



## Fall Opening Plan August 2021

Over the course of the last year and a half, Clariden has been able to keep its community safe and open through its adoption of many COVID-19 transmission mitigation practices. Although our community now has more reliable information regarding the transmission of COVID-19 than at the start of the pandemic, COVID-19 continues to present a variety of unknowns that our community will have to address during the upcoming academic year as new variants of the virus continue to emerge. Clariden continues to rely upon Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, coupled with regular updates and guidance from Texas Governor Greg Abbott as they relate to private schools, Texas Education Agency (TEA), Texas Private Schools Association, Texas Alliance Accredited Private Schools (TAAPS), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and from our local, Tarrant and Denton County Health Departments, to inform its ever-evolving COVID protocols on campus. Based upon this guidance and current conditions in our area, this document outlines Clariden's opening plan for the 2021-2022 academic year. Due to the dynamics inherent to the pandemic, it remains subject to change as necessary.

In general, several transmission-mitigation practices will remain the same from last year's COVID-19 campus protocol. However, other practices will change due to the knowledge we have gained concerning the virus since the pandemic began. We are heartened by the fact that, in some situations, we will be able to return to pre-COVID operations on campus.

**Currently, Clariden expects to begin the 2021-2022 academic year with all of our students on campus.** Similar to our approach in Spring 2021, our emphasis will remain focused upon in-person interactions whether that occurs in the classroom, on the fields, on stage, or in the community. Clariden believes maximizing in-person interactions remains the most effective approach to optimizing our students' educational, co-curricular, emotional, and social well-being.

Remote synchronous instruction will be limited only to those students where required due to medical reasons. This instruction will not be for short-term, non-COVID-related situations. Our teachers plan lessons meticulously and tailor their courses to satisfy the needs of all of our students regardless of whether they are on campus or learning remotely, and unexpected and short-term changes to a student's learning presents a challenge for both students and teachers. If you believe your family's situation will require your child(ren) to learn via remote synchronous instruction, please meet with Dr. Segraves, Head of School, to discuss your situation and provide her with an opportunity to share information about the approval process.

In accordance with CDC's most recent [guidelines for K-12 schools](#) and [vaccinated individuals in substantial or high transmission areas](#) (updated July 27, 2021), Clariden will follow and adopt the following COVID-19 protocols to open the school year:

### **Masks, Vaccines, and Physical Distancing:**

According to the CDC, "vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Promoting vaccination can help schools safely return to in-person learning as well as extracurricular activities and sports."

The protocols for students, parents, visitors, and employees with regards to wearing masks, vaccinations, and physical distancing are as follows:



Indoors:

- **All individuals, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear a mask.**
- Students will remain at least 3 feet apart in classrooms to provide the adequate amount of physical distance between them when possible and age appropriate. At times not lasting more than 15 minutes, such as when transitioning in the hallways, 3 feet distancing may not be feasible. When there are all-school community events, 3-foot distancing will be in place.
- Plexiglass will be available in each classroom should it be deemed necessary and age appropriate to define physical space.

Outdoors:

- **All individuals, regardless of vaccination status, can be unmasked when outdoors.**

*We are hoping to make modifications to this plan as soon as it is safe for our community to do so. In anticipation of CDC guidelines changing as circumstances with variant surges improve, if a vaccinated student or employee would like to submit proof of vaccination to the Head of School, they may do so at any time. A copy of the vaccination card may be submitted with student medical forms, scanned and emailed to the Head of School, or shown in person to be copied for school records. Showing proof of vaccination is completely voluntary and only done in anticipation of CDC guidelines changing in the future.*

**Close Contact or Exposure to COVID-19 if Vaccinated:**

- **Vaccinated individuals** - including students, employees, or other campus visitors/volunteers - **who have had close contact with someone who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19**, do not need to quarantine after exposure to COVID-19. However, proof of vaccination will be required to return to campus instead of quarantining.

