school year and we have been successfully executing it, modifying as needed for our unique situation at Signet Christian. At this juncture we will be reopening again with IN PERSON LEARNING, on campus a little later than planned because of lockdowns imposed on all Toronto schools. Your teacher will connect with you with remote learning, so you won't be behind.

This is an updated revision of our Reopening Plan. It will be an introduction to all new students and will remind current local and International students of our protocols for entry and classroom life. It outlines scenarios for students, teachers and staff and what to expect in your classrooms in January.

The Ontario Government's approach to reopening schools for the 2020-21 school year provides the basis for the Signet Christian and we congratulate each family because they helped us flow smoothly into the change. Now midway through the year we will be adding more international students whose borders are now open. We also consulted our Association for Christian School International and adopted best practices amongst our sister schools.

This is not a final version as it is a working document and we may have to make changes based on safety of students and teachers.

This Signet Christian Safety School Plan has been developed with these considerations in mind:

We are

STUDENT CENTRED

Our plan provides a safe, nurturing environment by balancing the risk of direct infection and transmission of COVID-19 with the impact of school closures on our students' physical, mental, and spiritual health. Current evidence supports the notion that children can enter and thrive in school in a carefully structured manner that protects their health and minimizes risks from a public health perspective.

We celebrate our

PARENTS AS PARTNERS

Our plan provides students with valuable in-person learning and provides our parents with the opportunity to return to work without requiring daycare services for their children on alternate days or weeks. ***All International parents and guardians, check in to the school office for new protocol for entry into Canada and quarantine before entry into school.***

We are proud of our

DIVERSE CURRICULUM

Our plan facilitates the delivery of our diverse curriculum that will continue to challenge each student to reach his or her God-given potential. Our teachers are committed to meeting provincial expectations outlined in the models below and providing instruction that continues to incorporate our Christian values and solid faith, especially in these times.



TWO KEY ASPECTS OF HEALTH ADVICE

As we plan to safely reopen our school, we are drawing on two key aspects of health advice: “social distancing” and “cohorting”.

1. “Social Distancing” refers to the practice of avoiding close personal contact with other individuals and maintaining 2 metres of separation for any prolonged encounters.
2. “Cohorting” refers to minimizing the number of students and teachers any individual comes in contact with and to maintaining consistency in those contacts as much as possible.

THREE LEARNING SCENARIOS

Based on the two aspects of health advice listed above, Signet Christian will be prepared to offer the following three scenarios during the 2020-21 school year:

1. OUR PREFERRED CHOICE -Adapted in-person learning.

Based on public health advice, an adapted delivery model has been designed to allow for physical distancing and cohorts of children. Under this model, we will maintain a limited number of students per cohort-floor approx 2 classes (approximately 15) at one time and will adopt timetabling that allows our students to remain in contact only with their classmates and a grade teacher for as much of the day as possible. Daily lessons will be delivered in- person learning. Simultaneous in-person and online education will not be available. If a student must remain at home due to illness, daily assignments will be provided by the classroom teacher.

2. At home learning

Whenever the Government of Ontario issues another closure order to all private schools we will be prepared to transition quickly to remote education using a Signet At Home plan. This will be in place in January 2021 as specified.

3. Former in-person learning.

Though we will never move back to an old format of school without some safety protocols we do pray for a time when this pandemic will be passed. When the Government of Ontario determines it is safe to return to a NORMAL school order because there is no need for special safety measures then we will resume our Former in-person learning. Returning to our original school means an increase of some class sizes due to changes in social distancing requirements.



CLASSROOM ON CAMPUS

The chart below outlines anticipated classes and cohorts with in-person learning. The Adapted In-Person model for Elementary will require 9 classrooms which for us is 4 double rooms and 1 kindergarten room. The gymnasium and other spaces can be booked for conversion into learning spaces.

Please Note: Signet Christian School will not offer synchronous learning (simultaneous in-person at the same time as online education). So if campus classes are open, online learning will not be available at Signet.

ADAPTED IN-PERSON MODEL

Classes	Cohort	Grade Teacher	Monitor
JK/SK	1st Floor	D. Elder	TBA
1/2	2nd Floor	D. Cecil	TBA
3/4	2nd Floor	E. MacNeil	TBA
5/6	3rd Floor	M. Richards	TBA
7/8	3rd Floor	B. Sadler	TBA
High School	TBA – For all High School information contact cdume@signetschool.ca		



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Teacher Rotation

The most important highlight of the Adapted In-Person Model is the opportunity for students to attend school every day. Classroom timetables will be adapted slightly to allow, to the greatest extent practical, for students to remain in contact with only the teachers on their cohort-floor. So classmates and the same 2 teachers for as much of the school day as possible. Subjects including french, art, music and physical education will be taught by classroom teachers and a single dedicated rotating teachers (TBA). Band and Choral Singing cannot be offered this year.

