



## **Chapel Hill Academy 2021-2022 Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services (RIPICS) Plan**

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### **Return to In-Person Policies and Procedures**

The CDC advises that it is critical for schools to use and layer prevention strategies regardless of the level of community transmission. To date, the CDC has maintained essentially the same COVID-19 guidelines from the 2020-2021 school year with only minimal changes. It should be noted that the CDC may update the current guidelines as needed, and therefore, CHA may make adjustments to policies and/or procedures at that time. COVID-19 remains a threat to the wellness of our school community, therefore for the safe delivery of in-person instruction and to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the CDC prioritizes these five prevention strategies:

1. Universal and correct use of masks
2. Physical Distancing
3. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
4. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities
5. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine

### **Universal and Correct Use of Masks**

While some teachers and scholars have been vaccinated, others may not have been vaccinated for a variety of reasons. Scholars over the age of 5 are now eligible for vaccination at this time, therefore, it is imperative that we keep these scholars safe. The CDC recommends maintaining the mask requirement in schools because masks work best when everyone in the community wears one. Therefore, we encourage all members of the school community to continue to wear a mask to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Given the fact that new variants of COVID-19 are circulating globally, all community members are encouraged to continue wearing a mask, even if vaccinated.



## **Chapel Hill Academy 2021-2022 Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services (RIPICS) Plan**

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Most scholars, including those with disabilities, can tolerate and safely wear a mask. However, a narrow subset of scholars might not be able to wear a mask or be eligible for vaccination at this time. CHA administrators will continue to make individualized determinations as required by Federal disability laws to determine the best course of action to ensure the safety of all scholars.

### **Physical Distancing**

Physical distancing, also referred to as “social distancing”, requires keeping a safe space between yourself and other people that are not from your household. Our school will encourage social distancing guidelines where possible. Signs to remind the school community of our physical distancing practices will be posted throughout the building and desk barriers will be set up. This practice, combined with mask use, and consistent healthy hygiene practices will help mitigate the risk of community spread in our school.

### **Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette**

Frequent and thorough washing of hands is one of the best ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in any community. To prevent the spread of germs and illness, all school community members will be frequently encouraged to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol) to clean hands BEFORE or AFTER:

- Touching your eyes, nose, or mouth
- Touching your mask
- Entering and leaving a public place
- Touching an item or surface that may be frequently touched by others, such as door handles, handrails, bathroom sinks



## **Chapel Hill Academy 2021-2022 Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services (RIPICS) Plan**

---

Healthy hygiene signage will be maintained throughout our school to remind all scholars to wash their hands at critical times throughout the day. Additionally, classrooms will be equipped with hand sanitizer for frequent use.

### **Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities**

CHA will ensure that high touch areas and surfaces are cleaned daily. Custodial staff will wipe down common areas throughout the day. Regular cleaning of the school facilities combined with wearing masks and consistent healthy hygiene practices will mitigate the risk of COVID-19 infections. If someone within the school community tests positive for COVID-19, the school will be disinfected as recommended by the CDC guidelines. Routine cleaning of our schools, along with the four other strategies outlined above, will mitigate the risk of community spread within our schools.

### **Contact Tracing in Combination with Isolation and Quarantine**

If a member of the school community is diagnosed with COVID-19, the nurse shall report the case to the health department immediately. The school will work with the local health department for contact tracing and to provide notification to the broader school community of positive cases. Please note that cumulative data can be referenced on the COVID dash board located on our school's website.

Anyone in the school that feels sick or displays any symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home. Isolation should be used to separate people diagnosed with COVID-19 from those who are not infected. Scholars, teachers, and staff who are in isolation should stay home and follow the direction of the local health authority about when it is safe for them to return around others.



## **Chapel Hill Academy 2021-2022 Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services (RIPICS) Plan**

---

Quarantine should be used for scholars, teachers, and staff who have been exposed to COVID-19. Fully vaccinated close contacts may not need to quarantine at home following an exposure, however, per CDC guidance, the school will highly encourage them to wear a mask for 14 days or until a negative test result is received. Close contacts who are not fully vaccinated, regardless of test result, should quarantine at home for 14 days after exposure.

Scholars, teachers, and staff who are in quarantine should stay home and follow the direction of the local health authority about when it is safe for them to return around others.

### **Other School Policy Considerations:**

#### **Non-Essential School Visitors**

For the health and safety of the school community members, CHA encourages parents and guardians to call or email the school rather than request an in person meeting or visit. Please note that all visitors are highly encouraged to wear a mask while visiting the school.

#### **Enhanced Protocols**

Enhanced protocols will continue to be in place at all CHA schools during the upcoming school year:






#### **Hand Sanitizer Stations**

- Hand sanitizer stations will be located throughout all buildings.
- All scholars will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer when entering and exiting the classroom.







