

## Young Scholar's Health Mitigation Plan

Young Scholar's Academy has prepared a comprehensive plan to mitigate risk of exposure of COVID-19 in our school. These pages contain detailed information about YSA's safety protocols for the 2020-2021 school year. For areas where the CDC has provided specific guidance for schools, that guidance is included as a reference, so that you may see how YSA plans are aligned with CDC recommendations.

The following sections are discussed:

- Containment/Cohorts
- Intensified Cleaning & Disinfecting
- Gatherings/Visitors/Field Trips
- Face Coverings
- Food Service
- Hand Washing
- Water Systems
- Health Screenings
- Playground Protocols
- Reported Cases
- Shared Belongings
- Signs and Messages Containment
- Social/Physical Distancing
- Training Employees
- Ventilation
- Communal Spaces

### Containment/Cohorts

- **CDC Guidelines**
  - Ensure that student and staff groupings are as static as possible by having the same group of children stay with the same staff (all day for young children, and as much as possible for older children).
  - Limit mixing between groups if possible.
- **YSA Plan**
  - Reducing class groups when possible.
  - Spreading desks maximum distance from another and assigned seating.
  - Recess schedules for less students on playground (when playground use begins).
  - Students remain in the same class throughout the day (will have breaks outside and within the classroom, etc.).
  - Lunch may be in the classroom or in the gymnasium, as social-distancing and teacher preference dictate.
  - High-fives, handshaking, hugs, and other types of physical touch will be discouraged at this time of the school year.

### Intensify Cleaning & Disinfecting

- **CDC Guidelines**
  - Coronaviruses on surfaces and objects naturally die within hours to days. Warmer temperatures and exposure to sunlight will reduce the time the virus survives on surfaces and objects.
  - Normal routine cleaning with soap and water removes germs and dirt from surfaces. It lowers the risk of spreading COVID-19 infection.
  - Disinfectants kill germs on surfaces. By killing germs on a surface after cleaning, you can further lower the risk of spreading infection.
- **YSA Plan**
  - Custodial staff trained to properly clean and disinfect all buildings and rooms.
  - Daily cleaning regiment.
  - Classrooms cleaned daily; high-touch surfaces cleaned frequently throughout the day.
  - Facilities are cleaned and sanitized daily.
  - Will be adding additional hours for paraprofessionals to enhance the cleaning of student desks and chairs daily.

### Gatherings/Visitors/Field Trips

- **CDC Guidelines**
  - Pursue virtual group events, gatherings, or meetings, if possible, and promote social distancing of at least 6 feet between people if events are held. Limit group size to the extent possible.

- Pursue virtual activities and events in lieu of field trips, student assemblies, special performances, school-wide parent meetings, and spirit nights, as possible.
- **YSA Plan**
  - Large gatherings will be limited to the numbers of students/parents and/or hosted virtually. All events will be recorded and posted for view as feasible. Some events may be hosted several times which will reduce the number of people in attendance.
  - Visitors will not be allowed on campus (past the front office) unless determined essential.
  - At this time, YSA will not participate in any field trips.

### Face Coverings

- **CDC Guidelines**
  - Use of simple cloth face coverings are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not have symptoms.
  - Cloth face coverings are not surgical masks, respirators, or other medical personal protective equipment.
  - Teach and reinforce use of cloth face coverings.
  - Face coverings may be challenging for students (especially younger students to wear).
  - Face coverings should be worn by staff and students (particularly older students) as feasible and are most essential in times when physical distancing is difficult.
- **YSA Plan**
  - Staff of YSA have been trained to wear appropriate face coverings and clear shields that cover the nose and mouth prior to the start of school.
  - Students will be taught the proper use, wearing, and touching of facemasks.
  - Students are required to wear face masks while in the classroom. The face mask **MUST** cover the mouth and nose, leaving the eyes visible. Students may be required to wear face masks if unable to maintain 6 feet of social-distancing at other times. Students are not required to wear face masks while participating in PE class or while eating, however, they will be spread apart for social-distancing during these times.
  - YSA requires students to wear face masks upon arrival, dismissal, during bathroom breaks, and any other time that maintaining 6 feet of distance is not possible, per the Governor's order.
  - Mask breaks will be allowed as needed.
  - All staff must wear a face covering while in class. Staff must also wear a face covering when in the hallways/common areas (copier room, staff lounge, etc.)
  - Students and staff will be frequently reminded not to touch the face covering and to wash their hands frequently.
  - YSA will provide information and training to staff, students, and students' families on proper use, removal, and washing of face coverings.
  - YSA will provide families with instructions on how to wear, clean, and properly maintain face coverings.
  - Note: Cloth face coverings should not be placed on:
    - Children younger than two years old;
    - Anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious;
    - Anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance;
    - Students with certain disabilities or health conditions.