Sports and Extracurricular Activities

Announcements concerning the availability of sports and extracurricular activities will be made as more information becomes available. As a member of the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and dependent on the decisions made in conjunction with input from our local public health unit.

Before and After Care Program

Our Before and After School program will be offered based on the needs and demand of our families. The goal of the program is to support families that require additional child care that matches their specific scheduling needs. Children will be protected by using designated child care spaces in the school that strictly follow all cleaning and sanitation protocols.

Support for Students with Special Needs

Although our Special Education Resource program will be active continuing IEPs and directing the individual needs of our students, one-on-one support during the school day will be provided within the classroom. Smaller class sizes will provide our classroom teachers with more one-on-one instructional opportunities for everyone. Resource Room will not be offered for the duration of our adapted in-person model. Classroom teachers will continue to respond when intervention is required.



HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The document provided by the Ontario Government provides helpful information and suggestions for private schools. By its own admission, it is not intended to take the place of medical advice, diagnosis, treatment or legal advice. In the event of any conflict between the document provided by the Ontario Government or our own Signet Christian Safety School Plan and any orders or directives issued by the Minister of Health or the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH), we will ensure that the order or directive is followed. To support our Plan, we will implement protocols to provide for the health and safety of students, families and staff by:

- Following all existing worker health and safety requirements, as outlined in the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) and its regulations;
- Following any further direction given by the local medical officer of health;
- Cultivating a working relationship with our local public health unit as we navigate the complex and evolving COVID-19 pandemic environment, planning and reopening schools, and addressing other child health issues that emerge;
- Providing additional training/refresher learning of school staff that includes health and safety protocols;
- Providing clear, age-appropriate communication about COVID-19, including what the school is doing to protect our students and how we will prevent the spread of respiratory infections, as well as what parents can do at home (e.g. reinforce hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, physical distancing, environmental cleaning and increased reassurance).



COHORTING

The purpose of cohorting is to limit the mixing of students, so that if a child or teacher develops infection, the number of exposures is significantly reduced. Classes are cohorted, grouping approximately 15 - 20 students particularly for the younger age groups, so that students stay with the same grouping, and there are limited interactions between cohorts. This model recognizes that for younger children, closer interaction, such as playing and socializing, is central to child development. Although close contact may be unavoidable between members of a cohort, general infection prevention and control practices, as well as physical distancing in older grades, will be maintained where possible. Protocols have been working to prevent mixing of cohorts in washrooms, and shared surfaces are cleaned and disinfected frequently.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

The purpose of physical distancing is to encourage our students, cohorts, staff and essential visitors to maintain at least 2 meters of separation. The school's physical environment has been re-oriented to support physical distancing since individual-level behavioural measures are impractical, particularly for younger students.

Classrooms

When children are in the classroom, efforts have been carried out to arrange the classroom furniture to leave as much space as possible between students. Smaller class sizes will aid in physical distancing. If weather permits, consideration will be given to having classes outside.

Adjustments to Movement Throughout the School

Designated routes for students to get to and from classrooms, including separate entrance points for students in different grades have been created. Visual cues, such as tape on floors or sidewalks and signs on hallways, to guide appropriate distances in lines have been set in place and are followed. Movement of students around the school has been staggered to discourage students from congregating in the hallways.

Drop-off/Pick-up

Drop-off and pick-up procedures have been set to discourage congregating at school entrances. Parents have been given screening checklists and office staff receive these at the gate as they enter. Temperature checks are sometimes carried out at the gate when needed. A child may not enter without being checked. In light of this opening times have been revisited to discourage congregating at school entrances and reduce the amount of time children are in the playground and before school. Drop-off and pick-up of students will take place outside the school.

Weekly Assemblies/Chapels

Large gatherings of over 50 are cancelled for the immediate future. Alternately, the Gym has been set with regard to social distancing to fill all our students and teachers

Outdoor Activities/Recess

During outdoor activities such as recess, physical distancing will not be required and masks breaks are allowed for students running around. Sports and physical education classes have been taking place with consideration to safety protocols.

Lunch Breaks

Students enjoy their lunches in their classrooms with their cohort to ensure chances of contact and transmission are minimized. Break and lunch times staggered to allow students to wash their hands before eating, without creating congestion in the washrooms. If weather permits, consideration will be given to having lunch breaks outside.

