



SAFE SCHOOL REOPENING



Lake Norman Charter's Reopening Plan

This LNC Safe Reopening Plan outlines how we will safely operate school during the 2021-2022 year. 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.



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SAFE SCHOOL REOPENING

Health & Safety Protocols

Lake Norman Charter developed Health and Safety protocols to support a safe and healthy school environment for the 2021-2022 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.
- 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.



- **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.
- Teach COVID-19 safety training for staff and students.
- Add cleaning staff to its sanitation crew.
- Clean each classroom throughout the day and after all lunches.
- Operate an electrostatic fogging machine that will 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).
- 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 to highest filtration level possible (MERV-13).

- **Health Personnel**

- We have appointed a fulltime [District Health Care Coordinator](#) to help track, train and assist families with COVID-related questions.
- Hire a part-time elementary school nurse for the 2021-2022 school year to assist with COVID contact tracing, COVID testing and other ES health needs
- 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**

- 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@Incharter.org) to discuss the process to receive medical accommodations.

- **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](#).

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 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. 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 but opportunities to return to

school on day #7 will be provided if the student can provide a negative COVID test taken on day #5 or after.

- Through a link at www.Incharter.org, on the [COVID 19 and LNC](#) page, 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: [Tyler Mavity](#)
 - 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 have passed since their positive test and they have not become symptomatic, in which case, symptomatic rules would apply.
- 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 until 7 days of quarantine have been completed, no symptoms have been reported during daily at home monitoring, and the individual received results of a negative antigen or Molecular/PCR test take no earlier than day 5 of quarantine.
- If a student is unable to attend in-person school due to illness or exposure, LNC will provide remote learning options.

Exclusion Category	Scenario	Criteria to return to school
Diagnosis	Person has tested positive with an antigen test but does not have symptoms of COVID-19 and is not known to be a close contact to someone diagnosed with COVID-19.	<p>If the person has a repeat PCR/molecular test performed in a laboratory within 24 – 48 hours of their positive antigen test, and that PCR/molecular test is negative: the positive antigen test can be considered a false positive and the person can immediately return to school; OR</p> <p>If the person does not have a repeat PCR/molecular test, or has one within 24 – 48 hours and it is also positive, the person can return to school 10 days after the first positive test, as long as they did not develop symptoms.</p> <p>The person is not required to have documentation of a negative test in order to return to school.</p>
Diagnosis	Person has tested positive with a PCR/molecular test but the person does not have symptoms.	Person can return to school 10 days after their positive test.
Symptoms	Person has symptoms of COVID-19 and has tested positive with an antigen test or PCR/molecular test	<p>Person can return to school when</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has been 10 days since the first day of symptoms; AND • It has been at least 24 hours since the person had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine); AND • Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving. <p>The person is not required to have documentation of a negative test in order to return to school.</p>
Symptoms	Person has symptoms of COVID-19 but has not been tested for COVID-19 nor has visited a health care provider. Therefore, the person who has symptoms is presumed positive for COVID-19 due to the presence of a clinically compatible illness in the absence of testing.	<p>Person can return to school when</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has been 10 days since the first day of symptoms; AND • It has been at least 24 hours since the person had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine); AND • Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving.
Symptoms	Person has symptoms of COVID-19 but has received a negative test for COVID-19* or has visited a health care provider and received a an alternate diagnosis that would explain the symptoms of COVID-19 *In a person with symptoms, a negative test is defined as either (1) a negative PCR/molecular test or (2) a negative antigen test if the person has a low likelihood of SARS-CoV-2 infection (e.g., the person has no known or suspected exposure to a person with COVID-19 within the last 14 days or is fully vaccinated or has had a SARS-CoV-2 infection in the last 3 months.) See CDC antigen algorithm for interpretation of antigen tests	<p>Person can return to school when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has been at least 24 hours since the person had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine); AND • They have felt well for at least 24 hours. <p>Note: The health care provider is not required to detail the specifics of the alternate diagnosis.</p>
Exposure	Person who is not fully vaccinated and has been in close contact with someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19. (Fully vaccinated persons and persons who have tested positive in the last 3 months and do not have any symptoms after a close contact do not need to quarantine.)	<p>Person can return to school after completing up to 14 days of quarantine. The 14 days of quarantine begin after the last known close contact with the COVID-19 positive individual. Alternatively the person may complete a 10-day quarantine if the person is not presenting symptoms of COVID-19 after daily at-home monitoring, or they may complete 7 days of quarantine if they report no symptoms during daily at-home monitoring, and the individual has received results of a negative antigen or PCR/molecular test on a test taken no earlier than day 5 of quarantine.</p> <p>Follow the recommendations of your local public health department if someone at your schools should quarantine. Local public health authorities make the final decisions about how long quarantine should last in the communities they serve, based on local conditions and needs.</p>



SAFE SCHOOL REOPENING *Social & Emotional Support*

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) have received 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 also received 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 participated in a 3-hour interactive workshop that guided 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.

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. To further support our students, we have hired [Dr. Danielle Graham](#), a mental health specialist, on a part-time basis. Dr. Graham and our six counselors will continue to proactively reach out to students to share resources and provide individual support, when necessary. If you think that your child would benefit by a personal check-in with their counselor or Dr. Graham, or if you would like 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

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Additional Information

2021-2022 Educational Plan

Applies To All Schools for the 2021-2022 School Year

- Traditional schedule with 100% of students attending in-person school 5 days a week.
- All Health & Safety Protocols Social and Emotional Support in place, as outlined on [page 7](#).
- 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.
- Operations will be as “normal” as possible. (see chart below)
- Social distancing (6’ between people) will be encouraged when possible.
- 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.



Volunteering

Visitors and volunteers are welcome to participate in campus activities but will need to follow all Health and Safety protocols before entering any school while in the building (masks, social distancing when possible, etc.).



LNCHARTER

	2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR	2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR
5 Day School Week, Regular School Hours	✗	✓
Option for Remote Learning (Plan C)	✓	✗
Daily Attestation/Health Screening	✓	✗
Non-cohorted Classrooms, Lunches & Recesses	✗	✓
Lunches Eaten in Cafeteria	✗	✓
Lockers Available	✗	✓
Increased Building Sanitation & Nano-skins on High Touch Points	✓	✓
Increased Focus on Handwashing & Hygiene	✓	✓
Bottle Filler Station	✓	✓
Contact Tracing as Needed	✓	✓
Two-Way Hallways	✗	✓
Normal Parent Involvement / Volunteer Opportunities	✗	✓
School Events / Programs	✗	✓
Normal Sports in Regular Season / In-school Clubs	✗	✓
Leadership & Service Programs	✗	✓
Field Trips	✗	✓