### Food Service

- **CDC Guidelines**
  - Have children bring their own meals as feasible or serve individually-plated meals in classrooms instead of in a communal dining hall or cafeteria, while ensuring the safety of children with food allergies.
- **YSA Plan**

- YSA students will eat either in the classroom or in the cafeteria, either with food brought from home or purchased from Scooters.
- When eating in the cafeteria, social-distancing measures will be employed.
- Purchased lunches will utilize disposable food service items (utensils, dishes, containers, etc.).
- Lunch staff will be monitoring each classroom and cleaning tables afterward.

### Handwashing

- **YSA Plan**

- Staff of YSA have been trained in handwashing prior to the start of school. Staff is required to follow handwashing policies.
- Students are trained within the first three days of school. The training may include videos, staff training students, posters hung throughout the school, and the use of hand sanitizer.
- Parents need to train their students at home on washing hands following the CDC guidelines. If students bring their own hand sanitizer, students may not share with any other person and it is the parent's responsibility to ensure that the sanitizer meets CDC recommendations. The student will still be required to utilize school sanitizer when directed by the teacher.
- Teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for a least 20 seconds and increase monitoring to ensure adherence among students and staff.
- If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains a least 60% alcohol can be used.
- Encourage staff and students to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash, and hands washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

### Water Systems

- **YSA Plan**

- The best place to fill a water bottle is in the gym where there is a water bottle filling station.
- Students are encouraged to bring multiple water bottles per day.
  - Water fountains will be cleaned each day.

### Health Screenings

- **CDC Guidelines**

- If feasible, daily health checks (e.g., temperature screening and/or or symptom checking) should be conducted of staff and students.
- Health checks should be conducted safely and respectfully, and in accordance with any applicable privacy laws and regulations

- **YSA Plan**

- First checkpoint for screening starts at home. All parents are required to check their child's temperature AT HOME, prior to coming to school. Parent will keep a child home if their temperature reaches 100 degrees or higher. If parent forgets to take the child's temperature, they will arrive in the parking lot, remain in their vehicle, call the school office (928-704-1100), and a staff member will come to their vehicle to take the child's temperature.
- Attendance awards at YSA are cancelled, as to support the parent when concerned about keeping their child at home.
- Encourage you to self-report if you have a family member displaying symptoms, has been exposed or tested positive.
- Parents check and confirm that your child does not have:
  - Fever or chills,
  - Cough,
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty of breathing.
- Parent will keep child at home if displaying any COVID-19 symptoms.
- If a staff member notices upon visual inspection of the child for signs of illness which could include flushed cheeks, rapid breathing or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity), or fatigue, the staff member will take child's temperature. A parent will be required to pick-up the child.

- Student Displays Symptoms During the Day Process:
  - Students will be sent to the office and the staff member will call the office.
  - Student will be isolated in the COVID-19 isolation area.
  - Student will keep the face mask on (unless the medical condition warrants its removal).
  - Staff member will conduct screening.
  - Staff member will contact parent/guardian to pick-up student if symptoms are consistent with COVID-19 and are not a usual symptom for that child (like coughing or runny nose due to allergies).
  - Staff will notify local health officials of any cases of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality.
  - Students with symptoms such as allergies that can be mistaken for COVID-19 must have medical information verified by a doctor on file at the school. Also, if you choose to take your child to the doctor, the doctor may supply a medical release verifying the symptoms are not COVID-19 related. The child may then return to school.
  - A child may return to school if symptoms go away without the use of medication.

### **Playground Protocols**

- **CDC Guidelines**
  - Outdoor areas generally require normal routine cleaning and do not require disinfection. Spraying disinfectant on sidewalks and in parks is not an efficient use of disinfectant supplies and has not been proved to reduce the risk of COVID-19 to the public. You should maintain existing cleaning and hygiene practices for outdoor areas.
- **YSA Plan**
  - Playground will be open to a limited number of students at one time and classroom cohorts will be required to stay with only their class.
  - Playground will be “zoned” for each designated class to maintain physical distancing between cohorts.
  - Students are not allowed to bring play equipment from home.

