



Piedmont Community Charter School's Reopening Plan 2020-2021
(Using guidance from Lighting Our Way Forward-NC Guidance for Reopening Public Schools and NC Strong Schools Public Health Toolkit K-12).

Updates:

November 2, 2020-**K-5** had the option to return in person under **Plan A**.

April 21, 2021-**6-12** had the option to return in person under **Plan A**.

This PCCS Safe Reopening Plan outlines how we will safely operate school during the 2020-2021 school year. The Plan includes potential operational scenarios as laid out by the State of North Carolina. The PCCS Reopening Plan provides PCCS families with many details regarding health and safety, social and emotional concerns, how PCCS would implement the plans, information about arrival and more.

Since the health, safety and well-being of our students and staff is our utmost concern, our Health and Safety Protocols and Social Emotional Support sections appear first in our document, followed by our approach for implementing Plan B that has been decided by the governor.

You will also find information that pertains to options for families who are uncomfortable sending their students back to school, regardless of the plan in place.

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Piedmont Community Charter has put in place Health and Safety Protocols to support a safe and healthy school environment with guidance from NCDHHS as we embark on a reopening plan. Keep in mind, if your family chooses Plan C, or the school is on Plan C, these plans are different since children will be learning remotely. However, the protocols will still be in place as safeguards for teachers and staff. We understand that these safeguards will not be convenient for our staff, students, and parents but without protocols, we could not eliminate the risk. We must all work together in order to keep each other safe in order to support learning to the best of our ability during this challenging time.

Protective Measures to Prevent COVID-19

- **Masks/Face Coverings**
 - All staff and students (K-12) will wear masks/face coverings while at school with opportunities to remove them for different activities such as while eating lunch and at recess (only when social distancing is possible).
 - Please note that face shields are not a substitute for masks
- **Social Distancing** (*renamed Physical Distancing*)
 - Varies depending on the plan PCCS is choosing to operate
 - Plan A: social distancing in all “common areas” where people could gather (reception areas, arrival/dismissal, hallways, gym, etc) and as best as possible in a classroom setting.
 - Plan B: social distancing is required in ALL areas of the school, including classrooms.
 - Plan C: there is no social distancing with this plan as all students will be off campus.
- **Daily Health Screenings** (*Updated March 29, 2021 no longer required*)
 - PCCS will conduct a health screening of any person entering the school building. This includes, but is not limited to: students, staff, family members, and any other essential visitors.
 - Screenings include the following: temperature checks and an attestation form.
 - Fever is determined by a measure of: 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit. If anyone exhibits a fever, they will be rescanned. If it shows a fever again, they will not be allowed entry (or will be sent home).
 - Attestation form must be completed by all parents for their children and this form is found on their teacher’s webpage each morning.
 - Employees and all essential visitors will do the same.
 - Screenings will take place before the child exits their vehicle. This

means everyone must follow the traffic pattern. (The only exception would be student drivers). They will be screened prior to entering the building.

- Students, parents, and staff are expected to report truthfully their symptoms and/or exposure to an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- **Cleaning and Sanitation Practices**
 - Students and staff:
 - Teach/reinforce healthy hygiene habits that include washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and using hand sanitizer safely with at least 60% alcohol content. We ask that your household create a similar routine and practice.
 - Schedule frequent hand washing and sanitizing breaks into classroom activities, including before and after lunch and recess.
 - Have access to supplies (soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, paper towels, and tissues-donations are welcome and encouraged as these items can be hard to find)
 - Teach COVID-19 safety training for staff and students.
 - **Clean and Safe Facilities**
 - PCCS will add cleaning procedures to its facilities crew.
 - Clean each classroom throughout the day and after all lunches
 - Operate an electrostatic cleaner on Fridays that will sanitize classroom surfaces.
 - A schedule will be created to perform ongoing and routine cleaning and disinfection of high-touch areas (door handles, stair rails, faucet handles, toilet handles, light switches, desks, tables, chairs, and carts with an EPA approved disinfectant for SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19).
 - If operating under Plan B, the crew will deep clean classrooms before the next group of students enters the building and/or the end of each week and in between as often as possible. If operating under Plan A, the crew will deep clean classrooms in the evenings or as occupancy allows.

