



THE FLETCHER ACADEMY

Where unique learners flourish.

Lower School COVID-19 Operating Plan (revised 8/20/21)

During this time of continued uncertainty, TFA's COVID-19 operating plan has been and will continue to be informed and shaped by recommendations and guidance published by the US Centers for Disease Control and the North Carolina Division of Public Health. This section details the protocols, precautions and measures TFA will implement. PLEASE NOTE – details of this plan may change as conditions shift. When they do, parents will be immediately notified of updates via email.

Please note:

- Because our unique learners thrive best when they are physically present inside the classroom, virtual learning options will NOT be offered this academic year, unless, of course, rapidly changing conditions indicate we must reconsider this option.
- Parents should read the FULL plan below, all of Sections 1 and 2, and review it with their child.

Section 1 – COVID-19 practices when at school

- Although the vast majority of students in the Lower School may not yet be eligible for vaccination against the COVID-19 virus, TFA strongly and emphatically encourages all Lower School students, parents, faculty and staff to become fully vaccinated, when eligible, as soon as possible. Vaccination not only protects the individual from developing a potential life-threatening condition should they become infected, but also works to protect our entire school community from the spread of COVID-19.
- Since no child under the age of 12 has yet to be vaccinated at our school, ALL Lower School students will be required to wear a mask when indoors on campus. This rule applies to all students, no exceptions.
- The Academy will reassess this indoor masking mandate on an ongoing basis. When data indicate the TFA community has become vaccinated at a very high percentage rate OR state and federal public health guidance indicates mask wearing is no longer recommended within schools, then the administration will consider lifting the indoor mask mandate.
- When inside the building and in the presence of students, faculty, staff and administrative employees of the school will be required to wear a mask regardless of vaccination status.
- Parents and visitors are welcome to attend school events when invited to do so by teachers or the administration. Parents and authorized visitors must wear masks indoors at all times when on campus, regardless of vaccination status.
- Individuals with medical mask exemptions should not visit campus.
- N-95 or disposable medical grade masks that are form fitting are highly recommended. Tri-fold paper masks are currently readily available in packs of 50 (through Amazon, Costco and local pharmacies), are highly effective and easy to breathe in.
- Students may wear a cloth mask, (neck gaiters with thicker cloth material may be acceptable, but thin material gaiters are not recommended). In the event of an emergency (when a mask becomes lost, soiled, torn or wet) TFA's front desk manager will provide a disposable trifold paper mask with ear loops.

- During a 20-minute lunch period each day, students are allowed to remove their masks **ONLY** after teachers confirm that students are seated with a minimum of 3 feet of space between each student. After having consumed lunch, the student should immediately reapply a mask. Students who eat outside do not need to reapply a mask as long as they remain outside.
- Students may not share food or drinks at any time.
- When an individual is speaking to a large assembled group inside a school facility, that person may remove their mask during the process as long as all other individuals remain masked.
- If an individual cannot be clearly heard due to their mask, that person may momentarily lift their mask in order to more clearly enunciate.
- Additionally, all students, employees and visitors are strongly encouraged to regularly wash hands and/or utilize hand sanitizer throughout the academic day. Bottles of hand sanitizer are provided to all classrooms and office areas and are readily and easily available for everyone's use.

Section 2 – Policies and Procedures on Infection Prevention at TFA

Parents are encouraged to actively review and discuss these procedures with their student prior to their first arrival to campus.

1. Daily home health check guidelines

- As recommended by the CDC, all who visit our campus (employees, students & authorized visitors) must perform a home health check before coming to school. This should begin with a daily temperature check at home to verify that the temperature of the individual is 100.4 degrees F or lower. Additionally, if the employee/student/authorized visitor does not feel well or if they specifically show any potential COVID-19 symptoms, then they must **STAY AT HOME**.

