



## **Chapel Hill Academy 2022-2023 Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services (RIPICS) Plan**

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### **Continuation of services, Policies and Procedures**

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 levels continue to change in our community, regulations for 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

### **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

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



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### **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 consistent healthy hygiene practices will mitigate the risk of COVID-19 infections.

### **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 dashboard 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. Students, 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.

Quarantine should be used for students, 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 5 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 5 days after exposure.






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### Other School Policy Considerations:





#### Enhanced Protocols

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

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|  | <p><b>Hand Sanitizer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>All students will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer when entering and exiting the classroom.</li></ul>  |
|  | <p><b>Cleaning Times</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Each classroom and all common areas are cleaned each night.</li><li>All restrooms will be monitored and restocked with soap, paper towels, and/or operable hand dryers as needed.</li></ul> |
|  | <p><b>Masks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>All students, staff members, and visitors may opt to wear a mask even if vaccinated.</li><li>Disposable masks are available at school as needed.</li></ul>   |



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|   | <p><b>Temperature Checks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School will perform temperature checks as needed when a student visits the nurse’s office</li> </ul>  |
|  | <p><b>Monitoring COVID Symptoms</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not fully vaccinated students and staff must be in quarantine for at least 10 days after exposure, be fever-free for 48 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication, 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 5 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 student becomes sick during the school day, the student will be placed in a holding area away from other students 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 barrier will be available</li> </ul>   |



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### **Water Bottles**

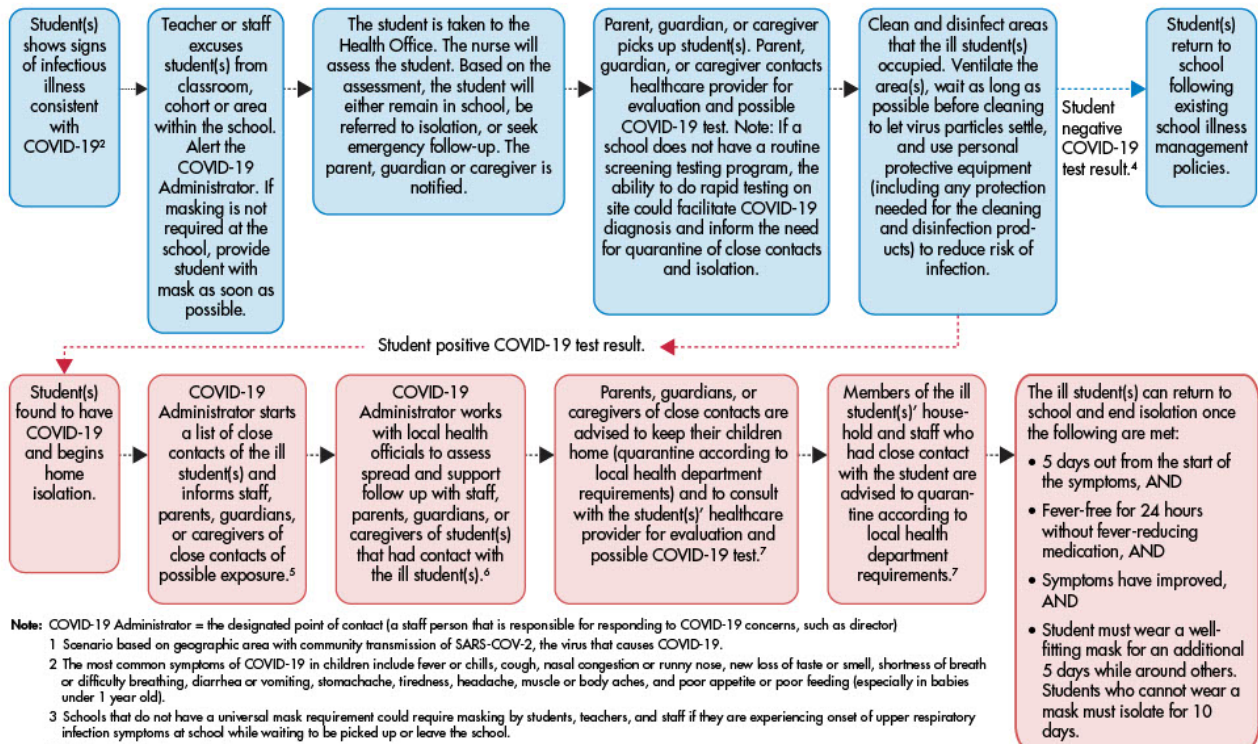
- Students are encouraged to bring water bottles to school.
- To help prevent infection, please fill up the water bottle at home before coming to school.
- Students can refill water bottles at school, as needed.

Note: This plan is subject to change dependent on guidance from the CDC and TEA, according to COVID-19 cases in the local community.



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### What to Do if a Student Becomes Sick or Reports a New COVID-19 Diagnosis at School<sup>1</sup>



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

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

2 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).

3 Schools that do not have a universal mask requirement could require masking by students, teachers, and staff if they are experiencing onset of upper respiratory infection symptoms at school while waiting to be picked up or leave the school.

4 With no known close contact.

5 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. See exception in the definition for the exclusion of students in the K-12 indoor classroom: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/appendix.html#contact>

6 To the extent allowable by applicable laws regarding privacy.

7 CDC guidance provides that people who are fully vaccinated and do not have COVID-19 symptoms do not need to quarantine, but should get tested after an exposure to someone with COVID-19.

This document was adapted by Nassau BOCES from the CDC's COVID-19 Diagnosis at School guidance.

For up-to-date information on Nassau BOCES' Agency Reopening Plan, visit <https://www.nassauboces.org/reopening>.



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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 students. 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 student 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.

**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 students 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 our students. Administrators will tentative and ongoing training sessions that help recognize and provide support to staff or students who might be experiencing difficulties. Referrals to Lena Pope mental health services and to other community providers will continued to be offered. Staff is also trained in areas that help them prepare to be of better support to students suffering from anxiety, stress, and other emotional needs while in the classroom.



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### **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 students and families. This plan will be revised and updated every 6-12 months to ensure that all state requirements, CDC guidelines and public input are met.

Please contact us with comments or questions requiring clarification.

All CHA families are highly encouraged to contact the school's administration's office should they have additional questions at 817-289-0242.

*Last updated July 2022*