Eating and Drinking at School

Students and staff will perform proper hand hygiene before and after eating. Students bring their own labelled drink bottles, and they will keep them during the day and will not share. Water bottles will be filled frequently, and the water fountain will be unavailable for student use. Students carry their own individual meal or snack with no common food items. "No food sharing" policies are reinforced and physical distancing is maintained while students are eating. The Friday Pizza Lunch program has been suspended until further notice and changes in safety protocols.

Prohibiting non-essential visitors

The number of parents, volunteers, guests and other individuals inside the school will be limited and guests for tours are asked to come after dismissal. Families are encouraged to interact with teachers using email, telephone and video conferencing, where possible, rather than in person.

Student Screening

Parents complete their child's checklist in the mornings before arriving at school. School personnel then perform a daily check of this screening for their children to enter before arriving at school.

Staff Screening

Self-assessment tools are also made available to staff daily to ensure awareness of possible symptoms of COVID-19. Staff who suspect they may have symptoms will be required to stay home and seek testing.

Signage and Monitoring

Signs have been posted at the entrances of the school to remind students, staff, parents or essential visitors of applicable protocols. Teachers and staff members will identify signs and symptoms of COVID-19 in children so that appropriate action can be taken if children develop symptoms during the day. Students, in particular, will be monitored for atypical symptoms and signs of COVID-19. Due to the range of symptoms for COVID-19 and the evolving understanding of the disease, a low threshold for symptoms will be used.

Screening/Self-Assessment

Strict exclusion policies will be in place for symptomatic students and staff. Staff and students will be educated not to come to school if they are symptomatic or ill or if someone they have come in close contact with, including within their household, is ill with suspected or positive COVID-19 in the last 14 days.

**** N.B. after testing negative and symptom free, all local and especially international students must prove a suitable isolation plan ensuring they will not be staying with vulnerable populations or living in a communal or group setting and will have access to the necessities of life.**

Age-appropriate Language

Teachers and staff will use age-appropriate and non-stigmatizing language to identify symptoms of COVID-19 and will encourage students to speak to a staff member immediately if they are experiencing symptoms.

Records

The school keep daily records of anyone (e.g. students, parents, staff, essential visitors) entering the school setting. Records, including name, contact information, time of arrival/departure, screening completion are kept up to date and available to facilitate contact tracing in the event of a confirmed COVID-19 case or outbreak. School principals are mandated to report infectious diseases under the Health Protection and Promotion Act. Principals inform local public health units (PHUs), and PHUs recommend closure, provide notices, or make other recommendations, such as additional testing, self-isolation, cleaning advice. Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces and shared resources such as doorknobs, light switches, toilet and faucet handles, electronic devices, students' chairs and desk tops at least twice a day to protect against contamination;

Following public health advice regarding the type of cleaning and disinfectant products to use; Following the manufacturer's instructions including guidance with respect to the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Suspected Cases

When a suspected case of COVID-19 is identified, we will work closely with our local PHU around steps to take including notifying parents that their child has begun to show symptoms of COVID-19 while at school and isolating the student in a safe area for immediate pick-up. In addition, where possible, anyone who is providing care to the student will maintain a distance of at least 2 metres.

*****N.B SCS will support international students and any immediate family after they complete their 14-day quarantine period. This includes: mental and physical health, anti-racism, and COVID-19 stigma supports; and mitigation of social barriers to support compliance with individual COVID-19 infection control practices.**

If a staff member develops COVID-19 symptoms, they are sent home and asked to self-isolate immediately. If they cannot leave immediately, the staff member will be isolated in a specific place until they are able to leave.

Cleaning and Hygiene

Additional cleaning protocols will be implemented. These will include:

