

Welcoming Our Students Back September 2020 Plan Morweena Christian School

Original August 17, 2020
Rev 1 August 20, 2020
Rev 2, August 26, 2020

“Maximizing in-class learning while maintaining a focus on safety and reducing the risk of transmission is the goal of the upcoming school year”.

MCS has put in place a Covid-Response team which will ensure that the agreed-upon response-to-Covid19 measures will be implemented with respect, consistency and efficiency. Some of these measures are mentioned in this document, but the Response Team has a more detailed list of measures various parties such as secretary, janitors, and teachers will take. The Response Plan will be part of Staff Orientation Days in early September, the Parent Teacher Meeting on September 3 and on the agenda of weekly staff meetings as needed.

Covid19 is a real health risk. This risk brings uncertainty for all and anxiety for some. MCS is in the habit of sensing and addressing this and other mental well-being issues in the following ways. MCS staff stays in touch with parents through many unscheduled visits at the beginning and end of each school day as parents drop off and pick up students. It is common for parents to drop in at school for a quick or longer chat with any staff members before or after school. All staff members are available on email each day. Students’ mental well-being is looked after each day by staff members who are in the daily habit of offering many brief or longer conversations. Our small classes and mature staff members lend themselves to frequent interactions of hope, assurance, care and guidance. It is common practice to have staff members be in touch with students and or parents in-person, by phone, or digitally to give assurance, hope and guidance.

Information about Covid19 and any other topic is communicated in the following ways.

Signage of exclusion from the building is posted at all entrances of our buildings.

Innumerable conversations are simply part of each school day. Staff members hold smaller-group and larger-group assemblies which among other things, give information. Notes home from teachers are common. General emails to all homes are common. Parent Teacher Meetings are very well attended. All Board Members are School parents. Parent Advisory Counsel is active and helpful with sharing information. MCS staff, Board, and PAC have members who speak all the languages that parents speak. It is common to assign certain people to communicate with certain homes, so as to assure communication in the preferred language of the parent. Our school secretary is aware of which homes do not have wifi and do not receive school mailings. She sends paper copies of news bulletins to these homes.

1. Attendance and Participation

All students are expected to participate fully, even when remote learning is required. Students will be assessed on their work, reflective of their performance and learning. MCS will ensure that all students who are participating in remote learning have access to technology.

Students who are medically advised to stay home or have symptoms-of-concern will be served by the school with remote learning options.

2. Physical Distancing

Students will be seated in classes in such a manner that 1-2 meters of distance can be maintained.

Cohorts within the School will be such that mixing between K-5, 6-8, and 9-12 during the school day will be minimal.

High traffic areas such as locker locations, main doors, washrooms and lunch rooms will be supervised so as to reduce congestion. Staggering of recesses may be necessary.

As weather allows, outdoor options for things like lunchtimes, cohort assemblies and recess times will be maximized.

MCS has made arrangements to use the Basement Room and MPR to ensure larger spaces for classes. As needed, groups will be able to use the dining room in the church next door for instructional space and/ or cohort assemblies.

3. Blended learning

We plan on running classes with students in the classroom in as normal a manner as possible. With the increased possibility of student absenteeism and possible full-scale closure of classes, teachers will prepare lessons in such a way that students will be able to learn remotely. Instruction, support and assessment will be available to all students as needed. Project based learning will likely increase as an option for various courses.

4. Recovery Learning

MCS has very few students who will require significant Recovery Learning. For the few cases that come forward, teachers will prepare, present and assess the recovery work. For students this may require extra effort during recess or homework.

5. Specialty Programming

At MCS some extra courses are taught outdoors, so physical distancing should be possible for a course like Boat-building. MCS does very little by way of travelling to sports or music events. The travelling which is common in MCS is mostly community service based. MCS is prepared to make other arrangements for those outings which would have required bus or airplane travel. Local community service such as “ go rake leaves for grandma” may continue or even increase.

Morweena School does not have a gym, but it has several large soccer fields, three sand volleyball courts, tetherball poles, a fenced-off asphalt area, a play structure, and in season, 4 ice rinks. MCS is in the habit of offering full-participation regular adult-supervised recesses which include lots of soccer, broomball, volleyball and play structure activities. These activities are in compliance with Covid Distancing requirements, therefore no change is necessary beyond the cleaning of equipment between uses.

Music lessons at Morweena School come in three types; general singing, private lessons, and music bands.

