



Lake Norman Charter's Health and Safety protocols support a safe and healthy school environment. These protocols 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.

Proactive Measures to Reduce COVID-19 Spread

- **Masks/Face Coverings**

- LNC is a mask optional school. Students and staff who prefer to wear a mask are encouraged to do so. An appropriate and properly-fitted mask is an effective additional layer of safety from the spread of COVID-19.

- **Cleaning and Sanitation Practices**

- Student and Staff Hygiene

LNC continues to:

- 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.
- Provide COVID-19 safety training for staff and students.

- Clean and Safe Facilities

LNC continues to:

- Support additional sanitation crew staff.
- 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.
- Operate a regular schedule for performing ongoing and routine environmental cleaning and disinfection of high-touch areas.

- Use upgraded HVAC air filters.
- **Health Personnel**
 - We employ a fulltime [District Health Care Coordinator](#) and a [registered nurse](#) at the elementary school to help track, train and assist families and staff with COVID-related questions.
 - All school staff who provide direct staff/student care and assessment wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and perform hand hygiene after removing PPE.
- **Students Should Stay Home If:**
 - They have tested positive for or are showing COVID-19 symptoms until they meet criteria for return.

LNC and Parent Actions in the Event of COVID-19

All protocols followed are based on guidance from the NC Department of Health and Human Services. 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 or exposure to COVID-19 observed or reported.

- **Handling a Case of COVID-19 at LNC**
 - If a student is suspected/presumed/confirmed positive during 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
 - LNC continues to work closely with the Mecklenburg Health Department to minimize virus spread.
 - LNC maintains a COVID-19 dashboard, available on its [COVID-19 webpage](#), that tracks all COVID-19 cases and reported exposures by building.
- **Handling a Case of COVID-19 outside of LNC**
 - If your child has been exhibiting COVID, cold, or flu-like symptoms or has been diagnosed with COVID-19 outside of school, keep your student at home and immediately contact the following people so we can develop a plan of support:
 - HS/MS students: [Rebecca Shipman](#)
 - ES students: [Nurse Denise](#)
- **Quarantining and Safely Returning to School:**
 - As of February 21, 2022, the NCDHHS updated the guidance for K-12 schools. This new guidance states that the impact of individual contact tracing on transmission during this stage of the pandemic may be limited in school settings. Therefore, individual contact tracing and exclusion from school after an identified exposure (regardless of location of exposure or vaccination status) is no longer recommended statewide in K-12 schools, effective February 21, 2022. Symptomatic and COVID-positive students and staff will be excluded from school for their quarantine period

and asked to wear a properly-fitted face mask for days 6 through 10 after they return from quarantine.

- Staff and students *who have symptoms, regardless of vaccination status* should:
 - Stay home from school and seek testing or visit their healthcare provider. Individuals who have symptoms of COVID-19 but have not been tested for COVID-19, nor have visited a health care provider, should be presumed positive for COVID-19 due to the presence of a clinically compatible illness in the absence of testing. Staff and students can return to school when it has been at least 5 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 are improving.
- Staff and students *who test positive, regardless of vaccination status*, and:
 - Do not have symptoms – Can return to school 5 days after the test date of their positive test as long as they never developed symptoms.
 - Have symptoms – Can return to school when it has been at least 5 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.

Note: For individuals with symptoms, day of symptom onset is considered day zero (0). For positive cases with no symptoms, day of positive test is considered day zero (0).

- Staff and students *who are exposed to someone with COVID-19*, regardless of vaccination status, should wear a well-fitting face covering for 10 days while at school and when around other individuals. Individuals who have had a known exposure, regardless of vaccination status, should get tested if they become symptomatic and should be tested on day 5 after the exposure unless they have had a confirmed case of COVID in the last 90 days.