

# Ready to Reopen 2020-2021

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**Updated Sept. 22, 2020**

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**SCA Campus Return Plan**



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# A Safe, Balanced Return to School

Dear Seaside Families,

We are pleased to present this updated SCA Campus Return Plan. Many things have changed with regard to COVID-19 since our first version was released on July 15<sup>th</sup>. This updated version reflects changes in guidance from a variety of sources, including the last-minute guidance from the Maryland Department of Health and Maryland State Department of Education from August 27<sup>th</sup>, as well as several weeks of conversations and collaboration with the Worcester County Health Department.

Reopening the doors of SCA has been a challenging, but worthwhile, process. We have experienced significant growth, reopened in the midst of a pandemic, and have pivoted multiple times in response to ever changing expectations and guidelines however, the smiles we see each day, the learning, laughter, prayer, and praise make all of the challenges and bumps in the road pale in comparison!

Please carefully review this plan. It is imperative that every SCA family and staff member be aware of the protocols and expectations laid out in this document. The health and success of our school depend on all of us working together! On Wednesday (9/23) a SCA Family Health and Wellness Pledge will be sent home in the White Communication Envelope. Please review and sign the pledge indicating your understanding and commitment to this plan. It is especially important that parents are vigilant in keeping their children home when they are not feeling well. In addition, you will find a simple daily screening checklist in this updated plan that will assist you with when to contact our office.

As always, if you have any questions after reviewing our Campus Return Plan, or at any time during the year, please do not hesitate to contact me.

As I wrote in July, God has good work for us to do and we intend to keep moving forward with our eyes fixed on Jesus to run our race with endurance, trusting in Him as our anchor of hope (Heb. 12:1-3, 6:19), grateful for His guidance and protection.

In His service,  
Julie DuChene

***For we are his workmanship, having been created in Christ Jesus for good works that God prepared beforehand so we may do them.***

**Ephesians 2:10**

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### *Philosophy Statement*

The outbreak of COVID-19 caused many states to take the unprecedented step of closing public and private schools across the country. While this measure was intended to protect the physical health of our students, staff and families, it did not address the mental health and spiritual health needs of our community. As we look to September and the reopening of our schools, we believe our focus must return to overall community wellness, not just physical health. While the guidelines in this document help to promote mitigation from COVID-19 and other diseases, they will also ensure our community remains healthy spiritually, emotionally, and mentally.

Our goal as a school is to diminish our community's risk while ensuring our practices do not prevent us from delivering our mission, which is to provide an excellent education and discipleship process to SCA students. The guidelines established in this document are designed to promote the overall wellness (physical, mental, and spiritual health) of all members of our school community.

