

**FISHER ISLAND DAY SCHOOL**  
**2020-2021 COVID-19 RE-OPENING PLAN**



*Developing the Mind, Body, & Spirit*

**Fisher Island Day School**  
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Dear FIDS Community,

It is with great excitement and optimism that Fisher Island Day School (FIDS) announces its plans for reopening our facility for the 2020-2021 school year on Monday, August 24, 2020. Our reopening plans are consistent with the recent recommendation by the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#), who advised that students be “physically present in school” as much as possible and emphasize that there are major health, social, and educational risks to keeping children at home. In preparing for FIDS’s re-opening, we have followed the precepts of Florida’s [Re-Opening Florida’s Schools and the CARES Act](#), which supports school-level plans that “maintain in-person learning, the best mode of education delivery for high student achievement.”

Being a small school with low student-teacher ratios, we pride ourselves on being able to quickly adapt to changing situations while providing the best possible overall learning experience for our students. Unlike our larger school counterparts—who are wrestling with capacity constraints—we can safely accommodate our entire student body within our campus. In the best interest of our children, we look forward to having everyone back on campus in August.

The development of our re-opening plan considered the needs of faculty, staff members, and—most importantly—our students. When considering the typical school day, there are several high-risk occasions where students and faculty/staff gather in close proximity—including arrivals, departures, all-school assemblies, lunchtime, and group-based extracurricular activities. Within the context of pandemic recovery, it is essential to carefully manage these situations, including strictly controlling in-class activities and student movement and limiting assembly-type gatherings in order to reduce the likelihood of spreading an infectious disease.

All of our efforts and plans will follow federal, state, and local laws and regulations as a legal basis for resuming school operations and associated educational activities. Furthermore, we expect this to be an evolving plan as we learn more about COVID-19 and how to reduce its spread. This plan will involve helping educate our employees, students, and family members on how to safely operate in this environment. It will also include adopting personal protective equipment policies—in alignment with CDC guidelines—for protecting staff members, teachers, and students. Whereas we expect our policies and procedures to evolve, we remain convinced that strict adherence to a few simple basics will produce the best outcomes for everyone. These steps include:

1. Pay close attention to social distancing guidelines.
2. Wash hands and apply hand sanitizer frequently.
3. Minimize touching, hugging, or any close personal contact.
4. Wear a mask if unable to maintain proper social distancing indoors.
5. Stay/go home if you are ill or if your temperature exceeds normal ranges.
6. Refrain from gathering in large groups/assemblies.

The information contained in this document is current as of July 3, 2020, and is based on the best information available at this time. Updates and changes will be communicated throughout the summer.

Stay safe,  
Michael Bell  
Head of School

**Table of Contents**

**I. On-Campus/In-Person Instruction Overarching Key Health and Wellness Protocols .....4**

**II. Virtual Learning .....4**

**III. Alternative Instruction .....5**

**IV. Students, Staff, and Families with Medical Vulnerabilities.....5**

**V. General Mitigation Strategies: Students, Parents, and Staff.....5**

**VI. Face Coverings .....6**

**VII. Bus Transportation .....6**

**VIII. General Arrival Procedures.....6**

**IX. Student Arrival Procedures .....7**

**X. Student Dismissal Procedures (Regular School Hours) .....7**

**XI. Student Dismissal Procedures (After School Hours).....7**

**XII. Social Distancing .....7**

**XIII. Foodservice .....8**

**XIV. Cleaning .....9**

**XV. Protocols for Responding to a Confirmed COVID-19 Case .....9**

**I. On-Campus/In-Person Instruction: Overarching Key Health and Wellness Protocols**

Fisher Island Day School (FIDS) plans to resume on-campus, in-person teaching and learning for the 2020-2021 school year beginning August 24, 2020. The School will adhere to the guidelines and recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Florida Department of Education, and any applicable local mandates. The procedures set forth in this plan are reviewed periodically by FIDS's administration to ensure that our efforts meet the academic and health well-being of the entire school community.

- Students attend school daily for face-to-face instruction with teachers
- Parents sign an acknowledgement of risk
- Social distancing enforced
- Non-traditional spaces repurposed for instruction to maximize safety and social distancing
- Cohort model (i.e., students are self-contained) used whenever possible to limit student movement. The cohort model limits student movement on campus by having related arts teachers deliver instruction in each student's homeroom classroom as opposed to the students changing classrooms for elective courses.
- Large assemblies replaced with virtual meeting venues
- Limit number of visitors on campus
- Limitation of personal items on campus
- Suspension of field trips when social distancing is not possible
- Masks or face shields provided for all employees
- Daily health and temperature screenings
- COVID-19-trained nurse on campus during school hours
- Hand sanitizing stations throughout facility
- "High touch surfaces" (e.g., door knobs, etc.) sanitized every two hours
- Classrooms cleaned and disinfected nightly by a COVID-19-trained sanitization crew
- Restrooms cleaned on a two-hour rotation
- Hospital grade HVAC air filtration using UV lighting, including fresh air intake

**II. Virtual Learning: Fisher Island Day School will move to its highly-regarded Virtual Learning platform if directed by the Governor or recommended by the CDC or the Florida Department of Health.**

There may be scenarios that call for one class, a school division (primary, lower, or middle), or the entire school to move to Virtual Learning on a temporary basis. Depending on the scenario, FIDS's facility may be closed partially or in its entirety.

