



PINE LAKE PREPARATORY

SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION PLAN 2021-2022 ACADEMIC YEAR



Introduction

Pine Lake Preparatory's (PLP) mission is to prepare students for college and a purposeful life. That remains stronger than ever during these challenging times.

During this 2021-2022 school year, PLP is committed to keeping the school open, full-time, and at full capacity. The Strong Schools NC Toolkit from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services was updated on July 21, 2021, and we encourage you to read it. We have leaned heavily on the recommendations therein, as well as local and state level health department guidance and the NC Department of Public Instruction to develop a reopening plan that takes into consideration the health, safety, academic and emotional well-being of our students, families, staff, and the greater community.

Andrew Mocerì
Executive Director
Pine Lake Preparatory

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Pine Lake Preparatory

Health and Safety Protocols

The Pine Lake Preparatory Health and Safety Protocols have been developed to support a safe and healthy campus for the 2021-2022 school year.

Cloth Face Coverings

During the 2021-2022 school year all students, teachers, staff, visitors, and vendors to Pine Lake Preparatory (PLP) shall properly wear a face covering while inside PLP, a vehicle owned, leased, or operated by PLP or when participating in a school sponsored indoor activity.

COVID-19 spreads mainly from person to person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. There is growing evidence that wearing a face covering helps to reduce the spread of COVID-19. While community members who are sick or know that they have COVID-19 will be at home, COVID-19 can be spread by people who are asymptomatic.

When teachers, staff, and students consistently and correctly wear a mask, they protect others as well as themselves. Consistent and correct mask use is especially important indoors and in crowded settings when physical distancing cannot be maintained.

PLP will recognize, respect and support mask exemptions for individuals who should not wear a face covering due to a medical or behavioral condition or disability (including, but not limited to, any person who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious or incapacitated, or is otherwise unable to put on or remove the face covering without assistance). Medical and behavioral exemptions must be signed by a medical professional. Requests and documentation for exemptions should be directed to Rebecca Long (School Nurse) at Rebecca.Long@PineLakePrep.org.

A Healthy and Clean Campus

Reopening Pine Lake Preparatory will require a community effort and other daily habits to reduce our risk of exposure to the COVID-19 virus. A healthy community is reliant on conscientious hygienic practices and the purposeful cleaning and disinfecting of each of our buildings and common spaces.

Pine Lake Preparatory has recently restructured our maintenance and cleaning teams to ensure a routine cleaning and disinfection of high touch areas is taking place throughout the day. PLP will also provide adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors (soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol, paper towels, and tissues) and additional sanitizing/hand washing stations.

Monitoring for Symptoms

Students, teachers, and staff who have symptoms of COVID-19, should stay home, and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care. Staying home when sick is essential to keep infections out of schools, avoiding potential quarantines and preventing spread.

People with COVID-19 have a wide range of reported symptoms – from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19.

Please keep your child home if they are experiencing any of the following 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
- New congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Effective Communication

Please communicate the absence to your child's school and to reach out to our school nurse(s), so that we may talk and support you through a safe and quick return. If your child is experiencing any of the COVID related symptoms listed above, he/she should not return to school until you have spoken with a school nurse.

Lower School: Debbie Thompson – Debbie.Thompson@PineLakePrep.org

Middle School: Julie Howard – Julie.Howard@PineLakePrep.org

Upper School: Katherine Kwiatkowski – Katherine.Kwiatkowski@PineLakePrep.org

School Nurse: Rebecca Long – Rebecca.Long@PineLakePrep.org

School Nurse: Alexandra Larson – Alexandra.Larson@PineLakePrep.org



School Staff Email Addresses:

First Name . Last Name @PineLakePrep.org

Coping and Resilience

This is a stressful time for many. 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 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 both the physical and social/emotional well-being of our students, staff and families.

We are committed to working together to support our students, staff, families and community. All staff have received special training in Emotional Integration, Mental Health First Aid, Suicide Prevention and other social emotional training/strategies to equip them to identify students and colleagues that may be struggling with stress and anxiety due to trauma caused by recent events.

We encourage families to lean on PLP for support. Each of the three buildings has counseling staff and resources necessary to provide guidance to your child and family.