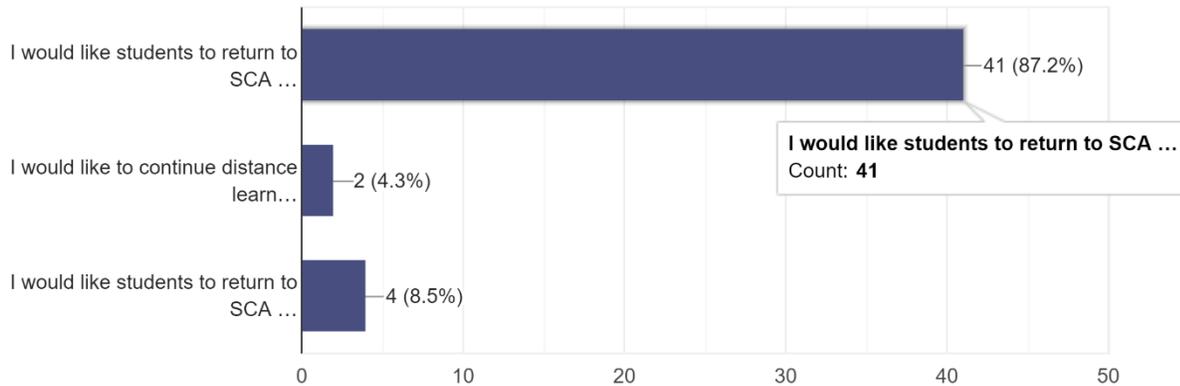
### *Principles for Reopening*

- Reliance and trust in God's grace and wisdom as we plan, prepare, and implement our Campus Return Plan
- Protect the holistic health and well-being of students and faculty/staff (physically, emotionally, and spiritually) by providing a safe, stable learning environment
- Utilize recommended guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), state and local governments, Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), and other medical and educational institutions
- Collaborate with local non-public schools to pursue consistency in plans
- Plan for a high degree of normalcy in operations and learning
- Be sensitive to the needs and questions of our SCA families
- Communicate regularly and clearly with all SCA stakeholders
- Set clear expectations for all
- Be prepared to adjust, tighten, or relax our procedures/protocols as necessary

**As recommended by Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), we sought input from SCA stakeholders by conducting a parent survey in June to help guide our planning process to meet the needs of the Seaside school community. We received a total of 47 responses. At the time of the survey, SCA had 50 families enrolled.**

Which of the following best describes your desire for your SCA student(s) for the 2020-2021 school year? (select only one)

47 responses

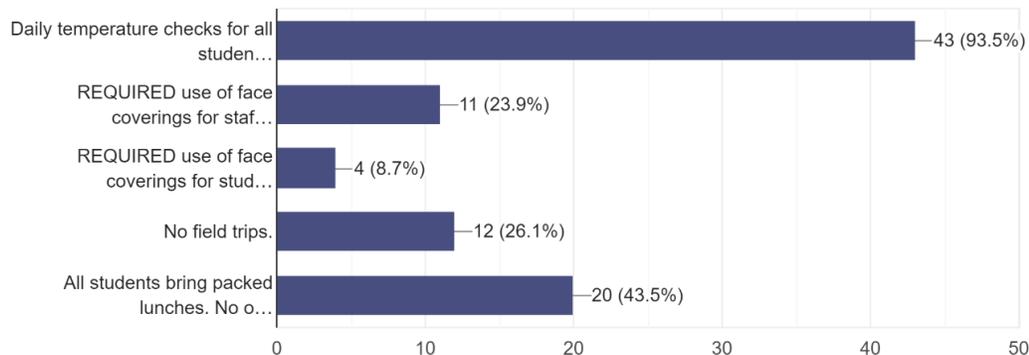


The possible choices for the above question were:

1. I would like students to return to SCA campus as close to normal as possible in the fall, on a daily basis, understanding that some of the regular services/activities may look different. (87.2%)
2. I would like to continue distance learning in the fall. (4.3%)
3. I would like students to return to SCA campus with the parental option of choosing distance learning (with a month by month commitment). (8.5%)

