



SAFE SCHOOL REOPENING



Lake Norman Charter's Reopening Plan

This LNC Safe Reopening Plan outlines how we will safely operate school during the 2020-2021 year. The Plan includes all three potential operational scenarios as laid out [by the State of North Carolina \(plans A, B and C\)](#). The LNC Reopening Plan provides LNC families with many details regarding health and safety, social and emotional concerns, how LNC would implement the three potential state plans, information about transportation and more.

Since the health, safety and well-being of our students and staff is our chief concern, our Health and Safety Protocols and Social-Emotional Support sections appear first in this document, followed by our approach for implementing all three potential plans (A, B and C). Although day-to-day school operations will vary depending on the plan we implement, our Health and Safety Protocols and Social-Emotional Support will be constant regardless of the executed plan. (Recognizing that Plan C's 100% Remote Learning renders much of the Health and Safety Protocols irrelevant.)

Finally, you will find some additional information near the end of this document that pertains to student transportation along with an option for families who are uncomfortable sending their students back to school under any variation of in-person learning.

If, after reading this plan, you have any unanswered questions, please check our [Reopening FAQs](#).



SAFE SCHOOL REOPENING

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If, after reading this plan, you have any unanswered questions, please check our [Reopening FAQs](#).



*(Applies to **ALL** Reopening Plans)*

Lake Norman Charter developed Health and Safety protocols to support a safe and healthy school environment for the 2020-2021 school year. The ability to open our doors, and keep them open, will rely on a community effort to support and adhere to each. We recognize that these protocols will not always be convenient for our students, staff and parents. These protocols will greatly reduce risk to our stakeholders, but no protocols can completely eliminate risk. We must all work together to do our very best in keeping each other safe while supporting student learning to the best of our ability during this challenging and unusual time.

Proactive Measures to Prevent a Case of COVID-19

- **Masks/Face Coverings**



- All staff and students will wear masks/face coverings while at school with opportunities to remove them for different activities such as while eating lunch and at recess (as long as social distancing is possible).
- Consideration is given for our youngest students as they may struggle with extended use, but mask use will be encouraged as much as reasonably possible, especially in any transition times.
- Please note that face shields are not a substitute for masks.

- **Social Distancing (at least 6' between people)**

- Varies depending upon which state plan LNC is operating under
 - [Plan A](#) – Social Distance practiced in all “common areas” where people could congregate (carpool, reception areas, hallways, gyms, etc.) and strived for to the degree possible in classroom settings.
 - [Plan B](#) – Social Distance practiced in ALL areas of the schools including classrooms.



- **Daily Health Screening**

- LNC will conduct a health screening of any person entering the school building, including students, staff, family members and any other essential visitors.



- Screenings include temperature checks using either a touchless thermometer or thermal scanner and [health screening questions](#).
 - Fever is determined by a measured temperature of 100.4 °F or greater. If a student/staff member exhibits a fever, they will be rescanned. If they continue to exhibit a fever, they will be sent home.
- At the elementary school, screenings will occur before students disembark their vehicles.
- Students and staff are expected to truthfully report symptoms and/or exposure to an individual who is positive for the virus.

- **Cleaning & Sanitation Practices**

- Student and Staff Hygiene

LNC will:

- Teach/reinforce healthy hygiene habits, including handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and safe use of hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol content. We ask that you create a similar and common practice at home.
- Incorporate frequent handwashing and sanitation breaks into classroom activity, including before and after lunch and recess.
- Provide adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors (e.g., soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol, paper towels and tissues) and additional sanitizing/hand-washing stations.
- Install additional water bottle refilling stations versus drinking fountains.
- Teach COVID-19 safety training for staff and students.



- Clean & Safe Facilities

LNC will:

- Add cleaning staff to its sanitation crew.
- Clean each classroom throughout the day and after all lunches.
- Sanitize classroom surfaces, the air in the classroom and the individual classroom HVAC systems each evening and during the day as occupancy allows (classrooms must be empty for 15 minutes to use) using Bioesque, a natural botanical disinfectant solution.
- Establish a regular schedule for performing ongoing and routine environmental cleaning and disinfection of high-touch areas (e.g., door handles, stair rails, faucet handles, toilet handles, light switches, desks, tables, chairs and service tables, carts, and trays) with an EPA-approved

disinfectant for SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19). Additionally, NanoSeptic skins will be applied to high-traffic doors and doorknobs. NanoSeptic skins keep these surfaces clean using embedded mineral crystals that oxidize and neutralize organic contaminants.

