

Redeeming Grace Church

Co-Op Fall 2022-2023 – COVID Mitigation Plan

The Redeeming Grace Church Co-Op is an educational alternative whereby families join together to educate their children both in academics and in the truths of the Gospel. Co-Op has always maintained that parents are responsible for their own children. This includes their education, discipleship, health and safety. As a community of believers, the Co-Op also works hard to care for and support the families in Co-Op. This particularly applies during times such as the recent pandemic.

We have grown accustomed to a rapidly shifting landscape over the past year, and more undoubtedly lie ahead of us. But we go forward with our great God who goes before us and walks with us. There are no surprises for him. As events unfold, the Co-Op leadership team and elders of RGC will continue to monitor current health department information, CDC recommendations, and updated public health guidelines as these are issued. We firmly believe that in-person classes deliver significantly higher levels of learning than on-line instruction. With that in mind, we plan to begin in-person classroom instruction for the coming school year the week of September 6, 2022. The goal is to maintain in-person instructions for all classes for the entire academic year so long as we can safely meet and comply with Local, State, Federal mandates, and the elders at Redeeming Grace Church believe we can use the facility safely.

As of May 2022, Masks are not required in the building: however, students and teachers are free to wear them if they prefer. We want our community to be welcoming and accepting of people with differing opinions and practices.

If during the school year, Co-Op is required to implement COVID safety protocols to comply with local, state, or federal mandates/laws, or the Elders of RGC request COVID mitigations be implemented our tentative plan to maintain in-person instruction is outlined below.

Outline of Mitigation Plan (Only if Needed)

We recognize that there are a wide variety of opinions and views on health precautions and safety procedures related to COVID as reflected in our survey to Co-op families in June 2020. We have attempted to provide a balanced approach to enable as many of the families in Co-op to participate in both/either Tuesday and Thursday classes in the fall.

Social Distancing:

Three-foot separation is maintained whenever possible for both teachers and students.

- Students will sit 3 ft apart in the classroom.
- Students will face the same direction, if possible.
- Use larger classrooms and spaces as needed
- Siblings may be seated together in the same class.
- Static seating charts for each class to assist with tracing, if needed.
- Students will eat lunch with their families, outside or in the basement auditorium.
- No more than five children will be allowed in the bathroom at one time.

Personal Hygiene

- Handwashing emphasized
- Students and staff will be encouraged to wash their hands regularly
- Hand-sanitizer stations will be placed in common areas and entrances
- Classrooms will have hand-sanitizer dispensers
- Food, snacks, and candy will be discouraged in the classroom
- No singing in the classroom
- Limit the sharing of consumable supplies between students, if possible

Masks

Students, teachers and helpers will only be required to wear face coverings when social distancing is not possible during in-person classroom activity such as lab experiments, group work, arriving at Co-op, leaving Co-op or during transition time between classes in the hallways and while using the restroom.

- Students in Pre-K through 4th grade will not be required to wear a mask since they cannot do so reliably and effectively. Hand hygiene will be emphasized when group activities require closer proximity.
- Students and teachers at 5th through 12th will be required to wear masks when physical distancing is not possible
- Students, helpers and teachers who cannot comply with this requirement due to health concerns will need to work with co-op leadership team and teacher to confirm exception.
- Individual teachers may require masks based on activity and/or preference.

Cleaning

The building will undergo daily sanitizing for high-touch areas (doorknobs, handles, etc.) using Clorox wipes. Contracted cleaning services may be used on a weekly basis. Tables, doorknobs, and other high-touch surfaces will be wiped down after each class.

Health Screening

A daily health screening will require parents to report that they, and their children, are asymptomatic, have not been exposed to anyone who is symptomatic. Any student, helper or teacher with a temperature over 100.4 will be requested to return home per CDC guidelines - including their family members.

Parents are required to make sure that no one in their family comes to Co-op if they experienced any of the following in the preceding three days: Fever, chills, sore throat, excessive coughing or sneezing, vomiting, diarrhea, difficulty breathing, loss of smell or taste. Further, anyone COVID-positive or with known exposure to someone COVID-positive should not come to Co-op for 14 days.