*\*Please see below for information on quarantine and unvaccinated individuals.*

The silver lining from experiencing life in COVID times has allowed us to recognize the need to keep public spaces clean and to care for each other's health and safety at all times. With this in mind, **the following protocols will remain the same from the close of the 2020-2021 academic year:**

**Cleaning/Disinfectants:**

- Clariden will continue to use appropriate medical-grade and neutral disinfectants within classrooms and buildings, especially on high-touch surfaces, each evening.
- Microwaves will be accessible, and students will be asked to wipe them down after each use.
- Water fountains will remain inaccessible, but students will be able to continue to fill their water bottles in their classroom sinks.



### **Handwashing:**

- Students, teachers, staff and essential campus visitors/volunteers will be encouraged to sanitize and/or wash hands frequently.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be located throughout each building and hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom.
- Handwashing posters will be posted in classrooms and restrooms.
- Tissues will be provided in classrooms and common areas to encourage students and staff to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and if not available, to cover with their elbows. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or hand sanitizer used.

### **Ventilation/Air Flow:**

- Clariden's air filters in all buildings will continue to meet Harvard Healthy Building Guidelines.
- Clariden will continue to circulate fresh air within all buildings and open windows/doors (where appropriate) for extra ventilation as deemed necessary.

### **Health Screening for Employees & Students:**

- Any student or employee should stay home and communicate with the school if any of the following symptoms<sup>1</sup> occur:
  - Fever or chills
  - Cough
    - for chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Fatigue
  - Muscle or body aches
  - Headache
  - New loss of taste or smell
  - Sore throat
  - Congestion or runny nose
  - Nausea or vomiting
  - Diarrhea
- Students and employees are required to report to The Clariden School if a) they have come into close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19; b) they themselves have COVID-19 symptoms or c) they themselves are lab-confirmed as having COVID-19.
- It is the **parents' responsibility** to keep their child home when running a temperature of 100.4 or higher or when displaying any of the symptoms listed above.

### **School Health Station Procedures:**

- Any student displaying any of the above COVID-related symptoms on campus will be immediately separated from other individuals and sent to the health station to be evaluated. They will be required to be picked up by a parent or authorized individual immediately.
- A designated space within the health station will be defined for students experiencing COVID-related symptoms.
- Minor health needs will be handled in the school office area to reserve the health station space for students experiencing symptoms.

- Students who come to the health station showing symptoms will be required to put on a face covering/mask until their parent arrives to take them home regardless of vaccination status.
- The health station will be cleaned and disinfected regularly with a medical-grade disinfectant.

### **Confirmed, Suspected or Exposed (unvaccinated) to COVID-19:**

- Any individual - including teachers, staff, students or other campus visitors/volunteers - who themselves either a) are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 or b) experience symptoms of COVID-19 **must** stay at home throughout the infection period, and **cannot** return to campus until they have a doctor's note stating that they are healthy to return to campus.
  - In the case of **an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19**, the individual may return to school when **all three** of the following criteria are met:
    - At least one day (24 hours) have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
    - The individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath); **and**
    - at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
    - Note: if a vaccinated individual has tested positive for COVID-19, even if asymptomatic, he or she will need to follow the same guidelines stated above and stay at home for 10 days so as not to expose other community members.
  - In the case of **an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19**, such individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to campus until the individual has completed the same three-step set of criteria listed above, and has a doctor note stating they are cleared to return to campus.
  - If the **individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the above stay-at-home period**, the individual must either a) obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis or b) receive at least two separate confirmations at least 24 hours apart that they are free of COVID-19 via acute infection tests at an approved COVID-19 testing location found at <https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>.
  - If an unvaccinated individual has been confirmed as a close contact exposed to COVID-19, they will need to quarantine for 14 days after their last exposure to that individual.
  - If a student has a confirmed case of COVID-19 or has been confirmed as exposed to COVID-19 as a close contact (unvaccinated), they will receive remote synchronous instruction until the re-entry criteria are met and the student can return to campus.
- **Close contact** is defined as:
  - Having had close contact with someone lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 – determined by an appropriate public health agency and defined within this document as:
    - Being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g. being coughed on); and/or
    - Being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes
- Individuals are presumed infectious, i.e. contagious, at least two days prior to symptom onset or, in the case of asymptomatic individuals who are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, two days prior to the confirming lab test.