Virtual Learning is designed to provide an educational alternative to in-person instruction if it is not safe to open the Fisher Island Day School campus. When Virtual Learning is deployed, it will generally involve the entire school community. During a Virtual Learning period, all teachers are devoted to providing instruction virtually. If required, Virtual Learning 2020-2021 will include:

- structured schedule for students with set start and finish times;
- increased opportunities for live instruction across Primary School; and
- optional participation in related-arts classes as determined by individual families.

### **III. Alternative Instruction**

Fisher Island Day School is committed to working with families who do not yet feel comfortable commencing On-Campus/In-Person Instruction by offering our Alternative Instruction model. In FIDS's Alternative Instruction model, core-content learning packets (including practice exercises, assignments, readings, and assessments) are sent home via email at the beginning of each week. Throughout the week, your child's teacher will schedule regular virtual check-ins with him/her to provide assistance and assess progress. Alternative Instruction can be used by families desiring a little more time at home prior to returning to On-Campus/In-Person Instruction. Parents interested in the Alternative Instruction model should contact Ms. Sierra Goggins, School Counselor, [sgoggins@fids.org](mailto:sgoggins@fids.org).

### **IV. Students, Staff and Families with Medical Vulnerabilities**

- Students with underlying health issues should develop a plan for returning to school with their family doctor.
- Staff with underlying health issues should work with their doctors to create a return to work plan. Whenever feasible, steps should be taken to minimize the number of people they interact with on a regular basis.
- The same guidelines apply for students and staff who live with family members with underlying health issues (e.g., parents, grandparents).

### **V. General Mitigation Strategies: Students, Parents and Staff**

Individuals are encouraged to practice good hygiene and engage in healthy activities, including outdoor activities, while practicing social distancing. The following general guidelines are recommended for all individuals:

- Practice social distancing, whenever feasible.
- Frequently wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with your elbow or a tissue and dispose of the tissue.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched items and surfaces as much as possible, inclusive of high-touch and high-traffic areas. To that end, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or similar disinfectants are readily available to employees, students, and visitors.
- Monitor your symptoms carefully. Note that the CDC reports children are more frequently asymptomatic and "may not initially present with fever and cough as often as adult patients."
- Stay home if you are sick or if you believe you have been exposed to COVID-19.
- If you believe you are infected with COVID-19, contact your health-care provider immediately.
- Self-report all travels and self-quarantine for at least 14 days upon your return, if such quarantine is required by the government.
- Symptomatic people are not allowed to return until they are cleared by a medical provider.
- Follow all Federal, State, and Local orders pertaining to public health.
- If you are older than 65 years of age or have a serious underlying medical condition, avoid large crowds.

## **VI. Face Coverings**

Depending on local regulations, students may be required to wear face coverings at specified times during the school year or for designated periods during the school day—e.g., when social distancing is not possible while riding the school bus. FIDS will comply with all government regulations concerning face coverings; however, we do not advocate that children wear them when outdoors, especially on warm days or when exercising. That said, we will respect the wishes of parents who want their children to wear face coverings, even when they are not required by law. To that end, we recommend that parents purchase washable neck gaiters (preferred) or face masks for their children.

FIDS will provide each child with one washable neck gaiter upon enrollment. Additional neck gaiters will be available for purchase at FIDS; logoed masks are available through Lands' End. In addition, FIDS will keep a supply of disposable face masks on hand for use during emergencies. We respect the right of parents to select face coverings that best meet the safety needs of their children. Non-FIDS-logoed face coverings should be free of other logos, emblems, and/or text and should coordinate with school uniform colors.

## **VII. Bus Transportation**

Inasmuch as social distancing may not always be maintained when onboard the school bus, students will be required to wear face coverings on the school bus. In addition, whenever possible students from the same family will be seated together on the bus. Parents who are uncomfortable with having their child ride the school bus may purchase a ferry decal.

## **VIII. General Arrival Procedures**

All faculty members, students, parents and visitors to the campus will be required to abide by the following measures prior to entering the building:

1. All adults will be required to wear a face-mask upon entry and whenever possible, especially indoors if unable to maintain proper social distancing (~6'). Face masks are optional for students. They should not be used when outdoors, for students under the age of 2, by anyone who has trouble breathing, or by anyone who is unable to remove the mask without assistance.
2. Daily health screenings (i.e., temperature check via a touch-less thermometer). Anyone with an elevated temperature will have their temperature checked with a traditional thermometer. If temperature remains high, the individual will be sent home.
3. Hand sanitization via hand sanitizer or traditional hand-washing if available.
4. The front door and side gate to the school will remain locked. Anyone requesting entry will be asked to call the main school line (305-531-2350). Signage is posted on the front door and side gate to remind visitors of the protocols.