Available Resources

[Hope4NC Helpline](#)

[Dial 211](#)

[NCCares360](#)

[Milk and Honey Counseling](#)

[Integrative Wellness Solutions](#)

CALL: 1-844-5-SAYNOW or 1-844-572-9669

www.saysomething.net

Transportation

All students, teachers, staff, and adult visitors will be required to wear face coverings when they are on a bus or other transportation vehicle, unless the person has an exception filed and approved by the school.

To ensure a healthy and safe environment, Pine Lake Preparatory will:

- Enforce that if an individual becomes sick during the day, they do not use group transportation to return home.
- Enforce that if a driver becomes sick during the day, they do not return to drive students until they have been cleared to do so by school administration.
- Keep windows open while the vehicle is in motion to help reduce spread of the virus by increasing air circulation, if appropriate, safe, and weather permitting.
- Clean transportation vehicles regularly.
- Ensure safe and correct use and storage of cleaning and disinfection products, including storing products securely away from children and adequate ventilation when staff use such products.
- Clean frequently touched surfaces in the vehicle.
- Assign seats to facilitate contact tracing protocols in the event that a bus rider tests positive.

Handling Suspected, Presumptive, or Confirmed Cases

The following criteria will be used to provide a safe return to the classroom following a confirmed positive, student/staff member experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or following an exposure. Criteria for allowing a student or staff member to return to school has been derived from the StrongSchoolsNC Toolkit.

Confirmed Cases

Scenario:

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.

Criteria for Return to School:

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

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.

The person is not required to have documentation of a negative test in order to return to school.

Scenario:

Person has tested positive with a PCR/ molecular test but the person does not have symptoms.

Criteria for Return to School:

Person can return to school 10 days after their positive test.

Students or Staff Members Experiencing Symptoms:

Scenario:

Person has symptoms of COVID-19 and has tested positive with an antigen test or PCR/molecular test

Criteria for Return to School:

Person can return to school when

- 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.

The person is not required to have documentation of a negative test in order to return to school.

Handling Suspected, Presumptive, or Confirmed Cases (cont.)

Symptoms: (continued)

Scenario:

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.

Criteria for Return to School:

Person can return to school when

- 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.

Scenario:

Person has symptoms of COVID-19 but has received a negative test for COVID-19* or has visited a health care provider and received an alternate diagnosis that would explain the symptoms of COVID-19.

*In a person with symptoms, a negative test is defined as a negative PCR, Molecular or Nucleic Acid Test.

Criteria for Return to School:

Person can return to school when

- 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.

Note: The health care provider is not required to detail the specifics of the alternate diagnosis.

Return From Exclusion Following an Exposure

Scenario:

K-12 student who is not fully vaccinated but has been in close contact, within 3 to 6 feet, with someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19, in which both individuals were wearing a mask the entire time.

Criteria for Return to School:

NCDHHS does not recommend quarantine of students following exposures in school settings if masks were being worn appropriately and consistently by both the person with COVID-19 and the potential exposed person. This applies to exposures in classrooms, other in school settings, and school transportation but does not apply to exposures during extracurricular or athletic activities. This option can only be utilized in settings where masks are consistently worn. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.

Handling Suspected, Presumptive, or Confirmed Cases (cont.)

Return From Exclusion Following an Exposure (cont.)

Scenario:

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.)

Criteria for Return to School:

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.

We will follow the recommendations of Iredell Health Department if someone at our school should quarantine. Please understand, 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.

If quarantine is discontinued before day 14, the individual must continue to monitor symptoms and strictly adhere to all non-pharmaceutical interventions (e.g. wear a mask) through 14 days after the date of last exposure.

Note: NCDHHS recommends that schools not require an individual who is fully vaccinated (at least 2 weeks after getting their second dose in a 2-dose series or one-dose of a single-dose series) or tested positive for COVID-19 in the past three months to quarantine if they have had no symptoms after being a close contact to someone with COVID-19, and they do not live in a congregate setting (such as a shelter).

*The Iredell Health Department will advise PLP on the allowance for 7- and 10-day quarantine based on community spread and trends.

COVID-19 Diagnostic Testing

PLP will work with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction to provide diagnostic testing to students who have been identified as a close contact. These readily available tests will support a quick and effective return to the classroom following an exposure.