### **Reported Cases**

- **CDC Guidelines**
  - Close off areas used by a sick person and do not use these areas until after cleaning and disinfecting.
  - Wait at least 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting. If 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible. Ensure safe and correct use and storage of cleaning and disinfection products, including storing products securely away from children.
  - In accordance with state and local laws and regulations, school administrators should notify local health officials, staff, and families immediately of any case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
  - Inform those who have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 to stay home and self-monitor for symptoms and follow CDC guidance if symptoms develop.
- **YSA Plan**
  - If a member of the school test positive for COVID-19 the following will happen:
  - YSA utilizes continued guidance from Mohave County for additional decision-making. While waiting for additional guidance, YSA will enact the following:
    - YSA will maintain confidentiality; letters and notifications will refer to any student or staff using terms such as a “member of the school”.
    - YSA will notify parents with a specific letter if a member within their child’s class has tested positive.
    - YSA will notify all stakeholders if a member of the school has tested positive but will not give specific grade or class information.
    - YSA will give notice as quickly as possible – we will all work together to make notification.
    - If we have a confirmed positive case, YSA may need to close the classroom for a quarantine period. In that case, those students in that class will temporarily revert to distance-learning during the quarantine period.

- YSA will require all students in the classroom to wear a face covering at all times, parents will be notified by phone call, and classroom may be relocated to another building that is sanitized and prepared for students

### **Shared Belongings**

- **CDC Guidelines**

- Discourage sharing of items that are difficult to clean or disinfect.
- Keep each child's belongings separated from others' and in individually labeled containers, cubbies, or areas.
- Ensure adequate supplies to minimize sharing of high touch materials to the extent possible (e.g., assigning each student their own art supplies, equipment) or limit use of supplies and equipment by one group of children at a time and clean and disinfect between use.
- Avoid sharing electronic devices, toys, books, and other games or learning aids.

- **YSA Plan**

- Students will utilize their own individual supplies stored in separate container.
- Shared school supplies will be wiped down after each use.
- Students will have own individual computer devices, if used, and/or computers will be wiped down after each use.
  - Students are not to share supplies/materials.

### **Signs and Messages**

- **CDC Guidelines**

- Post regarding school policies and changes therein.
- Broadcast regular announcements on reducing the spread of COVID-19 on social media, PA systems, etc.
- Include messages about behaviors that prevent the spread of COVID-19 when communicating with staff and families (such as on school websites, in emails, and on school social media accounts).

- **YSA Plan**

- Regular school messages to parent with the latest guidelines from the CDC, state, and local health authorities.
- Health and cleaning tips will be sent to parents and staff through email and social media.
  - Staff meetings, emails, etc., will review behaviors to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

### **Social Physical Distancing**

- **YSA Plan**

- Modified classroom layouts allow for student's desks to be spread out to maximum distancing.
- Students will remain in their classrooms throughout the day to limit mixing between groups as much as possible (cohorts).
- Students will have assigned seating.
- Mask/shield requirement for all staff.
- Social distancing protocols will be used outside of the classroom along with limited use of common areas when feasible.
- If an emergency arises that requires a staff member to touch a student or another staff member, resume social distancing as soon as safely possible, wash hands, and disinfect any surfaces touched.

### **Training Employees**

- **YSA Plan**

- Prior to the start of the year, staff will be trained on:
  - Handwashing
  - Social-Distancing
  - Face Coverings
  - Coughing and Sneezing Protocol
  - School-wide procedures
  - Sanitizing

- Daily Employee Screening

### **Ventilation**

- **CDC Guidelines**

- Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors.
- Do not open windows and doors if they pose a safety or health risk to children using the facility (e.g., allowing pollens in or exacerbating asthma symptoms).

- **YSA Plan**

- Increase ventilation by opening doors when temperature allows and as available within classrooms (fan/vent on AC units).
- Change air filters on a regular schedule.
- Keep air conditioners working at maximum capacity.

### **Communal Spaces**

- **CDC Guidelines**

- Outdoor areas generally require normal routine cleaning and do not require disinfection. Spraying disinfectant on sidewalks and in parks is not an efficient use of disinfectant supplies and has not been proven to reduce the risk of COVID-19 to the public. You should maintain existing cleaning and hygiene practices for outdoor areas.

- **YSA Plan**

- Playground structures (playground equipment such as slides, monkey bars, climbing areas, etc.) will be cleaned regularly, and student play will be limited to one class at a time on each area of the playground.
- Offering independent learning games or easily to social distance games such as hopscotch, tic tac toe, jump ropes, hula hoops, etc.
- Play equipment is not allowed from home.
- Open play areas are “zoned” for each designated class.
- Encourage use of classroom bathrooms.
- Lunch will be served either in the classroom or the cafeteria, and with spacing of students.