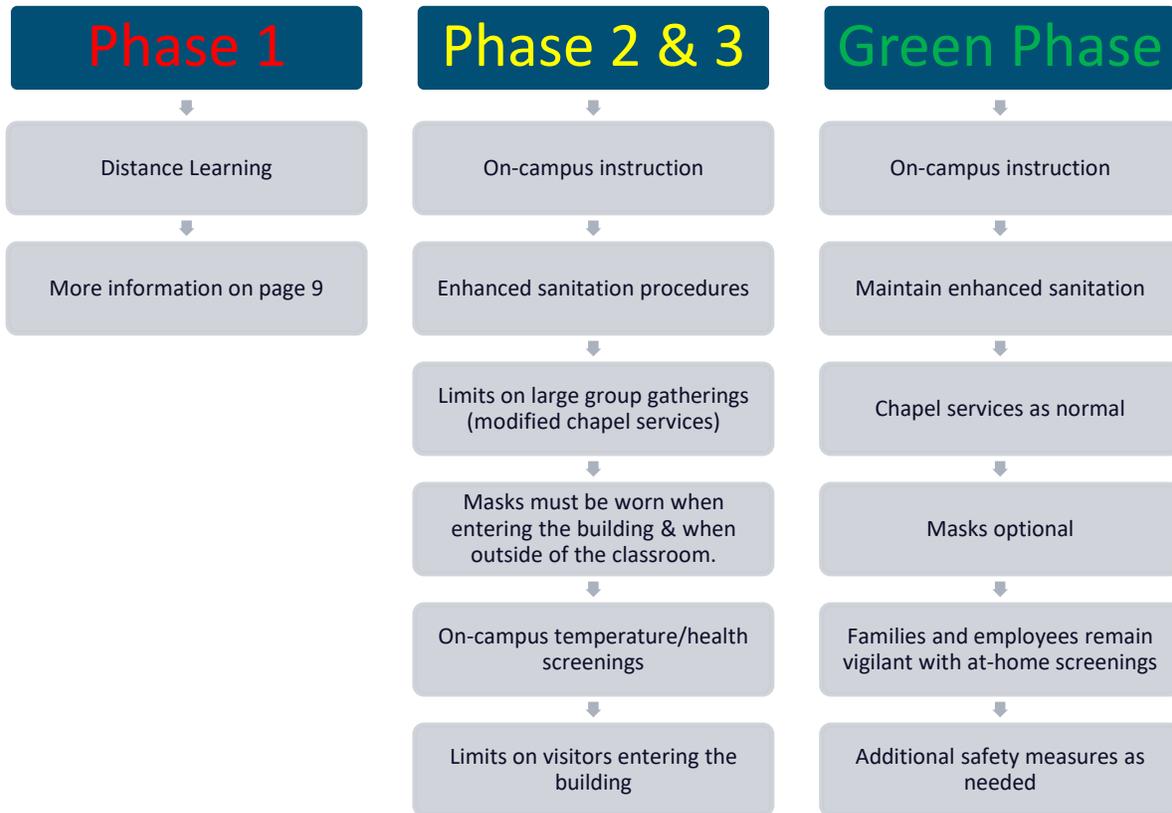
When SCA students return to campus, I would support the following standards for as long as necessary in order to provide a safe and healthy l...vironment (you make select more than one option):

46 responses



## Phases of Operation – What does school look like in each phase of recovery?

Currently, Maryland is in Phase 3 of recovery. Although we were hopeful that Phase 3 would have brought some relaxed protocols, our operations in Phase 3 will remain the same as in Phase 2 based on the executive orders that are currently in place. We have renamed our phases below to make this clear. We will keep families apprised of any changes as they take place.



### DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES

[CDC Interim Guidance for Administrators for US K-12 Schools and Child Care Centers](#)  
[American Academy of Pediatrics School Re-entry Interim Guidance](#)  
[MSDE Recovery Plan for Education](#)  
[MSDE/MDH Guidance for Schools August 27, 2020](#)

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### Enhanced Sanitation

- Increase frequency of disinfection in the classrooms.
- Increase frequency of disinfection of common areas including the playground.
- Provide hand hygiene stations at entrances.
- Maximize ventilation when feasible.

### Screening & Monitoring

- Screen students and staff for symptoms.
- Notify families if students or employees test positive.
- Training for all staff on health and safety protocols.
- Families and staff must report changes in symptoms and close contacts.

### ***Social Distancing***

When feasible, social distancing will be practiced in grades K-12 when in classrooms and hallways.

- PreK students will not be expected to practice distancing.
- K-12 classrooms will be set up to maximize the distance between students when seated in their desks.

### ***Face Coverings***

**Phase 2 and 3:** All students in grades K-12 and employees will be required to wear a face covering when entering school every day, when in the hallway outside their classroom, and in the classroom when social distancing is not possible. This may include scenarios such as the following:

- Where close contact between students is required such as in labs.
- Where close proximity between students and teachers is required, such as in one-to-one instruction with a shared resource. Teachers in grades K-4 will use face coverings when working in close proximity to individual students only as feasible.
- PreK students will not be required to use face coverings at any time.
- Students and employees are welcome to voluntarily wear face coverings. Parents will need to inform the teacher and the administration that their child will be wearing a face covering at times when it is not required.

