



FPA Pandemic Response

Below is a brief Q & A from our school nurse Angie Belew that addresses frequently asked questions about the Covid-19 pandemic.

What specifically happens when a student or faculty member tests positive for COVID-19?

Many factors go into answering this question. FPA will work closely with local health authorities and families in each instance to determine next steps to minimize the risk of spread within our school community.

The student or faculty member would stay at home until they meet SCDHEC criteria to return (10 days from when symptoms first appeared, 24 hours fever free and overall improvement of symptoms). Through contact tracing, exposed students and faculty members will be identified and required to quarantine at home. The implementation of important safety strategies, including the use of cohort groups and careful physical distancing, gives our school an advantage in the event of a positive case.

When should I get my child tested for COVID-19?

When your doctor recommends a test. It is not recommended to be tested without a doctor's guidance and order. Please contact the school nurse prior to being tested to review next steps for your family.

Why is my child's friend or classmate quarantined?

If a friend or classmate is in quarantine, they were exposed to someone positive with the virus, but they themselves are not sick yet. This person in quarantine has a significantly higher chance of getting the virus than you or your child.

Should you be tested if you are in quarantine?

If you are in quarantine, you are not sick yet, but you may have a higher chance of becoming sick. If symptoms develop, we ask that you contact your doctor for further guidance.

Will a negative test change the length of a quarantine?

No. A negative test will not shorten your quarantine time. A negative test is only reliable if you were displaying symptoms at the time of testing.

What do I do if my child or someone in my household is tested for COVID-19?

Stay home while you wait for results. Students are not permitted to return to campus before receiving the COVID-19 test results. This includes all athletic practices and extracurricular activities. Household members, including siblings also enrolled at FPA, must remain home until test results are received.

What does my family do if someone in our household receives a positive test result?

Please keep the school updated. The school nurse will give you confidential guidance on a course of action for your family. With a positive result, students may return to school when they meet the return criteria:

- 10 days after the test date (or after symptoms began)
- 24 hours fever free
- overall improvement of symptoms
- a conversation with the school nurse

Students who live in a house with someone positive for COVID-19 and are able to isolate from the individual will need to quarantine for 14 days since last exposure. If they are unable to isolate from the individual in the household, the student will need to quarantine for the entire isolation period of the family member plus an additional 14 days to assure they do not develop symptoms. Household members of a COVID-19-positive person may return to campus 14 days after the positive person meets the return criteria stated above.

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