## Chapel Hill Academy 2021-2022 Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services (RIPICS) Plan

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|   | <p><b>Additional Cleaning Times</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional cleaning protocols throughout the day will take place in classrooms and common areas.</li> <li>• Custodians will be sanitizing frequently touched surfaces (door handles, handrails, bathroom sinks, etc).</li> <li>• Each classroom and all common areas are cleaned each night.</li> <li>• Deep cleanings are completed monthly</li> </ul> |
|  | <p><b>Masks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All scholars, staff members, and visitors are encouraged to wear a mask even if vaccinated.</li> </ul>  |
|  | <p><b>Temperature Checks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School will perform temp checks as needed when a scholar visits the nurse's office</li> </ul>  |



## Chapel Hill Academy 2021-2022 Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services (RIPICS) Plan

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|   | <p><b>Monitoring COVID Symptoms</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not fully vaccinated scholars and staff must be in quarantine for at least 5 days after exposure, be fever-free for 48 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication, wear a mask for 5 additional days, provide negative test results and a doctor's note before returning to school.</li> <li>• If asymptomatic, fully vaccinated close contacts do not need to quarantine at home following an exposure but will be asked to wear a mask for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result.</li> </ul> |
|  | <p><b>COVID Holding Area</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the event a scholar becomes sick during the school day, the scholar will be placed in a holding area away from other scholars to limit any amount of exposure.</li> </ul>   |
|  | <p><b>Seating Arrangements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assigned seats with a desk barriers will be available</li> </ul>   |
|  | <p><b>Water Bottles</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scholars are encouraged to bring water bottles to school.</li> <li>• To help prevent infection, please fill up the water bottle at home before coming to school.</li> <li>• Scholars are able to refill water bottles at school, as needed.</li> </ul>  |



## Chapel Hill Academy 2021-2022 Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services (RIPICS) Plan

### DO choose masks that



Have two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric



Completely cover your nose and mouth



Fit snugly against the sides of your face and don't have gaps



Have a nose wire to prevent air from leaking out of the top of the mask



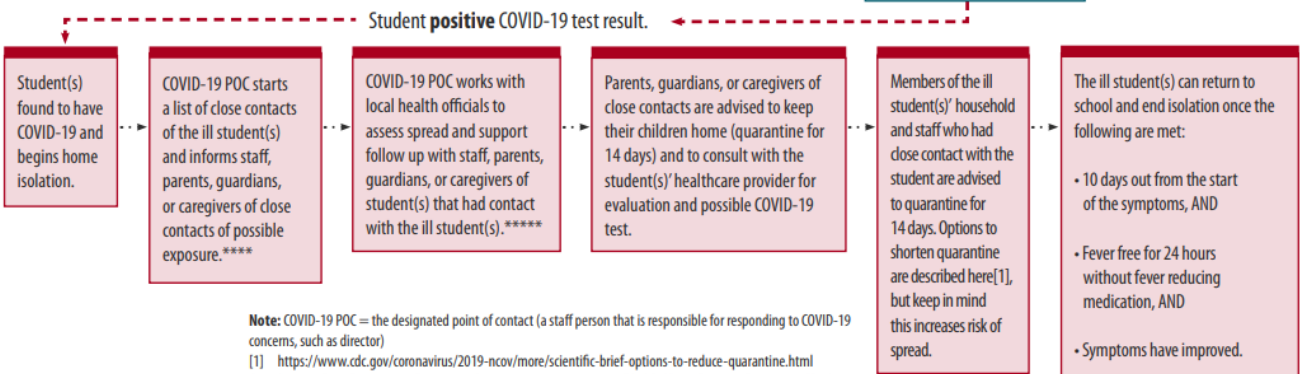
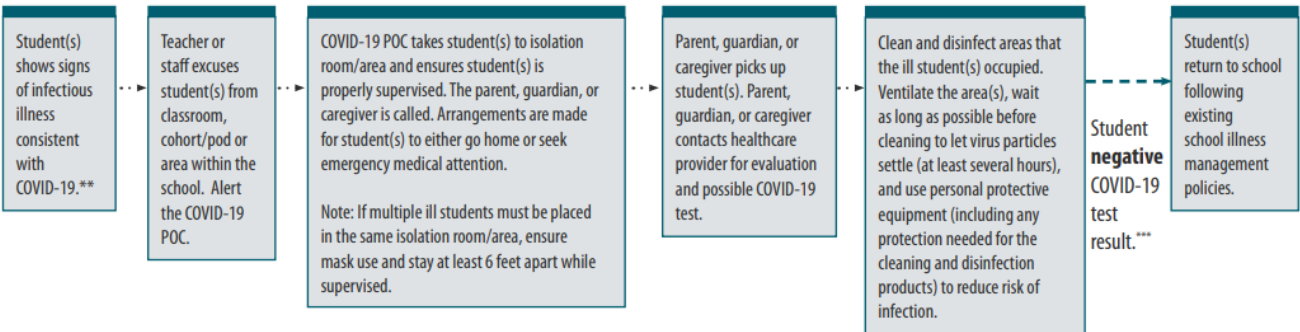
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[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)



