

On Campus Learning Amid COVID-19

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS

Revised September 2020



Welcome Back!

July 22, 2020

Dear Parents,

We hope this letter finds you well and enjoying time with your families. We look forward to welcoming you and your little ones back to campus in early September to begin the 2020-2021 school year! I am so proud of the way our community, both parents and teachers, supported each other during our time of remote learning last spring; however, we know that there are many aspects of academic and social development that can only occur for our students when we can physically be together, and we are eager to return!

Over the spring and summer, we have been diligent in planning for the coming school year. Due to the continuance of the pandemic, Redeemer Day School's board and staff have been examining credible sources, holding discussions with fellow schools, and outlining a researched and practical 2020-2021 school year plan made specifically for the RDS community. The goal of RDS's COVID-19 approach is to keep as many of our students in school for as many days as possible as safely as possible. All experts agree that distancing and mask wearing are key to slowing community spread; however, implementing these strategies proves challenging for preschoolers. Therefore, the American Academy of Pediatrics advises that preschools "should focus on more effective risk mitigation strategies for this population. These include hand hygiene, infection prevention education for staff and families, adult physical distancing from one another, adults wearing face coverings, cohorting [segmenting students into groups] and spending time outdoors." You will find that our plan reflects these recommendations.

Please read this guide in its entirety. The "Background for RDS Approach" found in the appendix takes a deeper dive into the research we consulted and may shed light on why we have made certain decisions. Raise any questions you may have so that we can keep the dialogue open. Flexibility remains key as we begin our school year. We are all still learning, so our responses may continue to evolve for as long as COVID-19 is a concern.

This document outlines our plan for our return to school. Ultimately though, our trust is not in our plan, experts, research, or masks. Instead we trust in the sovereignty and protection of our loving heavenly Father. Psalm 28:7 reminds us, "The *Lord* is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped." Thank you in advance for partnering with us. It is going to be a great year of growth for our little ones at Redeemer!

Jenny Kwon
Director, Redeemer Day School



Questions?

Contact Jenny Kwon, RDS Director
jkwon@redeemerdayschool.org

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When a student comes to the RDS campus in September they can expect a few changes. In the morning carpool line, we will have health checks. At school, the day will begin with morning assembly in their classroom. A student will remain with their individual class throughout the day and as they go to specials. RDS staff will wear face coverings. We will continue to maintain a clean environment with diligent hand washing and daily classroom sanitation, including toys.

MORNING CARPOOL

RDS will be conducting a **quick carpool pre-screening each morning**. This includes: contactless **temperature check** (each person in the car including adults) and **parent questionnaire** (posters with questions in carpool area). This pre-screen will occur just before your car pulls forward to say goodbyes and drop off students. **During the pre-screening process and drop off, we ask all adults in the car to wear masks or face coverings.**

Attendance will be permitted for students with car-mates with temperatures below 100.4 and all "no" questionnaire/poster responses. At the encouragement of DPH (Department of Public Health), even though other schools may not be able, RDS is including adults in the temperature checking process since adults are more likely to be symptomatic than children.

STAGGERED START TIMES

For the start of the school year (likely first two weeks), **start times will be staggered by grade** to help with traffic flow and allow for smaller group sizes and exposures:

- **Pre-K and Kindergarten** check-in and drop off at **8:40-8:50**, which is a little earlier than normal
- **Students in 2s and 3s** at **8:50-9:00**

Families with children in both grade groups may select the time that works best for them.

COHORTING BY CLASS

All students, teachers and staff will be physically on campus; however, **classes will not interact with other classes or grades.** Activities that historically have been conducted with multiple classes will now occur by individual class. These activities include Playball, Music, Spanish, playground time, etc. The length and frequency of Playball times will be adjusted to allow for equipment cleaning between classes.

We will also segment by class for morning and afternoon carpool, which will include physical distancing from other classes on the bridge and the use of the space beyond the bridge, as well as during early morning reading time (for enrolled students).

Each class will have their own bathroom or bathroom stalls assigned so that classes do not need to share facilities.



See appendix for copy of morning carpool questionnaire & family wavier

PREVENTATIVE ACTIONS

Masks & Face Coverings

Teachers and assistants will wear masks or face coverings at all times when at RDS. The school requires proper fit of masks, including covering the nose and mouth.

