

2021 - 2022 Schenck School Covid-19 Health and Safety Protocols

During the 2021 - 2022 school year, our top priority is the physical well-being of our community followed closely by a strong desire to resume 'normal' school life. As such, The Schenck School will use a sensible, layered approach to Covid-19 mitigation, introducing and discontinuing strategies in response to current data and trends.

With the vast majority of our student body ineligible for the Covid-19 vaccine and persistent community spread in our region, common sense mitigation strategies are necessary to prevent illness and avoid interruptions to in-person learning caused by exposure and mandatory quarantines. In addition, the ubiquitous access to the Covid-19 vaccine for individuals 12 and older and an overall reduction in cases combined with updated information and a year of experience, allow us to move closer to pre-pandemic conditions while still mitigating risk.

The following is a summary of our Covid-19 mitigation strategies and policies based on the guidance of our medical advisors, the Centers for Disease Control and the Fulton County Dept. of Health. Modifications to policies may be made in accordance with current local transmission data, updated guidance, and availability of the Covid-19 vaccine to students 12 and under.

Masking:

- When students are present, all students, faculty, staff and visitors at The Schenck School will be required to wear face coverings indoors unless actively eating or drinking.
- We will continue to use a non-punitive approach to mask wearing, utilizing encouragement, gentle reminders and patience.
- Face coverings will not be required outdoors and classes will have frequent outdoor mask breaks.
- When students are not present, fully vaccinated adults are not required to wear a face covering.*
Unvaccinated adults must wear a face covering indoors at all times unless actively eating and drinking.
**Subject to change based on current conditions and local regulations.*

Distancing and Traveling on Campus:

- Student desks will be placed 3ft apart and students will maintain that distance when traveling throughout the building.
- While outdoors, students will be required to maintain 3ft distance unless actively playing.
- While indoors, students will resume pre-pandemic movement throughout the building while wearing a face covering and maintaining distance to places such as art, music, PE, library, SLP / OT services, etc.
- If advisable, student travel will be limited and specials teachers will come to their classrooms.

Cohorting:

- Students will be kept in consistent cohorts that will allow for socialization outside of their immediate classmates while also limiting the possibility of exposure and quarantining.
- The largest indoor cohort will consist of up to three classes (approx. 30 students) who would share PE, lunch, recess and Study Lab. Students will remain 3ft apart and masked when indoors and feasible.

- If advisable, cohorts will be temporarily reduced to a single class to further reduce the risks of exposure and quarantine.

Lunch:

- The Dining Hall will have limited capacity to ensure a minimum of 3ft of distance between students and over 6ft between classes within a cohort.
- Due to spacing requirements, students will have a rotating lunch schedule where they take turns eating in the dining hall or their classroom.
- If advisable, eating in the dining hall will be temporarily paused and students will eat in their classrooms to further reduce the risks of exposure and quarantine.

Visitors:

- Visitors will be allowed on campus by invitation and for specific purposes including: adult only events, classroom mystery readers, volunteering, etc.
- All visitors will be required to wear a mask when students are present and access to the building may be limited.
- When students are not present, fully vaccinated adults are not required to wear a face covering.* Unvaccinated adults must wear a face covering indoors at all times unless actively eating and drinking.
**Subject to change based on current conditions and local regulations.*

Daily Health Self-Screening:

In order to come on campus, the student, faculty, staff, or visitor must not have experienced any of the following symptoms in the past 24 hours or has received clearance from school nurse:

- Tiredness;
- Coughing;
- Fever;
- Sore Muscles;
- New Loss of Smell or Taste;
- Aches and Pains;
- Nasal Congestion;
- Runny Nose;
- Sore Throat;
- Nausea or vomiting;
- Diarrhea; or
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Returning to Campus after Symptoms:

- If an individual experiences any of the symptoms listed above they may not return to campus until
 - A minimum of 24 hours from onset of symptoms and their improvement; fever-free without the use of medications for at least 24 hours; clearance from the School Nurse
 - OR fever-free without the use of medications for at least 24 hours AND a negative RT-PCR Covid-19 test.

- If a vaccinated individual experiences any of the symptoms above they should be fever-free without the use of medications for at least 24 hours and consult with the School Nurse before returning to campus.

