

COVID -19 Update

On 08/27/21 @ 5:45pm Governor Kathy Hochul issued a mask mandate for all public and private schools in New York State. Guidance was also changed in regards to distancing and when masks could be taken off during the school day. The Calvary Chapel Seneca Falls Church board met on 08/30/21 to discuss the matter and determine what course of action we could take. The Alliance Defending Freedom group was also consulted in regards to the legality of the situation. We were advised by their lawyers that the school has no legal grounds to fight this mandate in the state of New York. With that being said we have to follow the below guidelines or risk the school and church being shut down.

MASKS:

Masking is required indoors (except meals). Mask breaks will be taken in the classroom / hallway / or outside when social distancing of 6' can occur. Mask breaks will be given at the discretion of the staff.

OUTDOORS:

Masking is not required outside when social distancing. We will try to have as many activities occur outside in order to limit the amount of mask wearing during the day. Please provide your student(s) with clothing appropriate to be outside.

TRANSPORTATION:

Nothing will change from the previous guidance. Masks will be worn at all times while in transit.

LUNCH:

Lunch will occur in the gym as normal or outside if practical. Students will be spread out 6' in all directions facing the west wall of the gym. Students will have to put on their masks once they are done eating their meal. Food can only be consumed in the classrooms if the students can maintain 6' of distancing. Staff will be encouraged to take snack breaks outside and coordinate them with mask breaks.

GYM/MUSIC:

In gym class, students must maintain social distancing during physical activity and must wear a mask indoors. We will try to have gym outside as much as possible. For music class, students will keep their masks on and must maintain 6' of distance while playing an instrument all facing the same direction. The school will use the sanctuary to meet the social distancing requirement.

STAYING HOME WHEN SICK:

Please don't send your student to school if they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If they come to school and are sick they will be sent home and need a negative covid test to return.

CONTACT TRACING:

In the event the school gets a positive COVID-19 case, the Seneca County Health Dept. will be contacted and contact tracing will begin. If you are deemed by Seneca County Health Dept. as being a close contact, you will have to follow the guidelines set by your county health dept. Individuals who are fully vaccinated will not have to quarantine if they are asymptomatic.

EXTRA:

The staff here at the Finger Lakes Christian School will do everything in its power to give your children the best possible education given the circumstances and restrictions. We still plan on having a hot lunch program and pizza Friday. Cleaning will be done on a daily basis as it was presented in the last COVID procedural email, online learning in the event of a student being quarantined or grade levels going remote, will take place on Google Classroom or in packet form based on the situation.

If you have any questions, please call or email me before the parent meeting on 09/02/21. I plan on talking with the students on the 1st day of school at their orientation. Please pray for the students, staff, and school as a whole as we march into this difficult situation head on. I know we all have our personal opinions regarding this matter, but these are the cards that have been dealt to us at this time.

Psalm 18:10

The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run into it and they are safe.

God Bless,

Principal Matthew Stahlnecker

Finger Lakes Christian School

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