## Chapel Hill Academy 2021-2022 Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services (RIPICS) Plan

### WHAT TO DO IF A STUDENT BECOMES SICK OR REPORTS A NEW COVID-19 DIAGNOSIS AT SCHOOL\*



**Note:** COVID-19 POC = the designated point of contact (a staff person that is responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns, such as director)

[1] <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/scientific-brief-options-to-reduce-quarantine.html>

\* Scenario based on geographic area with community transmission of SARS-COV-2 the virus that causes COVID-19.

\*\* The most common symptoms of COVID-19 in children include fever or chills, cough, nasal congestion or runny nose, new loss of taste or smell, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, diarrhea or vomiting, stomachache, tiredness, headache, muscle or body aches, and poor appetite or poor feeding (especially in babies under 1 year old).

\*\*\* With no known close contact.

\*\*\*\* Close contact is defined as someone who was within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more within 2 days prior to illness onset, regardless of whether the contact was wearing a mask.

\*\*\*\*\* To the extent allowable by applicable laws regarding privacy.



cdc.gov/coronavirus

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**Chapel Hill Academy  
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## Chapel Hill Academy 2021-2022 Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services (RIPICS) Plan

### Know the Symptoms



Fever or Chills



Cough, Shortness of breath  
or difficulty breathing



Fatigue, Muscle or body  
aches, Headache



New loss of taste or smell



Sore throat, Congestion or  
runny nose



Nausea or vomiting,  
Diarrhea



**CENTERS FOR DISEASE  
CONTROL AND PREVENTION**

Currently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that employers require all employees to wear face masks.

We encourage sick employees to stay home. Employees who report to work ill will be sent home in accordance with these health guidelines.

If you have symptoms, please notify your supervisor and stay home and follow CDC-recommended steps. Employees should not return to work until the criteria to discontinue home isolation are met, in consultation with healthcare providers.

Employees who are well but who have a sick family member at home with COVID-19 should notify their supervisor and follow CDC recommended precautions.

**Visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) for more information on how to recognize symptoms.**



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### Continuity of Services

**Professional Development** - In order to continue to provide the needed support, CHA has scheduled several days of professional development opportunities that will focus on the mental health and the overall wellness of our staff and identification of areas that require additional support for our scholars. School leadership will take an intentional deep dive into instructional materials and ensure that instructional staff is equipped with the tools necessary for effective and dynamic instructional delivery. PD will empower teachers to be better prepared in utilizing instructional materials, differentiate instruction, maximize scholar engagement and overall instruction delivery. We will also discuss our instructional model and learning objectives.

**Food Services** - Food services will continue as normal, unless otherwise communicated. In the event that a school closure is necessary, curbside meals are available for virtual scholars and in the event of school closure. Pick up times will be made available as needed.

**Special Population** - CHA staff will continue to make adjustments as new guidance is provided by the state. Staff will continue to closely work and monitor scholars with an IEP and or 504 plans regarding its implementation and delivery of services.

**General Support** - CHA/Lena Pope is excited to continue providing community outreach and family support for all of our scholars. Administrators will complete training sessions that help recognize and provide support to staff or scholars who might be experiencing difficulties. We will continue to provide referrals to Lena Pope mental health services with referrals to other community providers. Staff will also be trained in areas that help them prepare to be of better support to scholars suffering from anxiety, stress and other emotional needs while in the classroom.



## **Chapel Hill Academy 2021-2022 Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services (RIPICS) Plan**

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CHA will deploy technology for virtual scholars and utilize Google Classroom to continue instruction. Additional materials and resources will also be available for our Special Education and ELL scholars as well as their families.

### **Public Comment**

CHA's Return to In-Person Instruction Plan has been developed to meet the current state requirements as well as CDC guidelines. Our leadership and administration will continue to work to obtain public feedback and to monitor state guidance to adhere to our state's requirements, as well as to continue to be a support system for all scholars and families. This plan will be revised and updated every 6 months to ensure that all state requirements, CDC guidelines and public input are met.

Please ensure to continue to provide your feedback by completing our 21-22 [survey](#).

CHA families are highly encouraged to contact the school's administration's office should they have additional questions.