- a. General singing; MCS will require students to be physically distanced for activities like choir practice and general singing. This means that choir and chapels will happen in smaller classroom groups or outdoors.
- b. Private music lessons may require masks if the teacher needs to be less than 2 meters from the student. Disinfecting of shared equipment between students will be required.
- c. Band members will need to wear masks or be 2 metres apart. Sharing of equipment will be discouraged, and where sharing is necessary, disinfecting of equipment between uses will be required.

6. Professional Development Priorities

In light of this pandemic, PD this year will focus on remote learning, Project-based Learning, Outdoor Education, mental health and well-being.

7. Child Care

MCS does not offer child for school days. No policy is necessary.

8. Symptom Screening

MCS has a habit of teachers greeting students as they enter the building each morning. In this Covid season there will be the regular greetings with added attention given to symptoms-of concern. Staff members will self-screen. Parents and car-pool drivers are expected to give special attention to symptoms-of-concern and be pro-active in not sending students to

school who display these symptoms. Signs of screening protocols and sanitation expectations will be posted prominently.

9. Hand Hygiene

Hand-sanitizer stations will be available throughout the school building. Younger students will be guided in sanitation protocol. Older students will be given reminders and encouragement to embrace habits of frequent washings especially in situations involving food, washroom use, cleaning tasks, nose-blowing and sharing of equipment such as sports equipment or science lab equipment.

10. Physical Distancing

MCS will plan cohorts in such a way that there is minimal interaction between the K-5 group, the Grade 6-8 group and the Grade 9-12 group. This will affect assembly patterns, choice or schedule of washrooms, in-house volunteers and playground space uses.

Outdoor activities and classes will be encouraged. Games and sports which assume frequent close physical contact will be discouraged. Classes will be arranged so that students are seated 1 meter or further apart.

11. Cohorts

The K-5 classes will be one cohort.

The Grade 6-8 classes will be one cohort.

The Grade 9-12 classes will be one cohort.

With the size of our school, each of these cohorts have less than 75 people. This will affect things like whole-school assemblies, recess scheduling, washroom and other shared spaces scheduling and in-house volunteering patterns.

Daily attendance records of students, staff, and volunteers will be kept.

12. Shared/Common Spaces

Entrance areas will be monitored for congestion

If cohorts assemble, they will be kept 4 meters apart (for example an outdoor whole-school assembly)

Washrooms and lunch rooms will be cleaned frequently

Water fountains will be shut off

Outdoor activities are encouraged

Sharing of items is discouraged.

Field trips, concerts, special events need to comply with Covid Response code.

13. Transportation to School

MCS does not provide transportation except for school-initiated special outings. The onus of distancing for rides to and from school lies with parents. Any school initiated travel will comply with distancing policy.

14. Individuals with Symptoms

If a staff member or student develops symptoms while at school they will go home or be sent home. If there is a waiting time, the symptomatic person will be isolated and given support during the wait. Both the student and adult caring for the student will be given and required to wear a mask.

15. Contact Tracing and Outbreak management

In the event of a positive case of Covid-19, Public Health will guide the response. The response may include contacting those who may have been exposed, tests for Covid-19 and the possible closing of a portion or the whole school. School Board, Principal & Vice-Principals and Public Health will guide the response.

16. Personal Risk Factors

MCS is prepared to make special arrangements, such as remote teaching/ learning options, for staff or students who are personally at higher risk for contacting Covid-19.

17. PPE

K-3 students are welcome but not required to wear masks. All Staff and students in Grades 4-12 as well as visitors are required to wear masks in those times when physical distancing cannot be assured.

18. Recess / Breaks

Generally speaking playgrounds are considered low-risk for transmission of Covid-19. MCS will however regularly clean multi-use hand-touched equipment such as Volleyballs.

Sharing of equipment between cohorts will be minimized, when sharing is necessary, equipment will be disinfected before use.

Sharing of food and water bottles is not allowed.

19. Cleaning

Disinfecting and sanitizing high-touch areas such as doorknobs and handrails and photocopier controls will happen at least twice per day. The availability of hand-sanitizers at places like washrooms and Science labs will be a high priority.

20. Visitors & Volunteers

Visitors and volunteers will be kept to a minimum at MCS. When their presence is necessary, Covid-19 response policies such as wearing a mask when 2 meters of distance cannot be assured, will apply to them as they do to staff and students. Community use of the school building will be kept to a minimum.

Three Response Levels

1. In-class learning for K-12 . This is our Plan A for September 8 and on.
2. Blended Learning. If necessary MCS will offer a blend of in-class and remote learning.
3. Remote Learning....If necessary MCS will offer remote learning as we did in Spring of 2020.