- Upgrade HVAC air filters.
- If operating under Plan B, the facilities/janitorial crew will deep clean classrooms on Wednesdays (during Student Seminar). Additional janitorial staff have been added to accommodate the extra cleaning duties. If operating under Plan A, the facilities/janitorial crew will deep clean classrooms in the evenings or as occupancy allows.
- Practices & Habits in the Classroom
 - LNC will:*
 - Limit student sharing of personal items and supplies such as writing utensils.
 - Limit student use of classroom materials to small groups and disinfect between uses or provide adequate supplies to assign.
 - Keep students' personal items separate and in individually labeled cubbies/containers.
 - Remove soft surface items such as rugs, cloth beanbag type chairs and stuffed animals, which are much harder to sanitize.



- **Health Personnel**

- We have appointed a fulltime [District Health Care Coordinator](#) to help track, train and assist families with COVID-related questions.
- All school staff who provide direct staff/student care and assessment are required to wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and perform hand hygiene after removing PPE.

- **Caring for Our High Risk Students**

- Some individuals have [greater risk](#) factors and require additional protection measures such as 100% remote learning.
- Students who are considered high-risk for severe illness due to COVID-19 include those who have one of the following conditions:
 - chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
 - heart disease with complications
 - compromised immune system
 - obesity - body mass index of 30 or higher
 - other underlying medical conditions that are not well controlled, such as diabetes, renal failure, liver disease or sickle cell disease
- If a parent/guardian believes that their child qualifies under the “high-risk” student designation for COVID-19 protection, they should contact the District Health Care Coordinator (Rebecca Shipman; rshipman@lncharter.org) to

discuss the process to receive medical accommodations for remote learning. Students with this elevated level of risk will not be allowed to come in and out of remote learning unless it is based on a diagnosis change.

- **Students Should Stay Home If:**

- They have tested positive for or are showing COVID-19 [symptoms](#), until they meet criteria for return.
- They have recently had [close contact](#) with a person with COVID-19, until they [meet criteria for return](#).

If, after reading this plan, you have any unanswered questions, please check our [Reopening FAQs](#).