Returning to Campus after a Suspected or Positive Case of Covid 19

If a student or employee is suspected of having Covid-19 or tests positive for COVID-19, the School will require they follow these steps based on CDC guidelines and The Schenck School Policy before returning to campus:

- No fever for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications;
- Other symptoms have improved; AND
- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared or since the first positive RT-PCR test for COVID-19.

Exposure to Covid-19:

- A student is considered a ‘close contact’ of someone positive or suspected of having Covid-19 if they were within 3ft for a cumulative total of 15 minutes over 24 hours. If a student is considered a close contact they must begin to quarantine and follow the “After Exposure to Covid-19” protocols.
- The CDC does delineate some close contact exceptions for students within a K-12 setting when other mitigation strategies are present. As such, the school distinguishes between on-campus and off-campus exposures:
 - On-Campus Exposure:
 - Per [CDC guidelines](#), while in a school-setting, students who are within 3-6 ft of one another for 15 minutes or more and both appropriately wearing facial coverings during that time are *not* required to quarantine
 - If students’ potential exposure occurs on-campus and outdoors during active play within their cohort, the school will make a determination as to whether or not it is considered a close contact and requires quarantining
 - If advisable, during this period of evaluation, the cohort group may be reduced to individual classes, with separate recesses and eating in their classrooms for 5 - 7 days
 - Off Campus Exposure:
 - If a student is potentially exposed to someone positive or suspected of having Covid-19 while off campus they must quarantine and follow the “After Exposure to Covid-19” protocols even if the exposure was outdoors and / or masked.
 - If parents are unsure if a student is considered a close contact, they must consult with the school nurse before returning to campus.
- If an unvaccinated faculty or staff member is considered a close contact of someone positive or suspected of having Covid-19, on or off campus, indoors or outdoors, with or without facial coverings, they must quarantine and follow the “After Exposure to Covid-19” protocols
- If a fully vaccinated faculty / staff member is considered a close contact to someone with Covid-19 and they remain symptom free they do not need to quarantine *unless they are the primary caregiver for the positive individual.*

- If a fully vaccinated faculty / staff member is the primary caregiver for someone positive with Covid-19 and therefore unable to isolate from them, they should follow “After Exposure to Covid-19” protocols

After Exposure to Covid-19:

- If a student or unvaccinated faculty or staff member is exposed to COVID-19 they must satisfy one of the following before returning to campus:
 - The end of the 10-day self-quarantine period from the last date of their exposure.
 - During the 10-day period, these individuals should self-monitor for symptoms, avoid contact with high risk individuals, and follow CDC guidelines if symptoms develop.
 - OR employees and students may return to campus on day 8 after a direct exposure prior to the end of the 10-day period if: (1) they remain symptom-free; (2) they receive a negative PCR (not rapid) test on or after day 5 of the quarantine period; and (3) they self-monitor for symptoms and wear a mask.
- If a student or unvaccinated faculty or staff member is exposed to a household member with COVID-19 and cannot isolate from them, the exposed individual must remain off campus for a minimum of 10 days from the shared household member's first symptoms or positive Covid-19 test and then remain off campus while they satisfy the requirements listed above.
- If a vaccinated faculty member is exposed to someone with Covid-19 and develops symptoms, they should consult with the school nurse before returning to campus and will be required to provide a negative PCR (not rapid) test.

Communications about Covid-19

While withholding any personal or identifying information, the school will communicate:

- Any known positive cases of Covid-19 on campus.
- If a member of your child's cohort tested positive for Covid-19 even if your child is not considered a close contact and not required to quarantine.
- If your child is considered a close contact of someone with Covid-19 and must quarantine.
- If a student or teacher within your child's cohort was exposed off campus to someone with Covid-19 and must quarantine.

Distance Learning:

If a student is required to stay home due to mild Covid-19 symptoms or quarantine requirements and would otherwise attend school:

- On **Day 1** of a Covid-19 related absence students may elect to follow an optional asynchronous schedule that focuses on practicing and reinforcing fundamental academic skills.
- On **Day 2 and beyond** of a Covid-19 related absence, students may participate in synchronous learning throughout the day when feasible.
- Students should not participate in Distance Learning if they do not feel well.
- Students are not eligible for Distance Learning if they are off-campus for any reason outside of Covid-19 protocols including travel or any other health condition