2.A. When to stay at home, notification & isolation, and when to return to school

- Possible COVID-19 symptoms include:
 - Major symptoms:
 - Fever
 - New, worsening cough
 - Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
 - Diminished sense of taste or smell
 - Minor symptoms:
 - Sore throat
 - Muscle aches and pains
 - Headache
 - Nasal congestion/runny nose
 - Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea/abdominal pain
- If an individual has any major symptom or two or more minor symptoms listed above, then the person should be seen immediately by his or her health care provider and tested for COVID-19. **STAY AT HOME** until test results are received.
 - If test results are negative, **STAY AT HOME** until you are symptom and fever free (without use of fever reducing medicine) for at least 24 hours.
 - If test results are positive, **INFORM THE DEAN OF STUDENTS** via email at krouse@tfaraleigh.org and **STAY AT HOME** / isolate for a minimum of 10 days beyond the date the test was administered. At the conclusion of this 10-day period, if the individual has been

symptom and fever free for at least 24 hours (without the use of fever reducing medicine), then he/she may **RETURN TO SCHOOL**.

- If an individual has only one of the minor symptoms (sore throat, headache, muscle aches, congestion, rash or gastrointestinal symptoms), then he or she should **STAY AT HOME** until the symptom fully resolves. If symptom persists beyond 24 hours (without the assistance of fever-reducing pain reliever) or if additional symptoms arise, then immediately see a doctor, get tested and seek medical clearance before returning to school.
- Individuals who are fully vaccinated and do not have symptoms do NOT need to quarantine after a close contact. Individual should get tested 3-5 days after exposure and wear a mask around others until receiving a negative test result. If the vaccinated individual tests positive during this timeframe, then they must notify the Dean of Students and isolate at home for a period of 10 days following the date of the positive test.
- Any person who is an unvaccinated close contact of a known COVID-19 case **MUST** remain at home for a minimum of 10 days following last exposure (regardless if one is tested and shows negative results) to observe for development of symptoms.
 - Throughout this 10-day period, if you remain symptom and fever free (without the use of fever reducing medicine), then one may **RETURN TO SCHOOL**.
 - If symptoms arise, then see your doctor, get tested for COVID-19, and **STAY AT HOME** / isolate until you receive test results. If you test positive, then follow the same 10-day period protocol stated above.
- If any unvaccinated student, employee, or visitor to the school tests positive, **IMMEDIATELY INFORM THE DEAN OF STUDENTS** and **STAY AT HOME** / isolate for a minimum of 10 days. Beyond this 10-day period, if you are fever free for at least 24 hours (without the use of fever reducing medicine), then the individual may **RETURN TO SCHOOL**.
- If the school is notified of an individual who has received a positive COVID-19 test result, the individual's privacy should be respected. Employees, parents and students are strongly encouraged to respect individual health privacy and refrain from launching personal investigations.

2.B. Managing student and employee illness when it arises at school

- Individuals at school who become symptomatic or begin to feel unwell will immediately be sent home.
- Teachers and other staff will remain watchful of students who are symptomatic and will refer them to the front desk manager or other designated staff member if a child complains of feeling sick or appears unwell.
- The front desk manager will then contact the student's parent, family member, or emergency contact to request a pick-up. In this case, the individual will be isolated and should be picked up within 30-minutes.
- Any employee, parent, student or visitor having been identified as sick or symptomatic must depart campus as soon as possible.

2.C. Additional protective measures

- TFA has implemented several additional measures to reduce the chance of infectious spread:
 - We have upgraded HVAC systems with MERV 13 filtration – a step above CDC and OSHA COVID-19 recommendations for schools. To learn more about it, please visit - https://www.ashrae.org/file%20library/technical%20resources/ashrae%20journal/2020journaldocuments/72-74_ieq_schoen.pdf
 - GPS Needlepoint Bi-Polar Ionization. This safe, new technology effectively inactivates and destroys 99.4% of CoV-2 (COVID-19) virus within 30 minutes of air exchange. To learn more about it, please visit
 - GPS Needlepoint Bi-Polar Ionization. This safe, new technology effectively inactivates and destroys 99.4% of CoV-2 (COVID-19) virus within 30 minutes of air exchange. To learn more about it, please visit –<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20200610005784/en/Global-Plasma-Solutions-Virtually-Eliminates-Static-SARS-CoV-2>

- We have also contracted with our janitorial service to clean and sanitize commonly shared indoor restroom, classroom and lunchroom surfaces prior to the start of each new school day