



# NEW COVENANT CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

## COVID-19 PLAN UPDATE NEW MASK ORDER

August 20, 2020

Dear NCCS Families,

As mentioned in our NCCS COVID-19 Plan for Return to School, when requirements from local and state authorities change, we may need to update our policies and protocols. This letter is to notify you of a necessary update to our Face Masks & Coverings Protocol.

On Monday, August 17 we received the following requirement change from the PA Department of Education concerning mask wearing in schools:

Last week, the [American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\) released an update to their guidance](#) strongly recommending children age two and older should wear face coverings **at all times** to help mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Prior guidance we released in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) stated students in schools could remove their face coverings as long as six feet of social distancing could be maintained. Given this recent change from the AAP, and consistent with the [Face Covering Order issued on July 1, 2020](#), DOH is **requiring students to wear face coverings at all times while in school**, even when six feet of social distancing can be achieved. Review of the [Updated PA Department of Education FAQ](#) reveals limited exceptions.

We have reviewed this update carefully, and the requirement includes “private and parochial schools.” **We are required to adhere to this order.**

**Effective Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, New Covenant Christian School will require face masks/coverings when on campus** except under the following circumstances: (1) when eating and drinking where socially distanced, (2) when participating in physical activity (*i.e. gym, recess, athletics, etc.*), (3) when wearing a mask is unsafe in executing a task, (4) when unable to wear a mask because of medical conditions or disabilities, (5) when taking a “face covering break” while maintaining social distance. Our community of teachers and administrators will work diligently with our students to maintain social distances that allow for “face covering breaks” to provide our students with reprieves throughout the school day.

We appreciate your prayers as we continue to adapt to the new circumstances that this year will bring. There are sacrifices we will need to make in order to return to school in-person, five days a week, and at this time, more diligent mask-wearing is what is required. This adjustment to our face mask protocol does not diminish our commitment to provide quality education in a Christ-centered environment and to prepare each learner for a life of leadership and service to their communities and to the Lord.

We are thrilled to be able to welcome you back to New Covenant for the Fall! If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me directly at [jhubbard@nccspa.org](mailto:jhubbard@nccspa.org) or call 717.228.7259.

In His Service,

James Hubbard  
Principal