The face covering worn by RDS staff at many times will be what we affectionately refer to as the “beekeeper mask,” which includes a plastic face shield that reveals the full face of the person and a cloth covering that drapes from the shield to the bottom of the neck. These beekeeper masks allow our students, families, and other staff members to clearly see our full face and expressions and aids in communication. We believe all of these benefits will be helpful for student learning, particularly language development and phonics during COVID-19.

RDS students will not be required to wear masks or face coverings at school. As noted by the CDC and AAP, younger children (e.g., preschool or early elementary aged) may be unable to wear a cloth face covering properly, particularly for an extended period of time.

Handwashing

As always, **RDS will continue to be diligent in our hygiene practices**, including hand washing upon arrival at school before class begins, each time the toilet is used, before eating, and when coming in from the playground. During the first several weeks of school, additional attention will be given to proper, thorough technique. Hand sanitizer will also be readily available.

Supplies, Toys & Cleaning

Whenever possible, **each student will have their own designated supplies.** Shared toys and supplies will be disinfected daily after each use. Similar to prior years, **classrooms and bathrooms will be cleaned daily.** These areas will also be fogged occasionally.

Staff Daily Check-in

Similar to our families, each staff member will have a daily check-in process, including temperature checking.

At RDS, parents' active engagement in our community and parent mentoring are cherished parts of our school's mission. Even during the pandemic, we want each family to be involved at RDS – it just will look a little different than in the past. Parents will primarily join our community events virtually, and there are select opportunities to be on campus.

ARRIVING LATE & EARLY PICK-UP

If a parent arrives late with their student or needs to pick a child up early, they will call the assistant phone (404-985-6582). The student will be met in or brought out to the parking deck by an assistant. Please do not enter the building for late arrival and early pick-up. Being on time in the mornings will be important this year!

NEW PARENT ORIENTATION

Thursday, August 27 (10-11 am). Virtual format via Zoom. Parents only.

New Parent Orientation is a time to share more about having a successful start to the school year and what to expect. Jenny will share a Zoom link with our new families.

STUDENT CLASSROOM VISIT

Tuesday, September 1. Invitation via SignUpGenius will be forthcoming.

To provide time in the classroom before the momentous "first day of school", families will have the opportunity to sign up to visit the classroom and see their teacher. This year we will be limiting the total number of families on campus at one time. We kindly ask that you do not congregate on campus or at the playground to visit with other families before or after your time slot. Parents are required to wear masks.

PARENT-TEACHER FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

Tuesday OR Thursday, September 15 or 17 (6:30-8:00 pm). Invitation via SignUpGenius will be forthcoming.

Parent-Teacher Fellowship (PTF) will not include our typical large group meeting but will instead be conducted in individual classrooms. Parents will attend one of two nights to allow for smaller groups. Parents are required to wear masks.

WEEKLY PARENT BIBLE STUDY

Each Thursday (8:30-9 pm). Virtual format via Zoom.

Our Parent Bible Study will be conducted via Zoom once a week on Thursday evenings. Since the time is after many little ones are tucked in bed, we are hopeful many parents will attend. Join on the weeks you are available; no preparation required. A Zoom invitation will be in each of Jenny's weekly newsletters.

LUNCH 'N LEARNS TO BECOME "EVENING ENCOURAGEMENTS"

Our Lunch 'n Learns, which are typically held on campus four to five times throughout the year, will shift to a Zoom discussion format during the pandemic. These events will be held in the evening to allow parents the opportunity to join in the discussion after children are in bed. More details and invitations to come.

Parents and any visitors to RDS are required to wear a mask with proper fit (covering the nose and mouth) while on campus. Please let Jenny Kwon or an assistant know *before you enter the building* if you do not have a mask, and one will be provided for you by the school.



BIRTHDAY PARTIES

As before, we will enjoy celebrating our students' special day of turning one year older. Parents of the birthday child may bring in a treat for the class following the guidelines in our parent handbook and outlined in the information you will receive from your child's teacher at the beginning of the school year. Parents must wear a mask while on campus. Unfortunately, due to our requirement that visitors wear masks at all times, parents and teachers will not be able to participate in eating birthday treats while on campus.

MYSTERY READERS

Parents will have the opportunity to be Mystery Readers. Parents that have signed up to be mystery readers will be required to wear a mask and to be at least six feet from the students during their visit.

LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch is typically an opportunity for families to gather once a month after school on the playground to have a bite to eat, play, and fellowship. Unfortunately, our lunch bunch group will be suspended until further notice. We kindly ask that families do not gather on campus, including the playground, after school.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Unfortunately, during the pandemic, events such as our Donuts with Dad, Muffins with Mom, and Grandparents Day will be held in an alternative format than the typical on campus gatherings. We anticipate that these events will either be done virtually (i.e., students at RDS and special guests joining via Zoom) or shared in a pre-recorded video format. As we draw closer to each event, we will be sure to share additional details for what can be expected.

Our Thanksgiving Day Service and Christmas Program will be organized by class and *most likely* will be video taped to be shared with parents rather conducting the events in-person.

All the events noted above will be included on our 2020-2021 school calendar and, until communicated otherwise, please hold these dates and times for the event. While the events will not be held in a traditional format unless the current pandemic situation changes, we would like to ensure that the time is held on calendars.

PARENT & STUDENT GATHERINGS OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL

We recognize that families have different perspectives on social gatherings during the pandemic. Any gatherings that occur outside of the school are not for RDS to monitor or police. Each parent will need to make decisions for their family that they are comfortable with given their situation and beliefs. Regardless of activities outside of RDS, we will maintain the school protocols noted in this guide. **We ask that you communicate with each other if you think someone in your family may have exposed another child or parent outside of school activities.**

In today's environment, it is challenging to know if a little one's fever is just a typical childhood bug or COVID-19. To protect our community, RDS will need to take action as though any illness that has COVID-19 symptoms could be COVID-19. We ask that parents come alongside us as we rise to this task. Please be our partners in prevention. If your student or you have come in direct contact with someone experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, please keep your children home from RDS that day and until risk can be assessed.

PROACTIVELY STAYING HOME

Prior to the pandemic, we asked parents to keep a child home from school until the child was fever-free for 24 hours without the aid of fever-reducing medicine. For the 2020-2021 school year, we ask that students remain at home and not come to school until:

- the child has been fever-free for 72 hours without fever-reducing medicine
AND
- others in the home, including parents and siblings, have been fever-free for 72 hours without fever-reducing medicine
AND
- it has been confirmed that all individuals in the home, particularly adults, do not have a new loss of taste and/or smell.

STUDENT BECOMES ILL AT SCHOOL

While uncommon, a child may come to school and then become ill – with a fever, upset stomach, or other symptoms. When this happens, a parent will be notified immediately, and we will request that the child be picked up. Until the child can be picked up, a staff member will isolate with that child and the child will be masked. Once the parent or caregiver arrives at RDS, please call the assistant phone (404-985-6582), and your child will be brought out. Upon the child's departure, the staff member will wash their hands and replace any disposable personal protective equipment (PPE) they are wearing.

TURNED AWAY AT MORNING CARPOOL

We recognize the potential frustration in this situation – your child is ready to go to school and someone in the car has a temperature check that reads 100.4 or higher. Your child and any other children in your car may not go to RDS that same day. What to do? Please be calm and know that it is not personal. We want your child to be in school. However, we need to be cautious in the pandemic – and take action that can protect our broader RDS community.

When this occurs, the staff member will record the name of the student, the name of the person with the elevated temperature, and the date. *Turned away due to elevated fever or a "yes" questionnaire response? See page 9 for more on returning to school post-exposure.*



ILLNESS FOLLOW-UP PROTOCOL

In the event that a car is turned away at morning carpool, a student becomes ill at school, or a family proactively keeps a child at home due to illness, Jenny or another staff member will follow-up with the parent that same school day. The intent of this discussion is to gather information that may be helpful in making any necessary modifications to keep as many students attending school as possible and the broader RDS community healthy.

CONFIRMED CASE OF COVID-19

Any RDS students diagnosed with COVID-19 are required to isolate (not attend school) until the child:

- has been fever-free for 72 hours without fever-reducing medicine AND
- isolates 10 days since symptoms *first* appeared

This protocol will also be followed by all RDS staff.

CONTACT TRACING

Contact tracing is a tool used to quickly identify people who have been exposed to COVID-19 and alert their potential contacts. The goal of contact tracing is to help prevent the further spread of COVID-19, to identify hotspots of infection, and to protect students and our broader RDS community from potential infection.