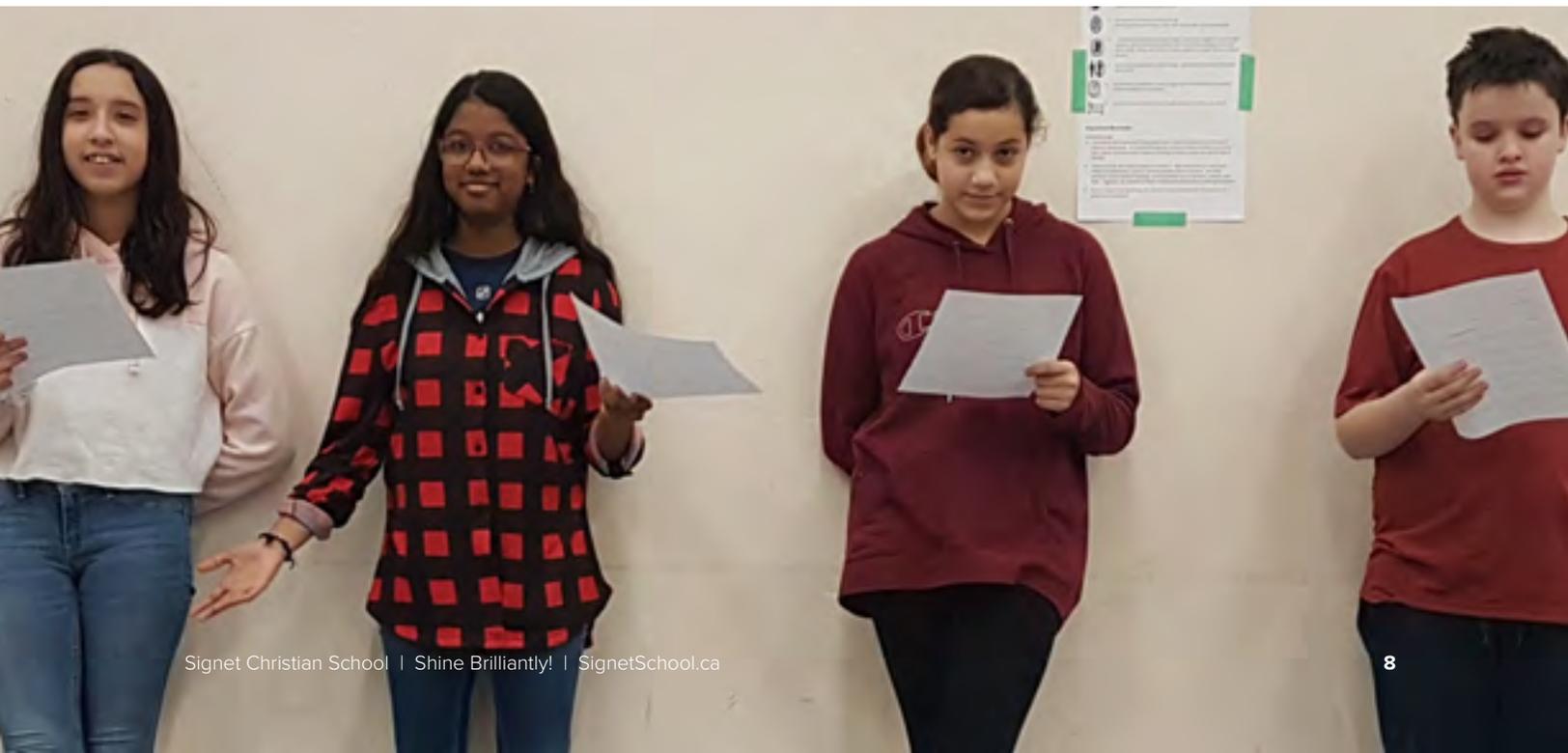
- In a school setting, there are groups of employees whose regular job duties mean physical distancing is not possible e.g. those who work in close proximity to perform their regular job duties). For such cases, PPE has been provided. Teachers may choose to wear non-medical masks on a voluntary basis. If workers choose to wear non-medical masks, they must be reminded that this is not an appropriate substitute for physical distancing in the school. Teachers have been trained on the care, use and limitations of any PPE that they use.
- It is recognized that parents may choose to send a cloth mask to school for their children to wear. In such cases, parents would be responsible for the safe use/compliance during the school day and the cleanliness of the mask.
- Staff and essential visitors may also choose to wear a mask and would be responsible for safe use and cleanliness of the mask and proper disposal.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

In keeping with public health advice, the Signet Christian Safety School Plan and adapted delivery model has been designed to allow for physical distancing and cohorting to the best extent possible. As such, in a classroom where a teacher is able to remain in the front of the class and maintain 2 metres of distance, PPE is not required.

CONCLUSION

Times have made us all resilient and full of courage. Our children and teens have been adapting well and are teaching us that change is inevitable but that we can ride it through together and still grow and thrive. Thank you to the current parents who have made it easy for our staff to get through the first term together, beating this pandemic. So for all new readers, we truly appreciate that you have taken the time to carefully read over this document. We are committed to partnering with our parents, and we encourage you to contact us if you have suggestions or comments about the plan. Please understand that this is the second version and revision of our Safe Reopening Plan (Sept 2020) and that we will continue to be open to you in case there are any questions or concerns. Subsequent versions and protocols will be shared when they are available.



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*Formerly known as Scarborough Christian Academy.
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