■ **Practices and Habits in the Classroom**

- Students and staff will limit sharing of personal items and supplies such as writing utensils.
- Limit use of classroom materials to small groups and disinfect between uses or provide adequate supplies to assign.
- Keep students' personal items separate and in individually labeled cubbies/containers.
- Remove soft surface items such as rugs, cloth bean bag type chairs, and stuffed animals as these items are much more difficult to sanitize.

■ **Health Personnel**

- All staff who assist with direct staff/student care and assessment are required to wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and perform hand washing after removing PPE.
- There will be an appointed staff member at each campus that will help train and assist families with COVID-19 related questions.

■ **Caring for High Risk Students**

- Some individuals have greater risk factors and require additional measures for protection such as 100% remote learning.
- Students who are considered high-risk for severe illness due to COVID-19 include those who have the following conditions:
 - Chronic lung disease or uncontrolled asthma
 - Heart disease with complications
 - Compromised immune system
 - Obesity-Body Mass Index of 30 or higher
 - Other underlying medical conditions that are not well controlled, such as diabetes, renal failure, liver disease, or sickle cell disease.
 - If a parent/guardian believes that their child qualifies under the high-risk designation for COVID-19 protection they will choose remote learning. All students that choose remote learning, will remain in that setting unless the school changes its plan of operation.

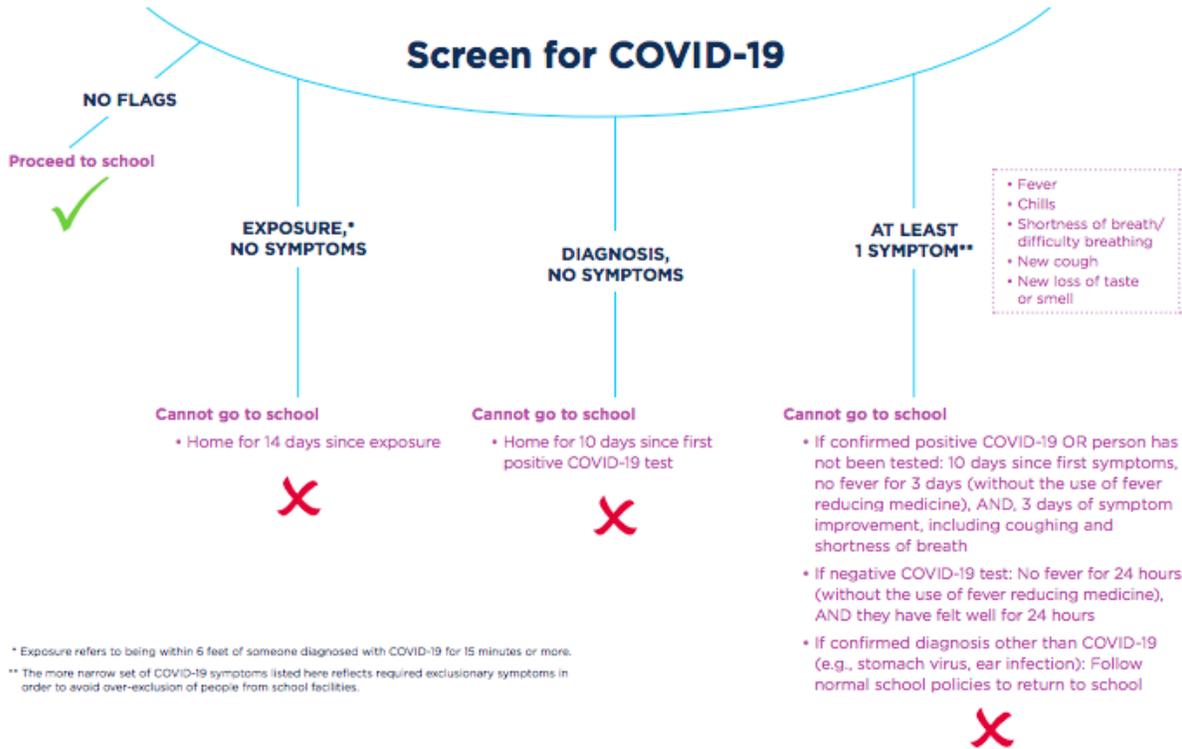
- Handling of a case of COVID-19 outside of PCCS:
 - If your child has had an exposure, is exhibiting symptoms, or has been diagnosed with COVID-19 outside of school, we ask that you contact the following people so we can develop a plan of support:
 - Jeanne Thompson, Health and Safety Coordinator
 - Building Assistant Director where your child(s) attends school.
 - Elementary: Kayla Woods
 - Middle School: David Benfiled
 - High School: Pam Huffstetler/Ted Shiver
- **Safely Returning to School:**
 - If a student or staff member had exhibited COVID-like symptoms (fever, chills, cough), but had a negative COVID-19 test, they can return to school once there is no fever without the use of fever-reducing medicines and they have felt well for 24 hours. *(Updated 3/26/21-new symptoms include: sore throat, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell, diarrhea or vomiting, new onset of severe headache-still includes fever, chills, cough)*
 - If a student/staff member has been diagnosed with COVID-19, but does not have symptoms, they must remain out of school until 10 days (see checklist below) have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test, assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms since their positive test.
 - If a student/staff member has been diagnosed with COVID-19 by a medical professional based on a test or their symptoms, OR does not get a COVID-19 test but has had COVID-19 symptoms, they should not be at school and should stay home until they (or a family member if younger child) can answer **YES to all of the following three questions:**
 - 1. Has it been at least 10 days since the child first had symptoms? AND
 - 2. Has it been at least 3 days since the child had a fever (without using fever-reducing medicine)? AND
 - 3. Has it been at least 3 days since the child's symptoms have improved including cough and shortness of breath?