Contact tracing includes working with people that test positive to help recall everyone they have had close contact with while infectious. **Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet for longer than 15 minutes.** For people that have been in close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19, they will need to quarantine for 14 days and monitor symptoms. Should symptoms develop, contacts should schedule a COVID-19 test or seek medical treatment if needed. If contacts are not showing symptoms, **the DPH recommends waiting until day 10 after last date of exposure to get tested.**

SECOND DEGREE CONTACT WITH INFECTED PERSON

It is of note that the DPH does not recommend a 14 day quarantine for people that are not in close contact (i.e., less than 6 feet for greater than 15 minutes) with the infected person. As it relates to RDS, that means that **if a student or teacher in one class tests positive for COVID-19 it does not require students in other classes to quarantine for 14 days. Only those in close contact will be required to quarantine.**

At RDS, we do have families with students in multiple classes (e.g., a 2 year old student and a pre-K student in the same family). If a child has COVID-19, unfortunately, that child's class and the classes of that child's siblings will be required to quarantine for 14 days.

RDS COMMUNICATION REGARDING CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES

Communication will be made to RDS families regarding COVID-19 cases within our school community, including action taken in response and any recommendations for our students and families. We will not share the names of infected students or teachers without their written permission and then, only if necessary. Specific action will be communicated by Jenny Kwon, Director, or Lori Holsinger, RDS Board Chair.

At RDS, we recognize that not every sniffle or fever is COVID-19, particularly with little ones that are more susceptible to getting sick during the early schooling years. We also note that we have never been in a pandemic before, so we are balancing reasonable health and safety procedures in our guidelines with considering when and how students return to school

WHEN TO RETURN TO RDS

For the 2020-2021 school year, we ask that students remain at home and not return to school until:

- The child has been fever-free for 72 hours without fever-reducing medicine **AND** it has been 10 days since other “COVID-19 like” symptoms *first* appeared. These symptoms include coughing, shortness of breath, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, muscle pain, chills, runny nose, congestion, headache, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea
- Others in the home, including parents and other siblings, have not had a fever for at least 72 hours without fever-reducing medication
- Confirmed that all individuals in the home, particularly adults, do not have a new loss of taste or smell

In some cases, it may seem like a student is missing a lot of school due to precautions. At RDS, we believe being cautious with individual students will help mitigate the need to close our entire school. If we find that a student is missing a notable amount of school time due to illness and/or precautions, we will personally work with the family to find a learning plan that will work for RDS and the family until the student can be physically in school again.



RETURNING TO RDS PROTOCOL

Before returning to school, it is required that the parent/guardian of the sick child or family member have a discussion with Jenny Kwon. She will ask questions similar to the morning COVID-19 questionnaire. It is in Jenny’s sole discretion to assess the situation and confirm if the child may return to school. Please be respectful of her decision.

COVID-19 TESTING

While unlikely, depending on severity of the child’s symptoms – or the student’s family member/s, a negative COVID-19 test may be required before the student can return to school.

We are not automatically requiring COVID-19 testing for students that have “COVID-19 like” symptoms since a test result only means that the person did not have COVID-19 at the time of testing.

At RDS, we consider the “worst case scenario” as one when the pandemic takes a notable change for the worse in soaring cases, increased death rate in the broader Atlanta community, or when our RDS community is significantly threatened through widespread exposure. In this situation we will likely need to shift course resulting in closing our physical location temporarily until the situation right-sizes again. This plan may also be implemented for an individual class if they are forced to quarantine for 2 weeks. This page provides a glance at our “At Home Learning Plan” but is not comprehensive.

PRE-K & KINDERGARTEN SHIFTS TO REMOTE LEARNING

As we did for our older classes last spring, teachers will supply materials and support for parents as we transition to our At Home Learning Plan. A weekly parent meeting (approximately 60 minutes) will be held to go over the week’s curriculum and answer any questions. Zoom meetings will be held for the students by their classroom teacher as often as the teacher deems necessary. **Parent involvement is necessary to make this plan an effective one.**

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

If we are out for an extended period, similar to the spring, it would be our desire to refund a portion of tuition while still supporting our teacher and staff salaries. If we are out for an extended time, the RDS Board will meet to confirm next steps in this area.

TWO & THREE YEAR OLD LEARNING TO BE SUSPENDED TEMPORARLY

We have found that Zoom meetings are not effective for our youngest students. Similar to the spring, we will provide materials and curriculum for parents to implement at home. Teachers will have a weekly Zoom parent meeting (approximately 60 minutes) to go over goals, objectives, and strategies. Teachers will send pre-recorded Bible lessons for their students. We will be as sensitive as possible to your individual family circumstances, providing materials and opportunities that you can implement or not.

SUPPLEMENTAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

As we did in the spring, we will provide engaging, pre-recorded music classes for all students and Spanish lessons for Pre-kindergarten and Kindergarten.

REMAINING FLEXIBLE

If we are in the unfortunate situation where RDS needs to close our physical campus temporarily, we will need to remain agile and open to ideas to create the best learning environment given the circumstances. In an effort to plan, we wanted to provide an outline of what to expect if we need to shift to a remote learning situation based on our learnings from the spring and insights from other schools. Nonetheless, we recognize that, if necessary, the plans above may need to shift.



There are a few tasks that we need each family to do to ensure a smooth start to our school year.

CONFIRM READING THIS GUIDE

Please respond to the email through which this guide was sent to let us know that you have read it in its entirety. Please feel free to include any questions or concerns you have regarding this plan in your response.

RETURN THE SIGNED WAIVER

Please print the COVID-19 waiver (attached to the email that contained this guide), fill in your child(ren)'s name(s) and sign and return it via email or mail. Our mailing address is on the waiver.

ATTEND VIRTUAL RDS COVID-19 PROTOCOL ORIENTATION

We will go over our COVID-19 protocol with new parents at the *New Parent Orientation on Thursday, August 27 (10-11 am)*. For returning parents and new parents who cannot attend the New Parent Orientation, we will have a separate COVID-19 Protocol Orientation to go over our procedures and answer any questions on *Tuesday, August 25 (8-9 pm)*. Please have at least one parent from each household in attendance for one of these virtual events.

PRACTICE MASK WEARING & HAVE A MASK THAT FITS YOUR CHILD

While we do not anticipate it, please be sure your child has a properly fitted mask/face covering and practices wearing it in case it becomes a government requirement for them to wear at school. Some families have found "buffs," a tubular piece of fabric worn on the neck and pulled up around the face, to be an easier and more comfortable alternative to a traditional mask. Select smaller size masks or buffs to ensure proper fit. Synthetics are fine, but cotton is better due to the tighter weave.

PRACTICE PROPER HYGIENE TECHNIQUES

Practice handwashing with your child when they go to the bathroom, come in from playing, before they eat, etc., scrubbing their whole hands including palms and fingernails with soap and water for 20 seconds. Singing a song like "Jesus Loves Me" or "Happy Birthday" while they wash helps to make sure they wash long enough. Teach them to turn and cough or sneeze into their elbow. Wash hands again after using tissues.

TALK TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT WHAT TO EXPECT AT SCHOOL

Children are highly adaptable and should easily adjust to the changes in our routines. We don't want to scare our children by sharing too much information, but some information can be helpful. For instance, some children, especially our younger ones, might feel uneasy about their teachers wearing face shields. We will send pictures of our teachers in their face shields during pre-planning (week before school) so that you can help them acclimate to the idea.



BE PROACTIVE REGARDING SYMPTOMS IN YOUR OWN FAMILY

Please help us protect RDS's ability to stay open and keep others in our community safe, especially those in at risk categories. Monitor and pay attention to your symptoms and the symptoms of others in your immediate family. We encourage you to make at-home temperature checking a part of your morning routine before heading out the door to RDS. Please do not send your child to school if they are sick. Have alternate childcare if necessary for work. This year we need to be hypervigilant.

Appendix: Morning Carpool Questionnaire

Each morning during carpool, posters with the five questions below will be posted. The staff member conducting temperature checks that morning will request that the driver respond to the questions to confirm responses. This is one of two elements required for students to attend school. The other requirement is the daily temperature check of each person (*including adults*) in the car dropping the students off at RDS. For those of you carpooling with other families, we would suggest “at home” temperature checks to avoid sending children from another family home in case you or your child have a temperature.

Must respond “No” to each of the five questions for students to attend school that day

Morning Carpool COVID-19 Questionnaire

Administered by a single staff member each morning before pulling up or dropping off students. Staff member to wear face mask during the morning carpool.

1. In the last 72 hours, have you or any member of your immediate household had a temperature of 100.4 or greater or a fever necessitating the use of Tylenol or Ibuprofen?
2. In the last 2 weeks, have you or anyone in your immediate household experienced any flu-like symptoms including the following: persistent cough, respiratory distress, chills, body aches, sore throat and/or headache? Or, a loss of taste and/or smell?
3. In the last 2 weeks, have you or anyone in your immediate household been diagnosed with COVID-19?
4. In the last 2 weeks, has your RDS student been in “close contact” with someone that has tested positive for COVID-19? (Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes.)
5. Do you object to the requirement to have your temperature checked and the temperatures of those in the car with you this morning?

