

What Will 2021-22 Look Like at Montebello Christian School?

Discover what COVID-19 protocols will be in place during the 2021-22 school year on MCS's school campus along with the reasons such decisions were prayerfully made by the school's leadership team. If your family is praying about a change in schools this school year, visit montebellochristian.com/form.

As Montebello Christian School (MCS) continues to navigate providing a quality Christian education amidst a pandemic, the school's leadership team remains committed to prayerfully making decisions that ultimately:

- Keep the MCS community safe and functioning.
- Take scientific data and parental feedback into account.
- Encourage personal responsibility to help maintain a healthy learning environment.
- Empower parents to make decisions they believe are in the best interest of their child(ren).
- Provide excellent opportunities for students to thrive spiritually, academically, and socially.

We invite you to continue reading to learn how MCS has fared up to this point and what health and safety protocols will be observed on campus during the 2021-22 school year. Please note that these protocols are subject to change as the situation at hand may change.

God's Faithfulness in 2020-21

The Lord's covering was evident when in-person learning resumed on campus last fall and throughout the 2020-21 school year:

- There was no known student-to-teacher transmission or teacher-to-student transmission.
- There was no known COVID cases of in-school transmission.

These favorable outcomes were on par with various research studies that have concluded children are not significant spreaders of COVID-19.

Data Analysis

According to the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) (AAP), “at this time, it still appears that severe illness due to COVID-19 is rare among children” in the U.S. — an outcome [other countries](#) are experiencing as well (July 26, 2021). Cumulative nationwide data shared by the AAP has revealed that:

- 0.1%-1.9% of all child COVID-19 cases resulted in hospitalization.
- Children were 0.00%-0.26% of all COVID-19 deaths, and 8 states reported zero child deaths.
- In states reporting, 0.00%-0.03% of all child COVID-19 cases resulted in death. The percent of child cases (ages 17 and under) resulting in death reported by the state of California was 0.00%.

Additionally, a recent [Healthline.com](#) article reported that despite the rise in cases in some areas, *“the percentage of hospitalizations is not increasing in children as a result of the delta variant, according to the most recent data available”* (July 19, 2021). Dr. Monica Gandhi, an infectious disease expert at the University of California, was quoted in this article stating that *“hospitalizations are not increasing in children as a result of the delta variant, so they still seem at low risk of COVID-19 even with this variant.”*

Health and Safety Protocols for 2021-22

Face Coverings

MCS students and staff will be required to wear a face covering while on campus with the exception of the following: when they are outside during lunch or when students and staff are more than six feet apart outdoors. Parents who desire for their child(ren) to wear a face covering at all times during school hours will need to have that conversation with them, as MCS staff will not be responsible for holding students

accountable.

Proactive Measures

MCS's janitorial staff as well as teachers and teacher assistants will continue to remain vigilant about disinfecting high-touch surfaces frequently throughout the school day. Although daily temperature checks and social distancing will be enforced on campus, MCS is still encouraging parents to conduct the daily health screening each morning before sending their child(ren) to school. Any students feeling unwell should plan to stay home until they are symptom and fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.

Should any students feel unwell during the school day, they should report to the office where our staff will be able to provide a medical assessment and advise their parents on next steps. COVID-19 tests and vaccines will not be available at the office; MCS families are encouraged to see a health care provider if this is something they'd like access to.

Vaccinations

With vaccines now available to children ages 12 and up, parents are in the position to decide if that is something they want for their children. There are no COVID-19 vaccine requirements in place on MCS's campus.

Response to Cases

If a MCS student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, they should:

1. Inform the school office or administrator immediately.*
2. Quarantine for a minimum of 10 days or as required by county guidelines.
3. Return back to campus being fever free for the last 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.

****When to contact the school prior to sending affected student and sibling to school:***

- If the student or someone in the household is exhibiting one or more symptoms: headaches, sore throat, sinus congestion, fatigue, body aches, cold-like symptoms, cough, fever and gastrointestinal distress
- If the student or someone in the household has been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19
- If the student or someone in the household is awaiting COVID-19 test results or has tested positive for COVID-19

The Los Angeles Department of Public Health (LADPH) will contact the individual who tested positive to conduct contact tracing. LADPH will inform those who may have been in close contact with the individual who tested positive; MCS staff will not be responsible for contact tracing. In the event the individuals who tested positive were in contact with students on campus, MCS will notify the families individually to inform them of possible exposure.

If an individual in a student or staff member's household tests positive and the student/staff member has not been vaccinated against COVID-19 or has never been diagnosed with COVID-19, the student/staff member should follow the three steps listed above.

In the event students are absent due to a COVID or quarantine-related absence, they will have the opportunity to watch recordings of the instructional portions of the classes that they missed or request homework packets. The recordings, will be available for certain core classes and must be requested in advance, will allow for asynchronous learning and will provide students with the necessary tools to stay on pace with their classes while they are out of school. Our hope and prayer is that little to no students will need to exercise this option so they can reap all the benefits of a robust, in-person education.

Full-Time Mobile Learning Decision

After much prayer and discussion, a decision was made to only move forward with on-campus instruction in 2021-22.

The survey results revealed that less than 1% of MCS's community had a desire to learn virtually, understanding the limited class offerings and medical requirements this potential option would entail.

Marching Forward

MCS's leaders and school board will continue to closely monitor the situation as our school community marches forward in prudence and faith to further our eternal mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ.

If your family is praying about a change in schools and would like to be a part of what God has in store for the MCS community during the 2021-22 school year, sign up for a tour by visiting montebellochristian.com/form.

“Don't be afraid for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you.” – Isaiah 41:10

