

Frequently Asked Questions

Health and Wellness

Amended from Pasco County Public Schools Resources . . . for use by ECS:

Will students wear masks in classrooms?

The wearing of a masks and/or face shields may be declared mandatory for all staff and students if COVID-19 infections remain high or rise. ECS at this time will require students to wear a mask to and from their classroom at both arrival and dismissal. Students may remove them once they get to class. Student wear will be a matter of parental choice in class. Students and staff will be encouraged but not mandated, to wear masks during the day. Visitors and parents coming into the Offices will be required to wear a mask.

Will students be expected to socially distance?

In many school settings at ECS, students will be socially distanced to the extent possible. At the elementary school level, and even with our MS/HS where social distancing will be extremely difficult, students will spend most of the school day interacting only with students in their class or grade level. By limiting their exposure to the least number of students, we reduce the chance of infection. And if a student becomes ill, the immediate class is affected, not the entire school.

What steps will be taken to ensure that surfaces are clean in classrooms?

Additional staff has been hired at ECS. Additional hours were approved and added for Maintenance workers and school custodians who will clean frequently touched surfaces throughout the day and conduct overall cleanings at the conclusion of every day. Other non-custodial staff members will be expected to do their part keeping surfaces clean,

and will be provided disinfectant spray bottles and microfiber cloths for each classroom and for additional cleaning. Every teacher will be issued and have access to cleaning supplies for their classroom. Student and parents are being asked to assist as they have in the past with providing additional cleaning items i.e. Clorox/Lysol Disinfectant Wipes (residential products) for general classroom use.

What other steps are being taken to ensure a healthy environment?

ECS & ECPS will partner with parents in educating students on the importance of hand washing, hygiene, and social distancing. Hand sanitizer will be made available in classrooms and workplaces. The schedule for changing air conditioning filters has been accelerated. Last year in the spring, 3 commercial grade Water Bottle Refillable Drinking Fountains were installed on campus for student use to improve health, filtration, personal containers and water fountain use. An outdoor “commons area” is being installed where picnic tables will be placed. These will be used for additional lunch seating and outdoor class use. (Outdoors and fresh air are recommended.)

What will my student’s school do if a classmate or staff member exhibits symptoms of COVID-19?

We will send a clear message to parents and staff that if they are exhibiting any symptoms, they should not come to school or report to work. If a student exhibits symptoms at school, they will be taken to a location at the school office/clinic set aside for student illness, and their parent or guardian will be notified immediately to take them home or to visit a medical professional.

What if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19?

The Pasco County Health Department notifies the involved local public school if a student or staff member tests positive. We are attempting to gain similar services as private schools. When ECS is notified (whether by the DoH or a parent, we will notify our parents, while not specifically identifying the student or staff member. (HIPPA Regulations for confidentiality and protected privacy rights apply.) We will cooperate with the Health Department as they conduct the appropriate notifications of individuals who have been in contact with the person infected.

Student Illness Procedure

Students who develop symptoms outside of school:

- Notify your school by calling the ECS office 845-0235 or the Day Care Office 848-1310. Report the absence and stay home.

Students who experience symptoms when they arrive at school or become sick during the school day:

- Student should notify a staff member as soon as they feel symptoms commonly associated with COVID-19. Parents must discuss these symptoms with their child.
- These are described in the "[Return to School Guidelines for Parents](#)" document
- The office must be called by the teacher or staff member before sending any student to the office for an illness.
- If a student is unable to go to the office independently, separate the ill student from rest of the class until an adult arrives (with a mask) to escort the student to office. Do not send sick child using the "buddy" system.
- A temperature will be obtained for every student who presents to the office with symptoms of illness. Students with fever (and other symptoms) will be immediately directed to the isolation area and face covering applied (as tolerated by student).
- Masks will be placed on all students with any COVID-19 like symptoms
- Students who are ill will be escorted out of the building to their parents following school guidelines:
 - All students that are sent home must receive a copy of the "[Return to School Guidelines or Parents](#)".
 - Suggest parent/guardian call FDOH COVID Hotline at 866-779-6121 or student's primary provider for guidance regarding presenting symptoms if testing for COVID-19 is warranted.
 - Educate parents on recognizing serious warning signs and when to seek emergency medical attention.

Extra-Curricular/Athletics

Will sports still be offered next school year?

Presently, we are planning for sports to resume. Fall sport schedules have been created by our fellow SCC Schools. ECS will offer the same sports as usual with some restrictions related to social distancing and enhanced cleaning procedures. Students may be required to wear a mask on any bus trip or on another school's campus for games. We will also be limiting crowds at games based on the capacity of the venue.

Are we allowing sporting events at ECS and in our Christian School Conference?

Yes. These events have a smaller, more select crowd, and therefore offer less exposure. Competitive sporting events will take place within our Christian School Conference . . . at this time or until further notice.

Will athletes be required to wear masks?

No, not during competition. However, they may be required to wear them at another campus to enter the facility or gym depending on the venue or county policies. Our ECS Student-athletes should have their own personal mask available to wear at all times in their gym/uniform bag.

Will parents still be allowed to attend games?

Yes, however, we will be limiting crowds based on facility capacity.