Parent Commitment and Liability:

Parents will be required to sign a liability waiver agreeing that COVID-19 is a risk with the return to in-person instructions and accepts sole responsibility for participation in Co-Op. In addition, parents will sign a Parent Commitment that they will cooperate with COVID-19 reporting, testing, and quarantining to protect the Co-Op community. The Co-Op leadership team, in conjunction with church leadership, will rapidly and appropriately respond to any occurrences of COVID-19 in Co-Op and implement all necessary health and safety protocols.

Continuity Planning

There are a variety of reasons that our academic school year could be disturbed - Virginia entering a state of emergency with restricted state of operations, or we may incidents of COVID-19 in the Co-Op community.

- The Co-Op may leverage online learning. When possible, and if the teacher is willing or material allows them to continue with online distance learning, classes will continue throughout the school year.
- If a teacher or student has been exposed, tested positive, or unable to come to Co-Op, they may work with their students/teacher to see if online learning is possible.

Online Learning – *Middle and High School Only*

The Co-Op will provide online learning for most classes and leverage one of the following approaches on an as needed basis

- Weekly live (zoom) or recorded audio or video lectures
- Teacher directed assignments via email
- Parent responsibility to ensure classwork is completed.

Instructions to Parents and Coverage for Sick Students and Teachers: If your family will be absent due to illness or any other factors, please notify and obtain a sub for yourself as soon as possible (the sub list will be made available to everyone at the meeting September 10th). Secondly, notify the correct teachers of your child's absence. Please notify the teachers and coordinate with the sub list directly - there is no reason to contact the leadership team (unless COVID positive).

Parent Commitment

Parents must agree to the following statements as a condition of participation in the Redeeming Grace Church (RGC) Co-Op for 2022-2023 classes in the event Co-Op needs to operate within restrictions by Local or State Governments to manage COVID:

- I have thoroughly read RGC Co-Op Mitigation Plan and expectations related to returning to Co-Op as well as the CDC guidelines for preventing the spread of COVID-19. I understand my responsibilities as they relate to potential testing, prevention, daily screenings, and at-home learning, taking/keeping sick children at home, and handling/reporting illnesses within my household to Co-Op Leadership Team. I will emphasize use of good hand washing and proper respiratory etiquette by my children. I will also complete the required health screening including taking each participant's temperature prior to attending Co-Op each week.

- If I or my child develop symptoms of or are tested for COVID-19, I waive all rights to privacy and will share all related health information with the RGC Co-Op Leadership Team. Furthermore, I consent for the Co-Op Leadership Team to share medical information about myself or my child with church leadership and my child(ren)'s classroom teacher(s) and other Co-Op families as needed. I understand that my child's name, grade level, and classroom and sibling affiliations may be shared with other parents and teachers for the purposes of contact tracing. Moreover, the Co-Op Leadership Team will cooperate with local health officials, who may require specific information about any individuals who have contracted the virus.

- I understand that while RGC Co-Op will make every attempt to encourage parents and students to adhere to the Co-Op's plans to prevent COVID-19, the realities of placing my child(ren) in Co-Op with other children and adults may create opportunities for exposure. I understand that RGC and Co-Op cannot guarantee 100% compliance by 100% of parents and students 100% of the time. I accept all risk associated with my child's attendance of Co-Op classes and events, and I acknowledge that Co-Op's attempts to mitigate risk are in no way a guarantee that my child will remain healthy or avoid contracting COVID-19. I release RGC and Co-Op (including leadership, teachers, and parents) from all liability and will hold RGC, the Co-Op Leadership team, and other Co-Op parents harmless if my child becomes ill.
- I acknowledge that if any member of my household accepts and engages in activity known to bring risk of contracting COVID-19, they are also accepting risk on behalf of the Co-Op community. To the extent possible, my household and I will avoid activities that are known to increase risk of contracting COVID-19, and I will consider temporary self-quarantine as needed.
- I understand that I have paid for my Co-Op classes and cost does not change when remote learning is utilized and if I choose to withdraw, the RGC-Op will not be able to provide any refunds as teachers may have spent class money on supplies already.