### **Communication:**

- Clariden will communicate to the community (as it does for all communicable diseases) should there be a positive COVID-19 case on campus.

- Should there be a lab-confirmed positive COVID-19 case within the Clariden learning environment, Clariden is required to report this to Tarrant and Denton County Health Departments, in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, while also, to the greatest extent possible, in compliance with the confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
- Clariden will post on its website for parents and the general public, one week prior to the start of on-campus activities and instruction, a summary of Clariden's plan for mitigating COVID-19.
- Clariden will continue to communicate regularly via e-mails, newsletter, social media and website.
- This Opening Plan, and any subsequent changes, will be communicated to the Clariden community and posted on Clariden's website.

### **Physical Distancing:**

- Students and staff will be trained in proper physical distancing.
- Physical distancing will be practiced within the classrooms and educational environments when possible and age appropriate.
- Signage will be provided to help assist students and staff with physical distancing in common spaces.
- Physical distancing is a personal responsibility of each individual attending school or coming to Clariden. Anyone causing a disruption or unwilling to follow Clariden's safety protocols, putting students/staff at unnecessary risk may be asked to leave the premises immediately.
- Whenever possible throughout the day, students and staff will remain **three feet apart**. **NOTE:** it isn't always realistic that staff and students can maintain three feet of physical distancing at all times. Clariden's teachers and staff will do their best to promote a healthy and safe learning environment, while meeting the needs of the students.

### **Visitors:**

- Prior to entering The Clariden School, any individual who refuses to participate or presents COVID-19 symptoms will be refused entry.

### **Lunch:**

- Students will eat lunch within their classroom or outside when weather permits.
- Physical distancing will be practiced during lunch.

### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) & Masks:**

- Employees and students will be trained in proper mask/face shield wearing.
- Employees may wear PPE attire as necessary.
- Employees, students, visitors and volunteers on campus will wear masks according to the updated guidance from CDC as outlined above.
- Face shields can be used as an alternative to a mask when a mask is not deemed developmentally appropriate for a student to wear a mask as a reasonable accommodation.



### **Remote Synchronous Instruction:**

- Students whose family circumstances require them to participate in school via remote synchronous instruction (through application process and subsequent approval by Head of School) will receive the following:
  - Two-way, real-time/live virtual instruction between teachers and students when students are not on campus.
  - Students will be able to Zoom into the class to be an active part of the learning experience.
  - Students will access curriculum through Canvas.
  - Note: students will not be able to move between remote synchronous instruction and in-person learning at will. If a student is in remote synchronous instruction, it is due to a COVID-related reason.

***In the event that it is safer for our community to close Clariden’s campus, Clariden will move to a remote learning experience during the time campus is closed.***

### **Attendance and Enrollment:**

- Clariden is required to take daily attendance.
- Per Texas Education Code (TEC) 25.092, students must attend 90 percent of a course (with some exceptions) in order to be awarded credit for the course and/or to be promoted to the next grade. This requirement remains in force during the 2021-2022 school year.
- Given the public health situation, student attendance may be earned through the delivery of virtual instruction should a need arise for students to move to a remote-learning platform.
- Should a health situation or concern arise, Clariden will work with individual families and students as deemed necessary.

### **Playgrounds & Outdoor Learning Spaces:**

- Playgrounds will be cleaned and disinfected regularly.
- Teachers will be encouraged to, when feasible and appropriate, teach students outside, rather than inside, because of the likely reduced risk of virus spread outdoors.

### **Social-Emotional/Mental Wellness:**

- Clariden teachers will continue to, despite COVID-19 safety and health protocols, establish a supportive, connected community within their classrooms.
- Clariden’s academic advisors will continue to meet with students to provide support and guidance.
- Clariden will implement social-emotional (SEL) curriculum for CP-12<sup>th</sup> grade students.

*\*This is a living document and subject to change as new information becomes available.*

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/symptom-screening.html>