LNC and Parent Actions in the Event of a COVID-19 Case

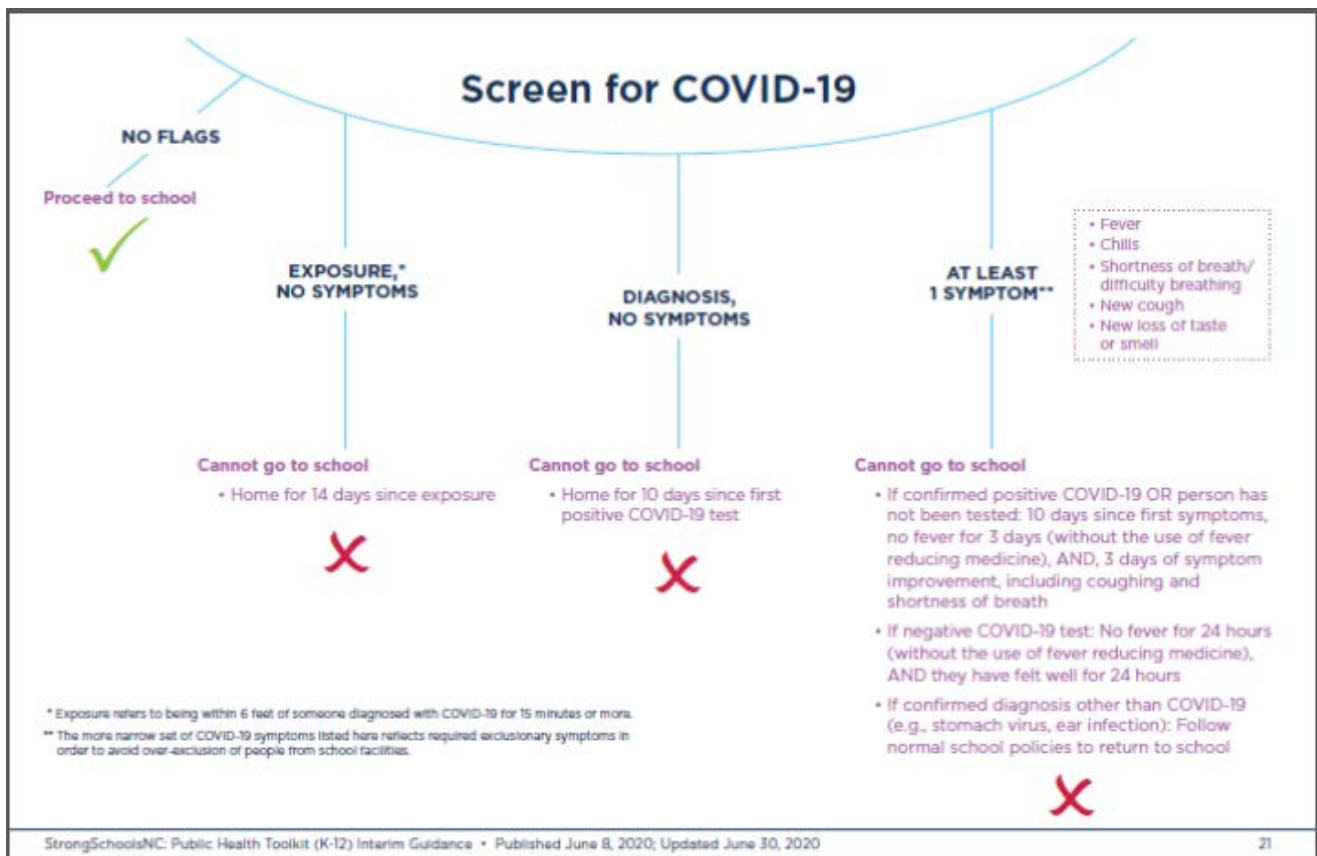
**All protocols followed are from the NC Department of Health and Human Services Guidelines. Please reference these guidelines if you have any questions about the procedures that Lake Norman Charter will utilize if there is a suspected, presumptive or confirmed case of COVID-19 observed or reported.*

- **Handling a Case of COVID-19 at LNC**

- If a student is suspected/presumed/confirmed positive, whether during the daily screening process or throughout the course of the school day, they will go to a safe, supervised and private area where they will be monitored until a parent can pick them up.
- Communication
 - If a positive case of COVID-19 is found, LNC and the Mecklenburg Health Department will notify families of any students who have been “exposed” due to having close contact with the infected person. “Close Contact” is defined as being less than 6 feet apart for more than a 15 minute period. Students and staff who have been exposed will need to quarantine for 14 days. People who have been exposed may opt to be tested for COVID-19, but are not required to do so. The 14 day quarantine will still be in effect even if a negative test is presented.
 - LNC will also notify families of those students who were in the same classroom as the infected person, but were not exposed as defined by the the NCDHHS. These students will not need to quarantine; the notice is for informational purposes only. The infected person’s privacy will be upheld according to [HIPPA laws](#). Please understand that it is illegal for the school to share any information about the infected person.
 - Through a link in the [Reopening FAQs](#), LNC will keep record of any positive cases at any of the three schools strictly for parents’ information. No information about the positive case will be disclosed other than the date and school of the occurrence.