If during the morning check, any person in a car registers a temperature of 100.4 or higher, the students in that car will unfortunately need to be turned away from attending school that day.

When this occurs, the staff member will need to record the name of the students, the name of the person with the elevated temperature, and the date.

Appendix: COVID-19 Waiver

Please print, sign, and return this waiver (attached to the email with this guide) by August 01, 2020.

Redeemer Day School 2020-2021 COVID-19 Waiver

Each parent and any care provider (e.g., grandparent, sitter, nanny, etc.) that will be interacting with RDS as a part of caring for a student.

Redeemer Day School ("RDS") is hereby providing notice to me/us that it currently intends to open its educational and school program for the 2020-21 school year. I/we understand that "RDS" cannot protect my child/student and/or me from risks which may be encountered as a result of my child attending "RDS". I/we realize there are natural, mechanical, and environmental conditions and hazards which independently or in combination with any activities engaged in while participating in this program may result in the exposure to certain risks including exposure to coronavirus (COVID-19), or other biological agents, virus or similar bacteriological agents, and the risk of being quarantined, or illness that may result in medical care, hospitalization or death.

I/we hereby state that I, on behalf of my child/student and myself, am an adult, over the age of 18, and legally competent to sign this form. I/we understand these inherent risks and dangers involved with participation in the school providing its educational program and acknowledge the existence of risks which are not obvious or predictable, and hereby intend this release to extend to injury or loss which results from both obvious or predictable risks, as well as risks that are unpredictable and not obvious and to extend to myself and my child/student, as applicable.

I/we understand that COVID-19 can lead to severe illness, personal injury, permanent disability, and death. Participating in Redeemer Day School daily activities or accessing our facilities could increase the risk of contracting COVID-19. Redeemer Day School in no way warrants that COVID-19 infection will not occur through participation in or accessing Redeemer Day School.

In consideration of myself and my/our child/student participating in Redeemer Day School's educational and school program, I/we, and any legal representatives, heirs and assigns, hereby release, waive, and discharge Redeemer Day School, its officers, directors, employees, agents, and representatives from any and all liability for any and all loss or damage, and any claim or damages resulting therefrom, on account of any injury, illness or exposure to and/or contracting the corona virus (COVID- 19) or other biological agents, virus or similar bacteriological agent by me or my/our child/student's attendance at and participation in Redeemer Day School's educational program, including any medical expenses, injury and/or death.

Appendix: COVID-19 Waiver (continued)

I/we agree to indemnify Redeemer Day School, its officers, directors, employees, agents, and representatives from any loss, liability, damage, or cost that may be incurred due to my child/student's participation in the aforementioned program, whether caused by negligence of Redeemer Day School, or otherwise. I fully understand, on my own behalf and on behalf of my child/student the risks associated with the aforementioned participation and assume any risk associated therewith.

This notice, release and indemnity agreement contains the entire agreement between and among the parties hereto, and the terms of this release are contractual and not a mere recital.

The parties to this agreement hereby agree that the interpretation and enforceability of this release shall be governed by the laws of the State of Georgia.

I /we expressly agree that this release, waiver, and indemnity agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by applicable laws, and that if any portion thereof is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall, notwithstanding, continue in full legal force and effect.

I/we understand that by signing this agreement I am giving up on behalf of my child/student and myself certain legal rights and remedies including the right for my child/student and/or myself to recover damages in the event of death, personal and/or bodily injury of any kind, property loss or damage, expenses of any nature whatsoever including attorney's fees, and other losses that my student(s) or that I may sustain in association with my child's participation in Redeemer Day School's educational program.

Name(s) of Child(ren)/Student(s): _____

I/WE HAVE CAREFULLY READ THE FOREGOING RELEASE AND KNOW AND UNDERSTAND THE CONTENTS THEREOF. I/WE SIGN THIS RELEASE VOLUNTARILY AS MY OWN FREE ACT WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE OF ITS SIGNIFICANCE, INTENDING TO BE LEGALLY BOUND THEREBY.

Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

COVID-19 can lead to severe illness, personal injury, permanent disability, and death. Participating in Redeemer Day School daily activities or accessing our facilities could increase the risk of contracting COVID-19. Redeemer Day School in no way warrants that COVID-19 infection will not occur through participation in or accessing Redeemer Day School.

