



# Connor Academy Charter School

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## Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

### Introduction

The philosophy of The Academy Charter School is that when there is low threat and content is highly challenging, accelerated learning takes place. We believe that all children are capable of more than we imagine and that we unlock their potential through high expectations, a rigorous, fast-paced curriculum, and dynamic character education. Children must attain not only the knowledge and skills necessary for the 21st century but also the work habits, communication skills and problem-solving abilities to contribute to a democratic society.

Because of the Academy's philosophy and charter structure, many of the recommended health safeguards have long been adopted and are part of regular practice. These include the use of grade level cohorts, staggered lunch scheduling, hallway traffic patterns and bathroom protocols. Nevertheless, the idea of providing a low threat learning environment has taken on additional meaning and requires additional safeguards. These safeguards include addressing students' and staff's social, emotional, mental health, and other needs and a process and timeline for review and revision.

This plan has been developed using resources provided by the Idaho State Board of Education, the Southeast Idaho Department of Public Health, the Centers for Disease Control, and sundry relevant resources from the internet. It has been shared with the various Connor Academy Community stakeholders (Parents, Staff, Board of Directors) through open public meetings and online communications. Community support for this plan is critical.

### Updated Guiding Principles

- The Academy will comply with all State and Federal mandates. Federal and State recommendations and guidelines will be carefully considered and implemented as appropriate based on current local circumstances.
- Connor Academy will start on time and keep the presently approved school calendar for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Masks and facial covering will be optional for staff and students in and out of the building. Students and staff may choose to wear their own mask at any time. The school will support parents who want to require their children to wear a mask while at school.
- Students are expected to follow all PRT requirements when riding buses to or from school.
- Positive COVID-19 results should be reported to the school. Please do not send sick students to school.
- Staff are strongly encouraged to follow officially recognized guidance and recommendations to reduce risk of viral transmission to or from others.
- This plan may be modified or amended by the principal, according to changing conditions or requirements.

### Mitigation Strategies for Minimizing Risk

Based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and the Southeast Idaho Health Department, the Academy has developed a proactive reopening plan that places student and employee safety at the forefront of returning to school.

Parents, classroom teachers, and support staff will play an increasingly important role in the health and wellness of students.

### School Health & Safety Norms

- Use hand sanitizer or wash hands for at least 20 seconds after using the restroom.
- Cough and sneeze in your sleeve, away from others when possible.
- Keep hands out of your mouth and away from your eyes.
- No shared school supplies (scissors, pencils, markers).
- Seat students so they are facing the same direction as much as possible.
- Put appropriate distance between yourself and others to avoid close contact. This is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.
- The use of Individual water bottles will be encouraged instead of the use of water fountains.
- Frequently touched surfaces are cleaned and disinfected regularly.
- On the first day of school and throughout the first week, safety procedures are taught and practiced in all classrooms.
- Outdoor education is encouraged when practical.

- Visitors will be required to make an appointment with school staff prior to volunteering.
- FDA approved vaccinations will be encouraged.

It is true that the management and prevention of COVID-19 has improved significantly since the beginning of the pandemic. As a result, we have significantly loosened the criteria for each level. It is still important that we closely monitor, and coordinate mitigation strategies based on incidence, and it is still important to reduce the number of people who catch COVID-19.

