

Community Expectations During a Pandemic

The last sentence of Columbus Academy's Mission Statement – **Academy strives to develop and sustain a community of thoughtful, responsible, capable and confident citizens eager to engage in a pluralistic and ever-changing world** – may never be more relevant than it is today as we collectively enter the 2020-21 school year. With the pandemic influencing every decision and every move we make toward holding school as “normally” and as best as possible, we ask for your thoughtful involvement, your responsible behavior and your confidence that we are doing everything in our capacity to make this a great year for our students, your children.

With the above in mind, we are asking all families to join the faculty and staff in committing to support a transparent culture of safety by adhering to Columbus Academy's health and wellness protocols. What each of us does can affect all of us, and simple mitigation efforts work when our responsibilities and concerns for each other are shared.

Therefore, our expectations of you as parents, guardians and partners with the school are that:

You will perform daily health checks on your children, which is required prior to daily arrival at school, via the new SchoolPass App.

*You will keep children home when they are not feeling well, have COVID-19 symptoms or symptoms consistent with contagious illness, or have potentially been exposed to someone with contagious illness, especially COVID-19. **

*You and your children will stay at home if exposed to someone who has experienced COVID-19 symptoms or tested positive for COVID-19 in the previous 14 days. **

You will wear masks or face coverings as directed and at all times while on campus, in buildings, hallways, common areas and classrooms, and in public as advised by local health officials.

You will practice and maintain physical distancing of at least six feet while on campus, both indoors and outdoors.

You will abide by all safety protocols and practices being implemented on campus including, but not limited to, movement around campus, no access to classrooms and very limited use of common spaces.

You will practice good personal hygiene, especially frequent hand-washing or sanitizing, and adhere to CDC-recommended actions when coughing or sneezing.

You will respond to any calls, requests or updates from the school regarding the health of your children.

You will support these expectations within your circles of influence, understanding that we all have important roles to play in setting an example for others during this historic time when the need for cooperation and care for others is of paramount importance.

These measures should reduce, but will not eliminate, the risk of acquiring COVID-19. There are risks associated with being in the proximity of anyone, and COVID-19 has a long incubation period during which time carriers may not know they are infected, contagious or carrying the virus.

We thank you, in advance, for your help in setting the course for a positive, healthy and fruitful school year for Columbus Academy.

* See the Guidelines for Home Quarantine in the Health & Safety Protocols section of the [Campus Reopening Plan](#).