## **IX. Student Arrival Procedures**

In addition to the procedures outlined above:

1. Students will be directed to their classroom where they will be required to wash their hands with soap and water.
2. In an effort to minimize the number of visitors within the campus, staff members will be available to help escort students to their classrooms. Parents may be requested to remain outside.
3. Selected cohorts of students will utilize the side gate in the southeast corner of the school as a means of entry to support social distancing.
4. Following the completion of student arrival, on or about 8:15 a.m., the front door and side gate to the school will be locked. Anyone requesting entry will be asked to call the main school line (305-531-2350).

## **X. Student Dismissal Procedures (Regular School Hours)**

1. Parents and/or caregivers are to wait outside the school at the conclusion of the school day. Select faculty members will radio and/or call classrooms to dismiss students from their classrooms.
2. Students with permission to walk home will be dismissed via the side gate on the southeast corner of the school.
3. Bus riders will be called in small groups to board the bus.
4. Following the completion of student dismissal for regular school hours, on or about 3:15 p.m., the front door and side gate to the school will be locked. Anyone requesting entry will be asked to call the main school line (305-531-2350).

## **XI. Student Dismissal Procedures (After School Hours)**

1. Parents and/or caregivers are to wait outside the school at the conclusion of the school day. Select faculty members will radio and/or call classrooms to dismiss students from their classrooms.
2. Students with permission to walk home will be dismissed via the side gate on the southeast corner of the school.
3. Bus riders will be called in small groups to board the bus.
4. Following the completion of student dismissal for regular school hours, on or about 4:15 p.m., the front door and side gate to the school will be locked. Anyone requesting entry will be asked to call the main school line (305-531-2350).

## **XII. Social Distancing**

Fisher Island Day School follows the guidelines as set forth by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Florida Department of Education, as well as state and local officials.

As outlined by the CDC, limiting face-to-face contact with others is the best way to reduce the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). To the extent possible, adults are to remain a minimum of 6 feet away from others. FIDS is taking the following precautions to support social distancing:

1. Selected grade level classrooms may be relocated based on student enrollment. Grade levels with large enrollments will utilize the larger classrooms. Additionally, shared spaces such as the library, art studio, and outdoor space may be used for instructional purposes.
2. As feasible, grade level classes will be asked to travel in their respective cohorts throughout the day to minimize the number of people in close contact with each person.
3. Nonessential furniture and equipment may be moved out of the classrooms to increase distance between students.
4. As feasible, maintain a maximum distance between desks as possible, even if not able to achieve 6 feet, and avoid sharing of textbooks, supplies and toys.
5. Related arts teachers (except for physical education) will rotate between the classrooms at their scheduled times, rather than students traveling to these locations. Teachers will limit the sharing of student materials and/or equipment.
6. Courtyard Dining: All tables in the courtyard have maximum occupancy signage that indicates the total number of people allowable at each table at one time. Individual bottles of hand sanitizer have been placed at each table. All tables will be sanitized after each use. Students will have the opportunity to dine "picnic style" in the shade on the playground on a set rotating schedule throughout the week.
7. Playground usage is limited to one class at a time based on an assigned schedule. The playground is sanitized following each use.
8. Teleconferencing: If possible, staff should consider phone calls or videoconferencing as alternatives to face-to-face parent-teacher conferences. If a face-to-face meeting is required, those present should sit six feet apart from one another.
9. Nonessential visitors will be provided with limited access to campus.
10. Nonessential mass gatherings will be limited or reschedule as virtual gatherings.
11. See section on "Bus Transportation" for details regarding bus service.

### **XIII. Foodservice**

The healthy quality of our foodservice program will remain the same; however, CDC-recommended changes have been made to the operation of the foodservice program, including:

- Pre-made "grab-and-go" boxed lunches and snacks instead of buffet or family-style service.
- No beverage pitchers or large dispensers.
- Everything is packaged for single-use in disposable containers, inclusive of beverages and condiments.
- Student lunch times will be staggered with fewer diners at each seating.
- Alternative dining spaces will be provided on a rotating basis and may include in-classroom dining or picnic-style dining in shaded areas.



#### **XIV. Cleaning**

- All maintenance, housekeeping, and ancillary cleaning staff have been trained using the guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,
- Cleaning supplies: FIDS only uses cleaning supplies that conform to CDC guidelines (e.g., EPA-registered disinfectants).
- Housekeeping staff regularly clean and disinfect all surfaces within the school each day.
- Deep cleaning occurs nightly through a third-party cleaning company.
- Equipment Sharing: Staff and students are encouraged to avoid sharing equipment such as telephones, mobile devices, computers, desk accessories, etc. Shared items are to be cleaned between each use.

#### **XV. Protocols for Responding to a Confirmed COVID-19 Case**

FIDS's staff will follow the guidelines set forth by federal, state, and local authorities regarding the school's response to a confirmed case of COVID-19 by a member of the school community. Please be reminded that confidentiality will be upheld in such instances.