- **Handling a Case of COVID-19 outside of LNC**
 - If your child has had an exposure, is exhibiting symptoms or been diagnosed with COVID-19 outside of school, we ask that you contact the following people so that we can develop a plan of support:
 - District Health Care Coordinator: [Rebecca Shipman](#)
 - Your student's building assistant principal
 - Elementary School Assistant Principal: [Melanie Latza](#)
 - Middle School Assistant Principal: [Brian Bauer](#)
 - High School Assistant Principal: [Marcus Funchess](#)
- **Safely Returning to School:**
 - If a student or staff member had exhibited COVID-like symptoms (fever, chills, cough), but had a negative COVID-19 test, they can return to school once there is no fever without the use of fever-reducing medicines and they have felt well for 24 hours.
 - If a student/staff member has been diagnosed with COVID-19, but does not have symptoms, they must remain out of school until 10 days (see checklist below) have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test, assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms since their positive test.
 - If a student/staff member has been diagnosed with COVID-19 by a medical professional based on a test or their symptoms, OR does not get a COVID-19 test but has had COVID-19 symptoms, they should not be at school and should stay at home until they (or a family member if younger child) can answer YES to the following three questions:
 1. Has it been at least 10 days since the child first had symptoms?
 2. Has it been at least 3 days since the child had a fever (without using fever-reducing medicine)?
 3. Has it been at least 3 days since the child's symptoms have improved, including cough and shortness of breath?
 - If a student/staff member has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or has been presumed positive by a medical professional due to symptoms, they are not required to have documentation of a negative test in order to return to school.
 - If a student/employee has been determined to have been in [close contact](#) with someone diagnosed with COVID-19, they must remain out of school for 14 days since the last date of exposure unless they test positive, in which case, exclusion criteria above would apply. They must complete the full 14 days of quarantine, even if they have tested negative.
 - If a student is unable to attend in-person school due to illness or exposure, LNC will provide remote learning options.

If, after reading this plan, you have any unanswered questions, please check our [Reopening FAQs](#).



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Student, Family and Staff Support

While COVID-19 is an infectious virus with potential implications to one's physical well-being, we also understand that it has potential implications from a social and emotional standpoint. As we prepare for a year that will hold uncertainty, excitement, anxiety and other emotions, it is important to know that we will work tirelessly to support not only the physical health of our students, but also their social and emotional wellbeing.

[Counseling staff](#) from each of our three levels (ES, MS, HS) will receive training as facilitators in both Emotional Integration and the ARC (acknowledge, reconnect, & cultivate) program to serve as direct on-campus support to our students during this continued time of transition.

Many of our teachers will also receive special training in Emotional Reintegration, which helps to equip them to identify students who may be struggling with stress and anxiety due to trauma caused by recent events. These teachers will participate in a 3-hour interactive workshop that guides them through a model that helps them to recognize the return to school as an action that involves a number of emotions for students. Additionally, we are certifying a core group of staff members to deliver age-appropriate Emotional Reintegration workshops to students once we return to school.

Finally, our [counseling staff](#) are also prepared to help students with both transition back to school and some of the anxiety that the new school model might bring. In addition to proactively reaching out to students to share resources, they stand ready to provide individual support, when necessary. If you think that your child would benefit by a personal check-in with their counselor or just want to share some information about their current social and emotional well-being, please do not hesitate to reach out to their counselor to make them aware.

Available Support Resources outside of LNC:

www.saysomething.net

Hope4NC Helpline

Dial 211

NCCares360



If, after reading this plan, you have any unanswered questions, please check our [Reopening FAQs](#).

STATE PLANS A, B, C



| | Plan A | Plan B | Plan C |
|--|-------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Learning Style | 100% In-Person | Blended 50% In-Person 50% Remote | 100% Remote |
| Density | 100% | 50% | NA |
| Self-Contained Classroom (K-8) | ✓ | ✓ | NA |
| Lunch in Classroom | ✓ | ✓ | NA |
| One Way Hallways | ✓ | ✓ | NA |
| Masks | ✓ | ✓ | NA |
| Social Distancing (6-Foot Apart) | In "Common Areas" | In ALL Areas | NA |
| Daily Screening | ✓ | ✓ | NA |
| Social Emotional Support | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Essential Visitors Only | ✓ | ✓ | NA |
| Buses 50% Capacity | ✓ | ✓ | NA |
| Extensive Cleaning/ Sanitation & Increased Focus on Personal Hygiene | ✓ | ✓ | NA |

We understand that pandemic times are fluid and often call for quick pivoting. Therefore, we will be ready to transition from one plan to another as needed during the 2020-2021 school year.



