

January 12, 2022

To all families and faculty/ staff members:

Second semester classes officially began today, with grades 7-12 on campus. Elementary students pour back tomorrow.

Today we had 20 secondary students absent and taking advantage of home streaming / recording of classes. This was not unexpected, as the infection pattern was similar last year in the “free days” before the semester resumed. Keeping students home is a precaution against spreading infection, a modern practice of Scripture:

*Let each of you look not only to his own interests,
but also to the interests of others.* Philippians 2:4 ESV

Lake Pointe will continue to monitor situations and to act accordingly. For example, when Covid exposure entered both the boys and girls basketball teams, we cancelled basketball activities for the rest of the week and began the process to reschedule games.

Surely, all of us thought Covid would have been a distant memory by now, like the Swine Flu and Asian Bird Flu from years ago. Yet Covid remains. Several factors affect the national and local Covid situation.

- The Omicron variant has proven much more transmissible, even though an apparently much weaker strain.
- The CDC and other agencies have been under pressure to keep workers on the job and children in schools.
- Reacting to this pressure, disease-spread guidelines have changed, in many instances loosening.
- Sunday, SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC DHEC) updated its COVID-19 guidance for K-12 schools to reflect the latest data and trends. This update aligns with DHEC and CDC guidelines, and offers new paths for students to return to campus faster, through use of testing and masking.
- As a private organization, Lake Pointe is not under public school requirements, but the academy does monitor and pay attention to the various government guidance. LPA has modified some guidance to better reflect the University Model alternating-day schedule, community size, etc.

- 1. Lake Pointe has updated its own policies and procedures from the fall.**
- 2. Moving forward, this is the path we will be following.**
- 3. Explanation, in chart form, is included with this message. This addresses the most common situations:**
 - a. What to do in case of exposure to infected individuals**
 - b. What to do in cases of a person testing positive.**
- 4. We hope this helps you understand how to interpret various situations and to see your response options.**
- 5. Teachers and staff, because you are deemed “essential workers” by government agencies, schools have more leeway in interpreting policies to be in the classrooms.**

Thank you for reading this message and seeking to become familiar with this operational plan.

Please share any questions.

Louis Lemmon

Head of School

What to know

Covid testing

Where testing is mentioned, Lake Pointe accepts an FDA-approved home Covid Test / Rapid Test.

Testing services

The York County health department offers free in-vehicle Covid tests at sights at Winthrop University Coliseum and Clinton College in Rock Hill.

Advise academy leaders of conditions

Please be sure to share medical conditions in a timely manner.

Biblical integrity

Lake Pointe seeks to take advantage of one of its greatest strengths, close connection and reliance on families.

Parents, academy plans and procedures assume mutual integrity and honesty. While the temptations may be high, please be honest about medical conditions. Symptoms for the omicron variant often look like a cold or other illness. Avoiding a missed test, etc. is not worth infecting others.

Conversations

When staff members discuss Covid situations, the following questions will likely be asked to assess situations:

When was the person exposed?

If infected person is in the household, then _____

Does the person exhibit symptoms?

If yes, when were the symptoms first observed?

Watch for Symptoms

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Anyone can have mild to severe symptoms. People with these symptoms may have

COVID-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

- 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
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

This list does not include all possible symptoms. CDC will continue to update this list as we learn more about COVID-19. Older adults and people who have severe underlying medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness.

Exposure: Close Contact

Definition

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) defines Covid close contact exposure as a person who was within 6 feet, for at least 15 minutes, of someone who is infected. This is assumed to include anyone who lives in the same household as someone who has tested positive, if the infected person cannot isolate.

Situations and family response options differ depending upon vaccination status.

Vaccinated /boosted /anti-bodies		Unvaccinated	
1	Has person had positive, verified Covid test within last 90 days? - Or - Has person been fully vaccinated within the last 5 months? - Or - Received a booster vaccine in last 5 months	2	10-Day quarantine This plan requires none of the following inconveniences: - No testing - No vaccine - No masks - No symptoms
	If yes to any of the above: - No quarantine, as long as symptom free - Must wear a 2-layer mask for ten days from exposure - Must be tested for Covid on Day 5 (or later) from exposure - And receive a negative Covid test to return	3	5-Day quarantine This plan is a compromise program - Stay home for 5 days - Take test on day 4 or after - If negative, return to school after day 5 - wear a 2-layer mask through Day 10
		4	TTS program (SC DHEC school program – from CDC guidelines) TTS stands for “Test to Stay” (on campus) This plan requires two Covid tests and expense - Covid test after exposure is known - As long as symptom-free, return to campus - Wear a 2-layer mask for 10 days - Test <u>again</u> in 5 to 7 days from last contact

What about Covid infection?

Covid positive persons (regardless of vaccination status)	How does a student with ANY of the symptoms listed above (but NO known exposure) re-enter campus?
Stay home and isolate as much as possible for 5 days after symptoms began or a positive test if you are asymptomatic. IF you are fever-free for 24 hours <u>and</u> your symptoms are improving, you may return on the 6 th day. A 2-layer mask must be worn through day 10.	Once symptoms are resolved and student has been fever-free for 24 hours, they may return to campus under one of the following conditions. Wearing a mask through day 10 from the first day of symptoms - Or - Return without a mask with a negative Covid test

What about students with symptoms?