	Level 1: Blue (Lowest Risk)	Level 2: Green (Low Risk)	Level 3: Yellow (Moderate Risk)	Level 4: Red (High Risk)
<b>Alert-level Indicators</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Absences over previous week due to illness remain near or below seasonal average.</li> <li>• No reported cases of Covid among students and staff.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Absences over the previous week, due to illness, remain <i>near</i> seasonal average.</li> <li>• Active number of Covid cases in the school represent less than 5% of students and staff.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Absences over the previous week, due to illness, are near seasonal average <i>but rising</i>.</li> <li>• Active Covid cases in the school rising. Those infected still 5% to 10% of students and staff.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Absences, over the previous week, due to illness <i>continue rising and are above</i> seasonal average.</li> <li>• Active Covid cases in the school are rising and represent <b>10% or more</b> of students and staff.</li> </ul>
<b>Facility Response</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building open to public.</li> <li>• Post Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan for public review and comment.</li> <li>• Conduct contact tracing in collaboration with local health department.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building open to public.</li> <li>• Communicate to all stakeholders change in Alert-level.</li> <li>• Conduct contact tracing in collaboration with local health department.</li> <li>• Communicate and encourage community vaccination opportunities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue previous level safeguards.</li> <li>• Building open to public, with additional safeguards in place.</li> <li>• Health Screen visitor/volunteers upon entry.</li> <li>• Seating space will be maximized between individual students and cohorts.</li> <li>• Communicate to all stakeholders change in Alert-level.</li> <li>• Seek additional instruction and guidance from health department.</li> <li>• Conduct contact tracing in collaboration with local health department.</li> <li>• Conduct diagnostic and screen testing in school.</li> <li>• Conduct contact tracing in collaboration with local health department.</li> <li>• Weekly building disinfection.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue previous level safeguards.</li> <li>• School building <i>may</i> be closed or offer reduced hours.</li> <li>• Staggered start/finish school day to reduce occupancy in high traffic areas to crowd density.</li> <li>• Alternate lunch in classrooms/cafeteria.</li> <li>• Allocate additional work hours for ongoing building disinfection.</li> <li>• Extra day for additional cleaning/inspection.</li> <li>• Establish a separation/isolation room for students and staff exhibiting signs and symptoms of infection.</li> <li>• Daily building disinfection.</li> <li>• Increase number of hand hygiene stations in key locations throughout building.</li> <li>• Increase frequency of air filter replacement.</li> <li>• Communicate to all stakeholders change in Alert-level.</li> </ul>
<b>Student &amp; Staff Behaviors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Masks optional for staff and students in and out of the building.</li> <li>• Home health screening for all students.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Masks optional for staff and students in and out of the building.</li> <li>• Home health screening for all students.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue previous level safeguards/restrictions.</li> <li>• Reduce hallway time to less than 15 consecutive minutes.</li> <li>• Class cohorts will stay together in lines/halls.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue previous level safeguards/restrictions.</li> <li>• Masks required in high traffic areas for individuals deemed high risk, and encouraged, for all staff and students.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Line spacing between cohorts will be increased.</li> <li>Traffic flow: All will walk on the right side of the halls, leaving as much space as possible between themselves and incoming traffic.</li> <li>Students will keep their hands to their sides and refrain from touching walls while walking in hallways.</li> <li>Seek additional instruction and guidance from health department.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students requiring special consideration due to necessary interventions will be screened before entry.</li> <li>Seek additional instruction and guidance from health department.</li> </ul>
<b>School Academic Program</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full-academic program as outlined in school charter.</li> <li>5-days/week in-person Instruction.</li> <li>No COVID centered restrictions on athletics, after-school events, clubs, field trips or extra-curricular programs</li> <li>Student learning loss, due to COVID, will be assessed by online or district constructed testing materials. Students deemed unable to recover during the school year will be provided additional instructional opportunities during the school year and following summer.</li> <li>Provide appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as previous level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue previous level safeguards/restrictions.</li> <li>All indoor activities will be re-structured to increase physical distancing and to reduce physical contact.</li> <li>All gym equipment will be disinfected between uses.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue previous level safeguards/restrictions.</li> <li>Move to 4-days/week in-person instruction, 1-day remote learning.</li> <li>Cancel after-school extra-curricular clubs, and other extra-curricular activities.</li> <li>Eliminate Schoolwide assemblies.</li> </ul>

### Addressing Social, Emotional, Mental Health & Other needs

#### Students

- Continue charter curriculum-embedded character development program (Citizen of the Week/Month Awards, Virtue of the month program)
- Maintain regular communications with parents.
- Identify at-risk students through response to intervention meetings. Develop individual response plans to address academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs.
- Identify community social agencies for references and future partnerships.
- Seek funding/increase office space for a full-time school counselor.
- Seek funding and develop plan for construction of commercial kitchen.

#### Staff

- Offer online trauma response courses and additional faculty training at regular meetings.
- Promote and encourage working online from home, where feasible and appropriate.
- Continue teacher training of charter curriculum-embedded character development program (Citizen of the Week/Month Awards, Virtue of the month program)
- Maintain regular staff communications with administration.
- Identify community social agencies for references and future partnerships.

### Review & revision Timeline

This plan will be reviewed in February and August of each year (through 2023) and modified to reflect emerging information and improved strategies. Input will be solicited through public meetings and surveys. The plan will be available through the school website. A print copy will be available, upon request, in the office.