

2021 - 2022 Pandemic Plan Updates for First Presbyterian Academy

Updated as of August 26, 2021

We are so thankful that you have chosen to partner with us for your child's education. One of the incredible things about our community is the nature of that partnership. We are all working together for the success of our students!

To that end, we need your help in following a few sections of our pandemic plan. To summarize:

1.) Keep your children home if they exhibit any symptoms. This can be determined by screening your student EVERY morning before coming to school. See Screening Requirements on page 5 of this document for additional information.

2.) If your student has been tested for COVID-19 OR any person living in your home has been tested for COVID-19, your student MUST stay home until a negative test is received.

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

As we move into the new school year, plans may be altered to meet any demands presented by future outbreaks of COVID-19 virus or any variant of the virus.

Mandatory Waiver

-FPA will once again require the completion of a waiver in order for a student to attend school for the 2021-2022 year. Rather than a paper copy, the waiver will be on a Google Form. Please complete the waiver for each student you have in attendance at the school. Failure to complete the waiver will result in your student being sent home until all proper paperwork is submitted. The waiver is located as a separate link in the website's Parent Portal. That address is:

www.firstpresacademy.com.

Masks

- Masks will be optional for students in Preschool, Middle School, High School, parents, and employees.
- Taking into consideration the inability for students in the Lower School to get vaccinated, the need for better contact tracing, and the ability to add another layer of protection, students in the Lower School will be required to wear masks entering the building, exiting the building, moving through the building and moving in classrooms.
- While Lower School students are working at their desks, they will be allowed to take their masks off.
- During P.E. classes and recess, Lower School students will not be required to wear their masks.
- These are the same restrictions that were in place at the beginning of last year.
- Augmentation to mask policies may be required if case numbers indicate a spread on campus.
- All students, faculty and staff will be required to bring a face covering with them to school in the event of a positive case on campus, and/or in the event of the combining of grade levels, large indoor gatherings, etc.
- Any student, faculty or staff member who develops symptoms will be required to wear a mask until they depart campus.

Continuing Our Layered Safety Approach

1. 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
2. Water fountains will be covered throughout all buildings. Students will need to bring a water bottle with them on a daily basis. “Camelback Water Bottle” or similar products are also acceptable. All containers must be marked clearly with their name. Preschool students will need to bring a water bottle clearly marked with their name.

3. Seating in the classroom will accommodate social distancing requirements, maintaining the three-foot minimum social distancing guidelines when feasible, throughout the day. Our small class size is also a plus when practicing social distancing.

4. At this time, Lower School students will eat lunch in their classrooms.

5. Desks will be cleaned as needed between classes in the Upper School with BioTab 7, a medical grade disinfectant.

6. Desks and tables will be cleaned as needed throughout the day in the Lower School and Preschool with BioTab 7, a medical grade disinfectant.

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

8. Hand sanitizer will be available throughout all buildings.

9. Students will need to have a small bottle of fragrance free hand sanitizer.

10. 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 his/her classroom.

11. In the Preschool, students will be greeted at the door and escorted to their classrooms.

Athletics

-At this time, athletic practices and competitions will operate on standard guidelines with some safety and cleaning protocols in place. FPA falls under the jurisdiction of SCISA Athletics for guidelines and recommendations. We will be monitoring their information closely to make changes as necessary.

E-Learning for Quarantined Students

-E-learning (homebound instruction) will not be available for students as a **full-time option** for the 2021-2022 school year.

-There will be e-learning opportunities offered to students if they are required to quarantine.

-This is a stop gap measure to help keep students current in their selective course of study.

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 refunded.

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.

Quarantine Due to Exposure

-FPA will defer to DHEC and CDC for their recommendations on quarantines.
-Students who have been vaccinated and provide proof of vaccination to the school may have their quarantine periods waived or adjusted if they do not show symptoms of COVID-19.

General Information - SUBJECT TO CHANGE

-**Field Trips**- teachers will begin incorporating carefully selected and planned field trips this school year.

-**School Events**- we will proceed with caution regarding school-wide events, making plans and changes as necessary.

-Lower School Snack and Party Items- we will no longer require quarantines for items brought in; in addition, treats sent for parties are no longer required to be pre-packaged, store-bought or individually wrapped.

-Lower School Parties- Two parent helpers will be allowed to enter classrooms to help during parties. You may be asked to wear a mask during a party. Teachers will provide more information on this once the school year has started.

-Drop-off and Pick-up- Parents are not allowed to enter the building/classrooms for drop-off and pick-up. This policy is the same as last year.

Screening Protocol

-Please continue to screen your students prior to their arrival at school.

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.

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.