- If a student/staff member has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or has been presumed positive by a medical professional due to symptoms, they are not required to have documentation of a negative test in order to return to school.
- If a student/employee has been determined to have been in close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19, they must remain out of school for 14 days since the last day of exposure unless they test positive, in which case, the 10 day rule and the three symptoms question applies. They must complete the full 14 days of quarantine, even if they have tested negative.
- If a student is unable to attend in person school due to illness or exposure, they will be able to participate in remote learning.
- If a student needs fever reducing medicine they should stay home. If they come to school after taking this medicine, safety protocols have already been violated and the student will become a remote learner.



Screening Flow Chart

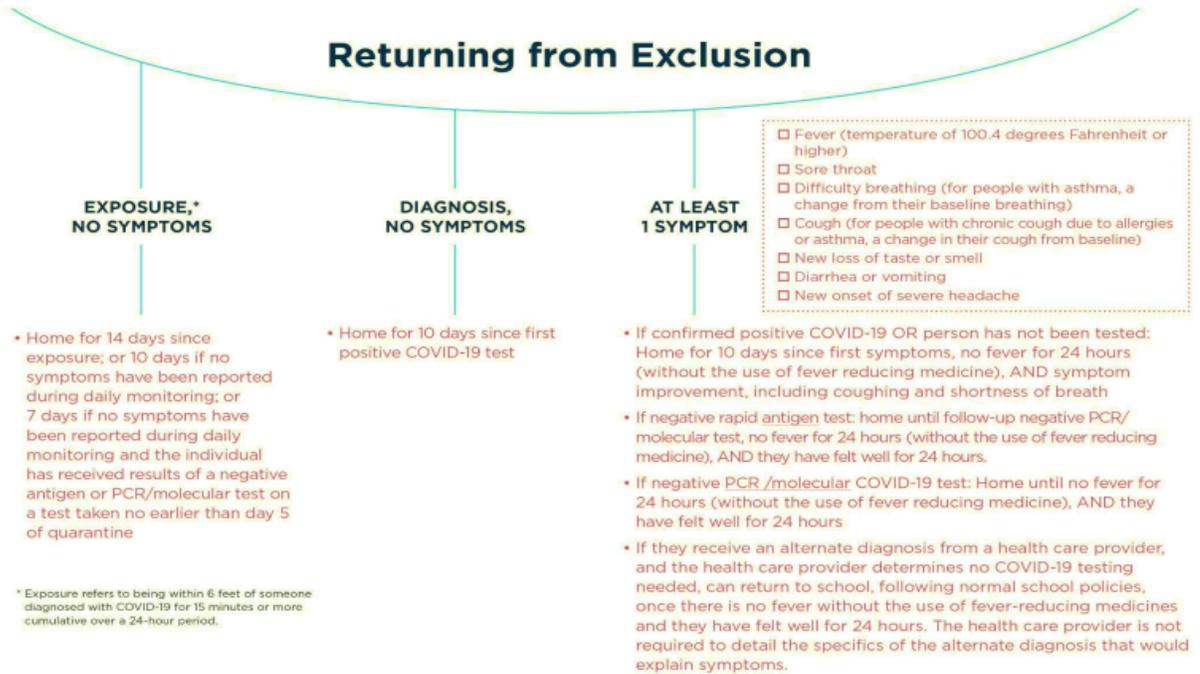
For step-by-step instructions for school personnel, review the [Reference Guide for Suspected, Presumptive, or Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 \(K-12\)](#)



* Exposure refers to being within 6 feet of someone diagnosed with COVID-19 for 15 minutes or more.
 ** The more narrow set of COVID-19 symptoms listed here reflects required exclusionary symptoms in order to avoid over-exclusion of people from school facilities.

Updated 3/24/21 flowchart:

Returning from Exclusion Flow Chart



Plan A: Traditional schedule/All students learn in person

Applies to all three campuses:

- Least restrictive of all the 3 State Plans
- Traditional schedule with 100% of students attending in-person school 5 days a week. (*Update: 4 days a week*)
- All health and safety protocols followed, as outlined starting on page 3.
- All students and staff (K-12) are required to wear a mask/facial covering that covers their nose and mouth. Students and staff may remove their masks during lunch time and when social distancing can be observed as mask breaks. These will be implemented by the staff. Please note that NC DHHS guidelines state that face shields are not a substitute for masks.
- Social distancing (6' between people) required only in “common areas: where individuals may congregate, such as hallways, reception areas, cafeteria, restrooms, and locker rooms.
- Efforts made to social distance in classrooms as much as possible with 100% of students present.
- No large group assemblies.
- Students in grades K-4 kept within their classroom group to limit exposure with those students transitioning together for activities outside of classroom, ex: restrooms, recess, specials/electives.
- Classrooms contain designated “teacher-only” areas to allow for social distancing (6')
- For electives/specials such as physical education, band and chorus, curriculum and assessments will be modified to minimize risk of exposure. Parents will be notified of those modifications from the teacher regarding the specific course.
- Hallways will be marked to ensure social distancing.
- Lunches will be eaten in the classroom.

Plan B-Blending Learning environment/50% of students or less while following social distancing guidelines set by NCDHHS

Applies to all three campuses:

- Combines plans A, B, and C for a blending learning environment
- All health and safety protocols followed as outlined on page 3.
- Social and emotional support in place.
- To limit our capacity to allow for social distancing 6 feet in all settings, an altered schedule is implemented to separate students into two cohorts to start-one group in person and one group remote. In person students attend school 4 days a week and Friday remote while remote students are remote all five days and Friday is a half day for teachers.
 - Can be tweaked if needed to accommodate all students.
- All students and staff (K-12) are required to wear a mask/facial covering that covers their nose and mouth. Students and staff may remove their masks during lunch time and when social distancing can be observed as mask breaks. These will be implemented by the staff. Please note that NC DHHS guidelines state that face shields are not a substitute for masks.
- There will be no extra curricular activities during Plan B (only exception is high school athletics but this will be determined by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association).
- Social distancing (6' between people) is required in all areas of the school, this includes hallways, restrooms, reception areas, gym, classrooms, etc).
- No large group assemblies
- Classrooms contain designated “teacher only” areas to allow for social distancing of 6 feet between the teacher and students as much as possible. Teachers will wear a mask when working in close proximity with students.
- Lunches eaten in the classrooms
- Hallways divided into two lanes with 6 feet markers and direction arrows for students and staff to follow at all times when in the hallways for elementary and middle school. In high school, there will be one way hallways marked with arrows and six feet separation marks.
- Water fountains cannot be used-only water bottle filling stations.
- Parents/visitors will not be able to visit classrooms or have lunch with their child. Only essential visitors to the building will be allowed to enter based on the health screening and they will follow all health and safety protocols. (ex: delivery persons, etc).
- Students must come prepared to school each and every day as there will be no lunch deliveries accepted, nor will the schools be selling food.

- **Plan C: 100% Remote Learning from Home**

Applies to all three campuses:

Option #1:

- If choosing plan C, materials would be distributed prior to the start of school.
- Groups would drive through the week of August 17th to pick up technology, textbooks, and other materials.
- We would start on Plan C to allow for teachers and students to work remotely in order to prepare for remote learning. Teachers would have the ability to utilize new technology prior to students entering the building developing the plan for safety to allow for COVID-19 training and the screening process.
- The goal would be to start remotely and assess two weeks. In person, not flexible students will then come to school. After another four weeks, the school will assess the data and then bring in students off the in person, flexible list to fill classrooms at their max capacity based on 6 feet social distancing.

Option: #2 (If governor or school states that we must be all remote)

- School facilities are closed; no students are permitted in school buildings.
- Students will follow the remote learning plan as a framework for quality remote learning
- Remote learning occurs Monday-Friday for students. Friday is reserved for teachers to allow for student small group instruction, counseling check-in's, student tutoring, parent/teacher conferences, teacher planning and collaborating with peers, etc.
- Guidelines will be developed.

Remote Learning Option Regardless of Plan

Families who are uncomfortable with sending their student(s) back to PCCS for the reopening of school will be given the option to participate in remote learning.

Program guidelines to consider before committing to this option:

- Students will be expected to complete all coursework assigned by their teachers. They will be required to learn from home by accessing lessons or presentations and/or utilizing textbooks or other classroom materials.
- Students will be required to “check in” daily via Google Classroom, Zoom, SeeSaw or other tool that the teacher uses.
- Students will not be able to participate in extracurricular activities (clubs, etc.) if they are even taking place (only exception is high school athletics).
- High School Athletics: North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) will determine the protocol for athletics.
- For students who have an IEP, service delivery time will be provided by an EC teacher at a scheduled time.
- Families who choose this option must commit no later than July 31, 2020 to allow for balanced scheduling among cohorts.
- This is a commitment. Once a family chooses remote learning, their student(s) remain remote until the overall school plan changes. In person learning students may opt into remote learning at any time after school begins.

Transportation

Arrival and Dismissal

- Prepare for these to take longer than normal. Students and staff are expected to socially distance themselves and must take temperatures and confirm that they don't have symptoms before the student(s) can even exit their vehicle. This will result in a limited number of students being allowed out of the car at any given time.
- Morning arrival will NOT begin until 7:30am so all staff is present to begin the screenings.
- During dismissal, social distancing will still be followed, therefore a limited number of cars will be loaded during this time. There will be no gym pick up during this time at the elementary campus.
- Elementary: 7:30 - 2:30 (instruction begins at 8:00)
- Middle: 7:30 - 3:00 (instruction begins at 8:00)
- High: 7:30 - 2:40 (instruction begins at 7:55)
- There will be no tardies-our goal is to safely bring in students and screen them appropriately according to the guidelines.