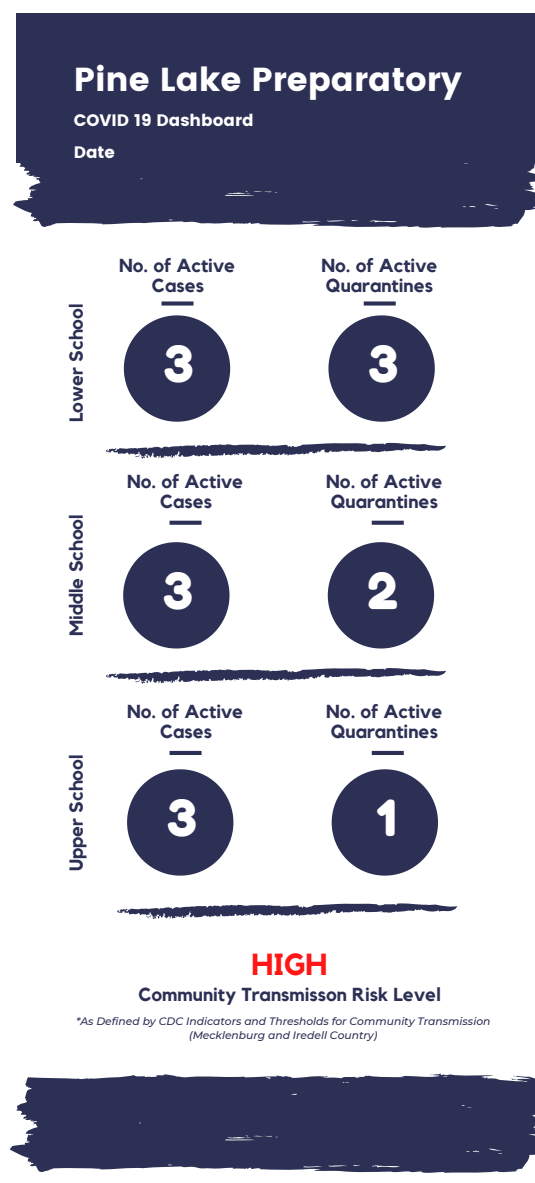
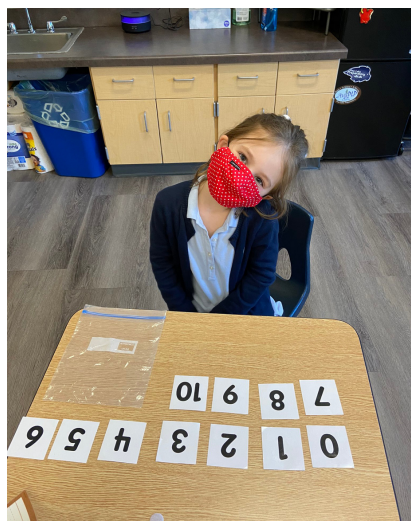


COVID-19 Dashboard and Communication

Pine Lake Preparatory is committed to maintaining the safety of our students and their families as well as our teachers, support staff and the entire community. In effort to be as transparent as possible with our families, we have relaunched our COVID-19 dashboard for the 2021-2022 school year. The dashboard is updated every Friday evening and lists current active COVID-19 cases and quarantines by school. The Dashboard also includes the Community Transmission Risk Level as defined by the CDC's Indicators and Thresholds for Community Transmission – this captures community spread/risk for Iredell and Mecklenburg County. Recognizing our community is split almost evenly between Iredell and Mecklenburg Counties, we will list the higher of the two.

The Dashboard can be found in the COVID-19 Updates portal at PineLakePrep.org

While the Dashboard will show current active cases, PLP will also communicate in the event that a student in your child's classroom (Lower School) or building (Middle School or Upper School) tests positive and has been on campus during the tracing window. In those instances, Pine Lake Preparatory and the Iredell County Health Department will be working together to implement contact tracing. Again, please recall that there are now three exceptions to quarantines for those who are deemed a close contact.



2020-21 and 2021-22 School Years Comparison

Protocol	2020 - 2021 School Year	2021 - 2022 School Year
Full In-Person Instruction (5 days per week)		
Daily Attestation(s) and Health Screening		
Two Way Hallways		
Increased Focus on Hand Washing and Hygiene		
Lunch Eaten Exclusively in Classrooms		
Cohorted Classrooms (Middle School)		
Traditional School Events/Programs		
Contract Tracing to Identify Close Contacts		
Full Remote Learning Option		
Normal Sports in Regular Seasons / In-School Clubs		
Increased Building and Classroom Cleaning and Sanitizing		