



SAFE SCHOOLS 2020-2021

Health & Safety Protocols

*(Applies to **ALL** 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 keep our doors open for in-person learning relies on a community effort to follow each one. 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 approved masks/face coverings while at school
 - Please note that face shields are not a substitute for masks.
- **Social Distancing**
 - Varies depending upon which state plan LNC is operating under.
- **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.
 - Elementary and middle school parents will pre-screen their students each day by using a QR code to answer 3 attestation questions before arriving to school. Temperatures will still be checked at the door when students arrive to school each day.
 - 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. Only supplies that can be sanitized will be shared
- 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 and staff 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](#) or if someone in the home is showing symptoms of COVID-19, 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 [FAQ](#).

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 from a person who has been confirmed positive for COVID-19 for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. Students and staff who have been exposed will need to quarantine for 10 days. People who have been exposed may opt to be tested for COVID-19, but are not required to do so. The 10 day quarantine will still be in effect even if a negative test is presented.
 - LNC maintains a Covid-19 dashboard, available on its [Covid-19 webpage](#), that tracks all Covid-19 cases and exposures by building. The infected or exposed 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.

- **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](#)
 - AND**
 - 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](#) but had a negative **molecular** (not a rapid antigen type test) 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 24 hours 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. They may return once the appropriate quarantine period has been met.
- 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 10 days since the last date of exposure unless they test positive, in which case, exclusion criteria above would apply. They must complete the full 10 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 [FAQ](#).



Returning from Exclusion Flow Chart