**Green Phase:** Face coverings will be optional.

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## ***Health and Wellness***

***All members of the SCA community will be expected to meet high standards for personal health/hygiene practices and screening.***

All families must commit to supporting Seaside Christian Academy's health and wellness protocols and must agree to keep children at home when they are not feeling well, have COVID-like symptoms, or have potentially been exposed.

All families and employees will be expected to implement a health screening routine every morning prior to coming to school and should stay home if not feeling well.

Temperatures will be taken daily on-site in Phases 2/3. The CDC is constantly updating their view on the necessity of temperature screenings. We will keep SCA families posted should we make any changes to our protocols.

### ***Daily At-home Screening Questions***

**Families must notify SCA if the answer is yes to any of the following questions:**

- 1. Since last in school, has your child had any of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell, fever of 100.4 F or higher, chills, muscle aches, sore throat, headache, vomiting, diarrhea, congestion?**
- 2. Since last in school, has your child been tested for COVID-19 and you are waiting on test results, been diagnosed with COVID-19, or been instructed by any health care provider to isolate or quarantine?**
- 3. In the last 14 days, has your child had close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes, with or without a mask) with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19?**

It is of utmost importance that ill students and staff stay home. Our policy regarding illnesses (fever, vomiting, diarrhea) remains in place – students and staff must be symptom free for 24 hours before returning to school.

In the event that your child develops illness symptoms while at school, students must be picked up in a timely manner (within an hour or two).

**If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, SCA will follow current health department guidelines with regard to notification, isolation, and quarantine. You can find the current [guidance here](#).**

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## Distance Learning Option in Phases 2, 3 and Green: Hybrid Learning

If a family wishes to remain enrolled at Seaside Christian Academy but does not feel comfortable with their student(s) being on campus due to pre-existing health conditions, distance learning will be available for Kindergarten and up. We recognize that there may be a number of reasons that students may need to be away from school during the 2020-2021 school year. Offering Hybrid Learning as an option will allow us to support students and families who:

- Have a student in a high-risk category.
- Have a student with a temporary absence due to a health concern where on campus attendance is not recommended/allowed, but the student can still work from home and continue instruction.
- May not feel comfortable having their student on campus due to the risk of possible exposure.

Those wishing to utilize the Hybrid Learning option should schedule a time to meet with the administration. This option is well-suited for some of our students, but also requires at-home support and open lines of communication. Long-term candidacy and approval will be based on a case-by-case basis by the school.

Parents will commit to one month at a time. Students will not be permitted to toggle back and forth between distance and on-campus learning from one day to the next. Parents will notify SCA by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month if they are choosing distance learning for their child. Parents must notify SCA by August 25<sup>th</sup> if their student will be participating in Hybrid Learning for the month of September.

As we accommodate students and staff that may need to quarantine, we will handle those virtual learning expectations on a case by case basis.

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## Distance Learning in Phase 1: School-wide Remote Learning

In the event that all schools are mandated to close (including private) for one week or longer due to COVID-19, we will be prepared to shift to distance learning immediately and effectively. With the implementation of the FACTS SIS (Student Information Software) platform and Family Portal, the goal is to make the transition for students, parents, and faculty as seamless as possible. All families should have their Family Portal account login and password set up for ease of access. Please contact the office if you require assistance.

If local school districts cannot re-open or must close due to operational obstacles unique to the districts involved, SCA will make an independent decision about closure.



Our distance learning will provide improved delivery based on what worked well and what was challenging this past spring. To assist us in the development of our distance learning plans, we will use the results of our Distance Learning Parent Satisfaction Survey and continue to research the best platforms and resources to assist our families and teachers.

Key components of SCA's Distance Learning based on best practices for our students include:

- Combination of synchronous live instruction and asynchronous instruction through instructional videos.
- School/life balance
- Spiritual growth
- Social engagement
- Personalized support
- Continuity in learning
- Attendance tracking

We strongly suggest that SCA parents have the following technology available for their student(s):

- A laptop, tablet, or other device for accessing Family Portal and Zoom.
- A printer
- Photo upload or PDF scanning capabilities (a multifunction printer or smart phone app/camera)

SCA has several laptops that may be loaned to families that are unable to secure needed technology. Families should contact the office for more information.