



# FPA Pandemic Response



**Updated as of Monday, March 8, 2021**



Due to the unprecedented impact of Covid-19, First Presbyterian Academy (FPA) has developed a plan to address various issues that might arise as well as a plan to reopen the school. This plan covers Preschool through High School. **We expect that this document will change frequently due to the changes in community safety needs and expectations.** The school is constantly checking with guidelines established from DHEC, SCISA, Accelerate SC, and the CDC.

# General Procedures



## Screening Protocol

**Before arriving at school, ask yourself the following questions:**

1. Does your student have a fever (>99.9) or suspect that they have a fever?
2. Has your student experienced one or more of the following symptoms since they last attended school?
  - 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 (Not seasonal allergies)
  - Nausea or vomiting
  - Diarrhea
3. Has your student or a family member been living with someone who has been diagnosed with Covid-19?
4. Has your student been exposed to anyone who has Covid-19 within the past two weeks?

A “yes” answer to any of the questions would result in a consultation with the school nurse on the Shannon Forest campus or the Administrative Assistant at the Downtown campus.

**Withholding information or being untruthful with regard to home screening procedures may result in permanent dismissal from First Presbyterian Academy.**

5. Any student, faculty or staff with Covid symptoms (see above) will be sent home with 3 options to return to school:

We will need either:

- Doctor excuse saying it is ok to return to school **OR**
- 10 days since symptoms first appeared **and** at least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication **and** symptoms have improved **OR**
- Negative Covid results documentation

**Exception:** If any student or employee has an underlying medical condition that any of these symptoms would appear on a regular basis, the school will

need a doctor's note explaining the individual situation to keep on file.



## Layered Safety Approach

1. Based on the low percentages of fevers recorded during morning screenings and new information from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) regarding Covid-19 symptoms, the school will no longer administer temperature screenings upon arrival to campus in the mornings.
2. Water fountains will be covered throughout all buildings. Students will need to bring a water bottle with them on a daily basis. Preschool students will need a "Camelback Water Bottle" or a similar product marked clearly with their name.
3. Students will be prompted to wash hands at the beginning of each day and throughout the day, including:
  - After touching high contact surfaces (desks, door handles, etc.)
  - After touching equipment or manipulatives during lessons
  - After every restroom trip
  - Before eating
  - When hands are visibly soiled
  - After sneezing or coughing into hands
4. Students will be prompted to cough or sneeze into their elbow.
5. Cloth face covers may be worn which are much more comfortable and easy to acquire or make. FPA requires all faculty, staff and students (K5 - 12th Grade) to wear face coverings during transition times of the day - arrival, departure, class changes and bathroom breaks. Once in the classroom the use of face covers is optional. Once in the classroom, the use of face coverings is optional, unless the teacher requires them to be worn at all times.
6. Crusader gaiters (buffers) will be given to faculty, staff and students in K5 -12th Grade.
7. Students who are tardy to school will need to check in at the appropriate office.
8. In addition to the above, FPA will be staffed with two Registered Nurses. One to cover the Preschool/Elementary side of campus and one to take care of students on the Middle and High School campus.



## Instruction

1. Students will receive standard classroom instruction.
2. Seating in the classroom will accommodate social distancing requirements. Maintaining the six-foot minimum social distancing guidelines within a given classroom is difficult, if not impossible throughout the day. When

feasible, FPA faculty and staff will implement social distancing and will use the other layers of protection practices in order to reduce contamination risks. Our small class size is also a plus when practicing social distancing.

3. Movement in the hallways will be conducted in a typical traffic pattern of walking on the right.
4. Desks will be cleaned as needed between classes in the Upper School with BioTab 7, a medical grade disinfectant.
5. Desks and tables will be cleaned as needed throughout the day in the Lower School and Preschool with BioTab 7, a medical grade disinfectant.
6. Hand sanitizer will be available throughout all buildings.
7. Students will need to have a small bottle of fragrance free hand sanitizer.
8. Parents will need to drop students off at carline. Students cannot be walked into the building. Students in the Lower School will be greeted at the door. The greeter will make sure your student gets to their classroom.
9. In the Preschool, students will be greeted at the door and escorted to their classrooms.