Appendix: Background for RDS Approach

The goal of RDS's COVID-19 approach is to keep as many of our students in school for as many days as possible. Using research from credible sources (e.g., Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Public Health, American Academy of Pediatrics, etc.).¹ we created a plan for RDS that is practical and includes sound safeguards. As new discoveries come to light, we will continue to update our approach until there is a resolution to the pandemic.

CONSISTENT GUIDANCE ON MITIGATING RISK

While we continue to learn and there are sometimes conflicting perspectives, all examined research indicates **three preventative measures are best at slowing the spread of COVID-19:**

1. **Watch** Your Distance – when you do go out (away from your home), remain 6 feet away from others
2. **Wear** Cloth Face Coverings when you cannot consistently physically distance yourself in public
3. **Wash** Your Hands (for 20 seconds); isolate yourself if you are sick, cover your coughs and sneezes

CHILDREN LESS LIKELY THAN ADULTS TO BECOME INFECTED & SPREAD COVID-19

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) states that a preponderance of evidence indicates that **children may be less likely than adults to become infected and spread COVID-19.**² In most households, adults tend to be infected with COVID-19 before children of that same household. Children are less likely to be symptomatic and, when they are, **cases are typically mild (e.g., not coughing as often or as hard as adults).** Children are less likely than adults to have severe disease resulting from COVID-19 infection.

SPREADING COVID-19 VS. FLU

COVID-19 appears to behave differently in children than other respiratory viruses, such as influenza (the flu) or childhood cold, which do tend to spread rapidly from child-to-child¹ – particularly in little ones that are new to school environments and being around people other than their households. **COVID-19 infection appears to be less severe than influenza in children.**^{3, 4}

Note: These findings do not apply for children that are considered high risk for COVID-19.² Children who are medically complex, who have neurologic, genetic, metabolic conditions, or who have congenital heart disease are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 than other children.

TEMPERATURE CHECKING LEADS TO LESS SPREAD

Among preventative COVID-19 protocols,⁶ the CDC advises schools conduct daily health checks (e.g., temperature screening and/or symptom checking) of staff and students, as possible, and in accordance with any applicable privacy laws and regulations.

While uncommon, DPH advises if schools have the time and resources, to also temperature check parents and care providers as a way to mitigate risk.⁵

Appendix: Background for RDS Approach

SCHOOLS WILL BE OPEN FOR IN PERSON LEARNING

Around the world, there is acknowledgement that student learning and child social development occurs best in person.

Academic leaders and health advisors are stating that school policy considerations for the coming year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school. The benefits of in person learning are critical and with precautions (watch, wear, wash) there is no reason not to start the 2020-2021 school year in person.^{5, 6, 8, 9}

STUDENTS & MITIGATING, NOT ELIMINATING, RISK

The CDC recommends children two years and older should wear face masks in public settings⁷ and some schools will be mandating mask wearing for all students when they open for the 2020-2021 school year (i.e., Marietta city's 11 schools).⁸ Other schools, including Fulton County School District are strongly encouraging, but not mandating, students wear masks.⁹ DPH for Cobb and Douglas gives its highest recommendation that all students and faculty wear masks at all times during school and school-related activities if social distancing is not possible. While this applies to primarily Kindergarten students and older, it is helpful to understand the actions of local schools.

AAP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RISK MITIGATION IN PRE-K [PRESCHOOL]

While the “Watch, Wear, & Wash” approach is agreed to be ideal, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) “the relative impact of physical distancing among [preschool] children is likely small based on current evidence and certainly difficult to implement. Therefore, Pre-K [preschools] should focus on more effective risk mitigation strategies for this population. These include hand hygiene, infection prevention education for staff and families, adult physical distancing from one another, adults wearing face coverings, cohorting [segmenting students into groups] and spending time outdoors.”¹⁰

References:

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- ⁵ Memark, J. (District Health Director), Crossman, L. (Deputy Director), Franklin, R (CDHP Epidemiology Director). July 8, 2020. Presentation and Discussion Session, Department of Public Health, K-12 School Reopening Guidance, Cobb and Douglas Counties.
- ⁶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, July 1, 2020. Considerations for K-12 Schools: Readiness and Planning Tool.
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- ⁸ Plyburn, J. July 8, 2020. 11 Alive New Report: Masks mandatory in Marietta Schools.
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