



COVID-19 Operations Plan Summary

The Cape Eleuthera Island School (The Island School) is committed to ensuring the health and well being of our community and our island. We continue to work closely with global public health, epidemiological and medical experts to develop a multi-layered approach to mitigating the risk of viral spread within and beyond our community. Health, safety, and managed risk remain a primary focus for all in our organization - COVID-19 presents a new found challenge to reinforce our commitment to these principles. Our programs have always been built around accounting for and effectively managing a wide variety of risks. With consideration for the gating and basic protocols imposed by the CDC, the WHO, the Bahamian Government, and our own best-practice developed through extensive planning with our consulting partners, [Fusion Cell](#) and [Prometheus Medical](#), this document contains a brief summary of our policies and procedures that we have implemented as we welcome students to our Semester and Summer Term, Elementary Learning Center (ELC), Deep Creek Middle School (DCMS) and Community Engagement programs, as well as to continue our science, research and innovation operations.

As we safely and responsibly welcome students to our campuses, we are responsive to local, national and global changes related to COVID-19 and will update our community and operations accordingly. While vaccination for COVID-19 is widely available in some parts of the world for our international constituents, it is worth noting that the vaccination rate in The Bahamas and access to medical resources is limited. As such, we remain committed to our guidelines that keep our communities safe and manage the risk of exposure.

In order to best mitigate the risk of COVID-19 on our campuses, we have developed protocols and procedures across all of our programs to include the following:

- Campus infrastructure upgrades including: increased outdoor learning spaces to maximize outdoor time; improved internal air quality through installation of air exchange and HEPA filtration; increased presence of handwashing stations; reduced density in dorms, offices and classrooms; and repurposed building use to provide designated isolation and quarantine spaces if needed.

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- Detailed protocols and behavioral norms that exceed existing laws and regulations, which are specific to our environment and are based on best practices and guidance from our consulting partners who are experts in public health and epidemiology.
- Continued approval by the Board of Directors, legal advisors, and other agencies.

We are confident in our ability to deliver in-person programming, understanding that the situation may change rapidly and the content of this document may change without notice.

On-Site Programming

Current on site-programming accounts for travel limitations and revised health and safety criteria, as well as the individual decisions of our constituents.

Approach and Plan to Mitigate COVID-19 Risk

The Island School takes targeted, science-backed approaches to reduce the potential for disease transmission on campus. These engineering, administrative and exclusion controls complement our Health Protection Protocols while enabling the best experience possible during a pandemic. They include:

- Encouraging vaccination for all who have access
- Pre-travel, travel and arrival quarantine and/or testing protocols to ensure we begin each program virus free
- Programming in smaller cohorts or “Family Units” to reduce exposure and intersection
- Restricting visitors and guests
- Daily health screenings for students and staff
- Increased utilization of outdoor learning spaces and surroundings
- Increased medical footprint
- Testing capabilities for COVID-19

All community members will follow these basic principles to limit the spread of disease.

- Daily Health Screenings
- Face Covering (wearing a mask) as cited by our Health Protection Protocols
- Physical distancing when mandated
- Hand-washing
- Sanitation and disinfection of common touch areas

Should it be necessary, our programs are prepared to maintain smaller cohorts and to reduce or eliminate intersections between those groups in order to minimize the risk of viral spread and to facilitate contact tracing.

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Standard Precautions

With significant guidance and insight from medical professionals, as well as a core team that understands our operations and infrastructure, we have made changes to the following areas to structure our COVID-19 mitigation on campus. Standard precautions exist for all employees, constituents, (and guests when permitted) of the Cape Eleuthera Island School. These precautions are focused on three key concepts outlined below:

Facilities: Modifications have been made to our campus infrastructure that aid in the prevention of illness (improved air quality, increase outdoor classroom space, install more handwashing stations, repurposing spaces for de-densification and for isolation/ quarantine facilities, and the installation of signage to encourage appropriate behavior).

People: All persons on campus, including employees and students (and guests when permitted), will follow the Health Protection Protocols including face covering (mask), hand-washing, sanitation and disinfection of common touch areas, physical distancing, and daily health screening.

Program: We have redesigned all of our programs to reduce the likelihood of exposure and limit the rate and breadth of spread in the event that COVID-19 is present in our community. Some of the underlying principles of these redesigns include: limiting student cohort sizes, minimizing intersections between groups, and instituting pre-arrival and on-site quarantine and/or testing.

Campus Health Services

Our medical team and medically-trained faculty and staff currently consists of a paramedic, an Emergency Nurse, EMT's, Wilderness First Responders and remote access to mental health resources as needed. We have additional direct telemedicine support for both routine and emergency care. Additionally, there is a local clinic staffed with a doctor and paramedic 35 minutes away in Rock Sound with whom we work closely. We utilize life flight and air evacuation services that allow us to respond as necessary for more definitive medical care.