## Lunch

1. To accommodate appropriate social distancing during lunch, additional lunch shifts, eating in classrooms, or eating at outside tables may be added to the daily schedule.
2. Student seating will be staggered to eliminate direct contact during lunch.
3. Lunchroom workers will be wearing gloves to serve pre-packaged food to students.
4. Cloth face covers will be worn by employees who are working in the lunchrooms.
5. The staff will wipe down lunchroom tables between each lunch shift.
6. At this time, parents will NOT be allowed to eat lunch with their students.
7. Hand sanitizer will be made available in the lunchrooms.



## Playground Surfaces

Playground surfaces will be wiped down as needed with BioTab 7, a medical grade disinfectant.



## Classroom Parties (Preschool and Lower School)

1. *At this time*, classroom parties will be limited to the teacher and students.

2. *At this time*, refreshments for the parties will be limited to commercially made foods that are commercially packaged.
3. *At this time*, parents may drop off prepackaged treats for birthday celebrations in the office. Students will share the treat(s) during snack time.



## Athletics

1. At this time, athletic event attendance will be limited to PARENT OF PLAYING ATHLETES ONLY.
2. Social distance seating in the bleachers is strongly recommended.
3. The wearing of face coverings is encouraged.



## E-Learning

FPA will not base any decisions made by the Greenville County School system regarding moving to 100% e-learning. We will follow the guidelines of SCISA.

### Elementary-High School

If the school (K5-12th Grade) is placed in quarantine, students will be attending school through distance learning. The most common platforms across the school will be Google Classroom and Renweb for K5-12th Grade. This will provide a common place to post assignments and various directions needed to complete classwork. Teachers will also employ the use of other platforms to deliver face-to-face instruction. Some of these include but not restricted to Zoom, Loom, Facebook, See Saw, You Tube, etc.

Student assessment will be based on participation, completion of assignments, and accuracy of responses.

Because instruction will continue as planned, and new content will be taught, tuition will not be reduced or discounted.

### Preschool

If the school is placed in quarantine for K5-12th Grade, the Preschool will remain open for instruction. Standard instruction will occur following the regular school schedule. If parents do not feel comfortable sending their student(s) to school, they can withdraw them without any financial penalty.



(This does not include enrollment or applications fees). If a withdrawal occurs, the student's roster spot within a given class can be filled by someone on the wait list.



## Homebound Instruction

For students with compromised immune systems who cannot be in classroom settings for an extended period of time, "Homebound" instruction will be available. Students will be able to "Zoom" into their classroom(s), to participate in the learning. A doctor's note will be required. This is for long-term situations. Assignments will be posted on Renweb and Google Classroom. Regular tuition will be charged throughout the "Homebound" period. Also, students who are receiving "Homebound Instruction" may not participate in sports or extracurricular activities.



## Quarantine Due to Exposure

FPA will defer to DHEC for their recommendations.



## Student Assemblies

1. Social distancing will be observed during school assemblies such as chapels or pep rallies.
2. Hand sanitizers will be made available within each space.



## After School Procedures

1. All spaces within the building will be cleaned every evening to prepare for the next day.
2. After the school day has concluded, each area will be cleaned with BioTab 7, a medical grade disinfectant.



## Special Notes

1. If a member of your immediate family contracts Covid-19, please contact the school immediately. Also, self-quarantine for 14 days.
2. If students are sick, they need to stay home.
3. If students suffer from seasonal allergies, please note this in Renweb.



# FAQ

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

## 1. 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.

## 2. 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.

## 3. 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.

## 4. 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.

## 5. 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.

## 6. 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.

## 7. 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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## New Requirements From the Center for Disease Control

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has recently revised quarantine requirements for Covid-19. If your student is on quarantine based on a close

contact to a positive Covid-19 case, there are 2 new acceptable alternatives to the full 14-day quarantine period.

- If asymptomatic during the entire quarantine period, quarantine may end after day 10.
- If asymptomatic during the entire quarantine period, quarantine may end after day 7 with a negative diagnostic Covid test.
- With any situation with a positive Covid case or close contact with a positive case, a consultation still must occur with the school nurse (either Beth Norman - Preschool/Lower School or Angie Belew - Middle/High School. Additional requirements for a student to return might be added to specific cases for a safe return to school.
- Symptom monitoring must continue through day 14, and masks must continue to be worn per school protocol.

