



Frequently As ked Questions regarding COVID-19 updates for Jan. 2021

○ Who is responsible for screening my child for symptoms of COVID-19?

CDC recommends that parents/guardians be the primary responsible party for screening their child/student for COVID-19 symptoms before sending them to school. Daily Home Screening for students should include:

If the child has any of the following symptoms, this indicates a possible illness that may decrease the student's ability to learn and may also put them at risk for spreading illness to others. Please check your child for these symptoms:

- Chills/Fever-Temperature 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher;
- Sore throat;
- New, uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline);
- Nausea, diarrhea or vomiting;
- New loss of taste or smell
- Fatigue; Muscle or body aches;
- Congestion or runny nose;
- New onset of severe headache

Close Contact/Potential Exposure:

- Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19; OR
- Traveled to or lived in an area where the local, tribal, territorial, or state health department is reporting large numbers of COVID-19 cases.
- Live in areas of high community transmission (as described in the Community Mitigation Framework) while the school remains open.

While the primary responsibility is that of the caregivers to screen students prior to bringing their student to school, Lake Wales Charter Schools will perform temperature checks daily to aid in the efforts to keep our staff and students safe.

○ A student or staff member is sent or stayed home from school with known COVID-19 symptoms, when can they return?

Parents are encouraged to seek medical care and testing for the sick student.

- Symptomatic students and staff who have been evaluated by a medical doctor and received a negative **COVID-19 PCR*** test result will be allowed to return to school once their symptoms have improved. If during the evaluation they are diagnosed with a specific disease such as strep throat, then return criteria will be based on the return policy for that specific illness. *Please note, under the direction of Polk County Health Department we will now only accept PCR COVID-19 results. We no longer will accept negative rapid COVID-19 test results in symptomatic students/staff.

- Symptomatic students and staff who have been evaluated and diagnosed with COVID-19 should stay home and isolate themselves from others while monitoring their health.
 - Positive COVID-19 cases may return to school after at least 10 days have passed since the day of symptom onset and the case has been fever-free for at least 24 hours without fever reducing medication and all other symptoms are improving.
 - Family members of this student will be excluded from school and work to quarantine.
- Symptomatic students and staff who have not been evaluated by a medical doctor for alternate diagnosis, or have not been tested for COVID-19 will be required to complete a minimum 10 day isolation period from symptom onset.
 - Family members of this student or staff member will be excluded from school and work to quarantine.

○ **Are masks still mandatory for all of Lake Wales Charter Schools?**

Yes, all students, staff and visitors are required to wear face masks while on any Lake Wales Charter School premises during the COVID-19 pandemic. Facemasks must be worn inside buildings, meeting with peers, and especially when social distancing is not possible. Masks may only be removed during times of nourishment, outdoors/exercising when social distancing is in place, and for younger populations when sleeping/napping.

○ **What if a student in my child’s class or my student’s teacher is diagnosed with COVID-19? Will I be notified?**

The County Health Department (CHD) epidemiology teams have primary responsibility for contact tracing, but if a student in your child’s class or their teacher have been confirmed with COVID-19, each school has a COVID team that will work closely with Health Services and the County Health Department, informing anyone who has had a potential exposure, as appropriate, while maintaining confidentiality as required by law. Anyone who has had an exposure will be required to stay home for **14 days** from the last exposure. We understand that this does not follow the updated CDC guidelines of a lesser quarantine period for direct contacts not showing symptoms. Lake Wales Charter Schools have been in consultation with Polk County Health Department, and have chosen to continue to require direct contacts to quarantine the full 14 days due to the increasing cases in the county. We also ask those who are identified as direct contacts to a case of COVID-19 self-monitor for symptoms, and stay away from populations at increased risk until the 14 day quarantine period is over. If symptoms of COVID-19 develop during the 14-day period, contact your primary care doctor and let your schools COVID team know.

○ **What if my child is diagnosed with COVID-19?**

If your child is diagnosed with COVID-19 follow all orders/recommendations given by the County Health Department and/or health care provider who confirmed the diagnosis. CDC states that it is safe for an individual confirmed positive of COVID-19 to be around others when all 3 of these are met:

- (1) At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND
- (2) At least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication AND
- (3) Symptoms have improved.

A negative test or doctors note will not be required to return to school, but is encouraged.

○ **What about family members living in the home?**

Family members of a student or staff member who has symptoms of COVID-19 will be excluded from school or work while the student or staff member in question is home sick. If a COVID-19 diagnosis is made, the family member will be required to self-isolate per CDC guidelines for the 14 days past the positive person’s 10 day isolation.

*CDC guidelines are subject to change as more information becomes available regarding COVID-19. Lake Wales Charter Schools Health Services Department is dedicated to staying up to date with the most current recommendations. Any changes in procedure would be communicated as needed. Also, each case will be individually evaluated, and is subject to be dealt with differently if guided by the County Health Department.