Designated Quarantine and Isolation Spaces

- We have prepared protocols and spaces to properly care for sick or presumed sick community members and have repurposed spaces on campus if needed for isolation (sick or presumed sick individuals who need to be separated, monitored, and cared for) or quarantine (potential contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 and who will thus require monitoring and separation from the broader community).

Personal Responsibility

- Regardless of our own personal comfort with risk, the most effective thing we can do to keep our friends, colleagues and neighbors safe is to follow the guidelines, identify

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problems AND solutions and course-correct as necessary. COVID-19 has changed how people interact with each other and their environments. We are committed to supporting the health and safety of our island neighbors as well as everyone in our community and as such, we must remain vigilant.

Vaccination Policy

A fully (or near fully) vaccinated community allows us the greatest promise to not only protect students, staff, faculty, and neighbors, but also provides the opportunity to function more normally, without significant adaptations or modifications to our programming and housing. As such, we are working hard to encourage vaccination (and make it accessible) for our staff and are requiring vaccination of our students/clients for participation in certain programs when they have adequate access to vaccines based on age, location, and travel.

Masking

Based on consultation with medical experts and evolving recommendations from the CDC and government, masks are generally required but may be removed in certain circumstances, based on the nature of the activity that individuals are participating in and the vaccination status of the group. As a general rule, masks continue to be required on campus in compliance with governmental regulations and best practice for COVID mitigation.

Hybrid/Online Options

Should Bahamian laws change, or unforeseen circumstances arise, our educational programs are prepared to shift to hybrid/online options that continue to educate and engage students with a mission-driven focus. All of our programs are forward-thinking and planning for multiple contingencies given the current state of global uncertainty.

PROGRAM SPECIFIC MODIFICATIONS

Semester & Summer Term Faculty and Students:

- Proof of full vaccination prior to arrival
- Negative RT-PCR or RAT COVID-19 testing prior to travel
- “Working Quarantine” upon arrival on Eleuthera
- Testing on arrival day and post-working quarantine
- Daily health screenings
- Testing, isolation and quarantine as necessary

Local Programs

- Grade level cohorts of 8 or fewer students with 2 adults (1 group per day)

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- Social distance learning time with stable wifi connections on our campus or an appropriate space in Deep Creek (literacy, math, environmental science)
- Students will have a daily health screening before pick up
- Students have been pre-screened for health concerns/ any COVID-19 risk factors
- Masks, social distancing, hand sanitizing will be followed
- Lunch and snack time will be provided

Elementary Learning Center Faculty and Students

- Small student groups in well-ventilated, primarily open air spaces, contained within The Island School campus
- Daily health screenings for all staff and students before entry
- Revised drop-off and pick-up procedures that maintain social distance and limit access to school
- Designated spaces on campus for all activities to eliminate or minimize intersection of students with staff or others in the community
- Installation of ventilation fans to ensure air exchange in learning spaces
- Enhanced daily sanitation schedule
- Qualified medical team to evaluate and monitor any concerns
- Testing and isolation at home as necessary
- Limited group size

Deep Creek Middle School Faculty and Students

- Daily health screenings before entry
- Revised drop-off and pick-up procedures including transportation
- Maintain smaller groups to reduce overall density and movement of students around campus
- Enhanced daily sanitation schedule
- Additional outdoor learning space to reduce density and increase air circulation
- Addition of HEPA filtration in air conditioned spaces
- Each child has been provided their own laptop for use in school and at home.
- Quarantine and isolate at home as necessary

Sources of Information and Guidance

We understand that there is an enormous amount of information, some of it mistaken, deliberately false, or outdated, about COVID-19. For this reason, we want to be transparent about the sources we have chosen to trust. In addition to guidance being provided by the CDC and the Bahamian Government, we have been working with two consulting groups specializing in public health, epidemiology, and emergency medicine who have been supporting schools and businesses throughout this pandemic in developing sound and

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science backed reopening plans. Additionally, we have been seeking guidance and advice from a wide range of doctors who are managing exposure to COVID-19 on a daily basis. Lastly, our colleagues at similarly designed semester programs have generously shared their planning documents and we have benefited tremendously from their good thinking.

In Closing

Since inception, The Island School has strived to lead in a respectful and collaborative manner in our remote location on a family island of The Bahamas. Our program modifications outlined above aim to model a safe and responsible course through the COVID-19 pandemic, for the sake of our organization and our local community. As the global situation continues to evolve, so too will our protocols and procedures. For years, we have thrived in our unique island location, and though our program has been adapted to meet the current climate, our values of leadership, conservation and sustainability remain strong.

It is our objective to model a safe and responsible course through the COVID-19 pandemic that sustains our core programs and in turn supports our education, conservation, sustainability and outreach services as well as the economic spillover that has been celebrated here in South Eleuthera for the past 20 years. We look forward to continuous and timely communication with all of our constituents and hope to stand as a model that might help other communities continue to deliver their mission.

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