Plan A – Traditional Schedule/All Students Learn In-Person

Applies To All Schools

- Least restrictive of all the 3 State Plans.
- Traditional schedule with 100% of students attending in-person school 5 days a week.
- All Health & Safety Protocols followed, as outlined beginning on [page 3](#).
- Social and Emotional Support in place, as outlined on [page 9](#).
- All students and staff (K-12) required to wear a facial covering/mask that covers their nose and mouth. Students and staff may remove masks during lunchtime and other times when social distancing can be observed. Please note that face shields are not a substitute for masks.
- Social distancing (6' between people) required only in "common areas" where individuals may congregate, such as hallways, reception areas, cafeteria, restrooms and locker rooms.
- Efforts made to social distance in classroom as much as possible with 100% of students present. Where needed, Plexiglas dividers will be provided at tables in between students to minimize exposure.
- No large group assemblies.
- Students in grades K-8 kept within their same classroom group to limit exposure with those students transitioning together for activities outside of classroom, i.e., restrooms, recess and specials/electives.
- Classrooms contain designated "teacher-only" areas to allow for social distancing (6') between the teacher and students as much as possible. Teachers will always wear a mask when working in close proximity with students.
- For electives/specials such as physical education, band and chorus, curriculum and assessments will be modified to minimize risk of exposure. Parents will be notified of those modifications from the teacher regarding the specific course.
- One-way hallways implemented in all schools to minimize face-to-face encounters.
- Lunches eaten in the classroom.

- Students bring their own water bottles as water fountains will be closed, bottle-filling stations open.
- Designated PTO members deliver catered lunches utilizing all protocols.
- Volunteering limited to only essential needs, following all Health and Safety Protocols.

[Elementary School Specifics](#)

[Middle School Specifics](#)

[High School Specifics](#)

If, after reading this plan, you have any unanswered questions, please check our [Reopening FAQs](#).





SAFE SCHOOL REOPENING

State Plan B

Plan B – Blended Learning Environment/50% of Students Physically Present at School at One Time

Applies To All Schools

- Combines State Plans A & C for a blended learning environment.
- All Health & Safety Protocols followed, as outlined beginning on [page 3](#).
- Social and Emotional Support in place, as outlined on [page 9](#).
- To limit the density to 50%, an altered schedule is implemented with students separated into two cohorts, each attending in-person school 2 days a week.
 - Cohort A Schedule
 - Monday/Thursday - In-person learning at school
 - Tuesday/Friday – Remote learning from home
 - Wednesday – Student Seminar
 - Cohort B Schedule
 - Tuesday/Friday – In-person learning at school
 - Monday/Thursday – Remote learning from home
 - Wednesday – Student Seminar
 - Both cohorts participate in a Student Seminar each Wednesday. Participation could happen remotely or in-person. See examples below under school specific information.
 - LNC will make every effort to keep families in same cohort.
 - As a rule, students with last names beginning A-La comprise Cohort A and students with last names beginning Le-Z comprise Cohort B. Special circumstances causing deviation include 1) families who have children with different last names or 2) LNC's need to better balance classes. If circumstance #1 applies to you, contact your building principal. We will reach out to you if your cohort group changes because of circumstance #2.
 - Unfortunately, LNC cannot accommodate any other special requests regarding cohort placement, i.e., carpool requests.
- All students and staff (K-12) required to wear a facial covering/mask that covers their nose and mouth. Students and staff may remove masks during lunchtime and other times when social distancing can be observed. Please note that face shields are not a substitute for masks.

- Social distancing (6' between people) required in all areas of the school, including all “common areas” (hallways, reception areas, cafeteria, restrooms, etc.) and classrooms.
- No large group assemblies.
- Students in grades K-8 kept within their same classroom group to limit exposure with those students transitioning together for activities outside of classroom, i.e., restrooms, recess and specials/electives.
- Classrooms contain designated “teacher-only” areas to allow for social distancing (6') between the teacher and students as much as possible. Teachers will always wear a mask when working in close proximity with students.
- For electives/specials such as physical education, band and chorus, curriculum and assessments will be modified to minimize risk of exposure. Parents will be notified of those modifications from the teacher regarding the specific course.
- One-way hallways implemented in all schools to minimize face-to-face encounters.
- Lunches eaten in the classroom.
- Students bring their own water bottles as water fountains will be closed, bottle-filling stations open.
- Designated PTO members deliver catered lunches utilizing all protocols.
- Volunteering limited to only essential needs, following all Health & Safety Protocols.



[Elementary School Specifics](#)

[Middle School Specifics](#)

[High School Specifics](#)

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Plan C – 100% Remote Learning from Home

Applies To All Schools

- School facilities are closed for regular in-person instruction; students are only allowed in the buildings for independent or small group instructional support at the level allowed by the State's current Phase limitation.
- If students will be participating in any in-person instructional support, we will follow all [safety protocols](#).
- Students will follow [LNC's Remote Learning Plan](#) as a framework for quality remote learning.
- Remote learning occurs on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesday is reserved for a Student Seminar, which will allow for student small group instruction, counseling check-in's, student tutoring, parent/teacher conferences, teacher planning and collaborating with peers, etc. All students will need to check in **once that morning** for attendance on the Wednesday Student Seminar (**HS students check in to first period, MS students check in to first period by 9:00am and ES students check in between 8:30 and 9:00am**). HS and MS students will not follow their M,T,Th,F structured schedule. Instead they, along with ES students, will utilize the day to seek and receive individualized support as noted above.

Elementary School Specifics

Middle School Specifics

High School Specifics

If, after reading this plan, you have any unanswered questions, please check our [Reopening FAQs](#).



SAFE SCHOOL REOPENING

Independent Learning Option



Families who are uncomfortable with sending their student(s) back to LNC for the 2020-2021 school year will be given the option to participate in Independent Learning for this school year. Given that Lake Norman Charter will follow all CDC, NCDHHS, and State health and safety protocols, as well as the Department of Public Instruction guidelines, ***it is NOT recommended*** that families make this choice.

Program guidelines to consider before committing to this option:

- Students will be expected to complete all coursework as assigned by their teachers without direct instruction from their teachers. They will be required to independently learn from home by accessing lessons or presentations and/or utilizing text books or other classroom curriculum. Students will have the ability to connect with their assigned teacher(s) on Wednesday during Student Seminar office hours if the school is operating under Plan B.
- Students will be required to “check-in” daily via Schoology for attendance purposes.
- At the high school level, students **will not** be allowed to take honors level coursework or certain electives that require in-person instruction, as they will be unable to complete the necessary requirements while working independently without direct instruction from the teacher.
- Students **will not** be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities (i.e. sports, clubs, etc.).
- Students will take end-of-quarter assessments that will count for their assessment average for the quarter and may also be required to take Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) tests to determine if they are “on-track” with the curriculum.
- For students who have an IEP, service delivery time will be provided by an EC teacher at a scheduled time.

- Families interested in starting the school year in Independent Learning must commit to this option ***no later than*** July 19, 2020 to allow for balanced scheduling for the upcoming school year. This is a *quarter-long commitment*. If a family does not submit their [application](#) prior to that date, they will be expected to follow the State guidelines for school attendance and will forfeit their attendance at LNC if they do not attend.

Students will not be allowed to come in and out of the Independent Learning Option.

If, after reading this plan, you have any unanswered questions, please check our [Reopening FAQs](#).



This added information is relevant if either Plan A or B is implemented.

Transportation

- Carpool
 - Families should prepare for the carpool to take longer as students will be expected to socially distance as they are waiting to have their temperature taken and confirm that they do not have symptoms. This will result in a limited number of students being allowed out of cars at any given time.
- LNC Buses (campus shuttles, athletics)
 - All buses will operate at 50% capacity, with riders seated in every other row. Family members may sit together.
 - ES shuttle bus service will continue in a limited capacity.
 - Masks/face covering are required for drivers and students.

Volunteering

Visitors and Volunteers will be restricted from coming to campus, but if their presence is essential, will follow all Health and Safety protocol before entering any school (screening) and while in the building (masks, social distancing).

If, after reading this plan, you have any unanswered questions, please check our [Reopening FAQs](#).