



2021-2022 Health-Safety (COVID) Guidelines

HYGIENE & CLEANING

The virus that causes COVID-19 spreads primarily in the same way that the flu and other respiratory diseases spread. As such, we will:

- Teach, reinforce, and practice good hygiene measures such as hand washing and cough/sneeze etiquette.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched areas and any areas likely exposed to COVID-19 infection.
- Manage air quality through fresh air, filtration, and ventilation. In addition to ventilation improvements made last year, ACA installed a new HVAC system in the North Building.

BOTTLE FILLING STATIONS

Students should plan to bring water bottles to school. Water fountains will be closed, but bottle filling stations are available.

TRANSPORTATION

- **All passengers (regardless of vaccination status) must wear a face mask while riding school transportation.**
- All students will have an assigned seat. Seats will be filled from back to front when boarding.
- To increase the circulation of outdoor air as much as possible, windows will remain slightly open.
- All vehicles will be thoroughly disinfected at the end of each day.

VISITORS

Necessary visitors are allowed on campus and are expected to follow the same requirements as employees. In addition, visitors must sign in and sign out, and they should wear a nametag while on campus.

SPACING AND SEATING CHARTS

- Classrooms will continue to be spread out as much as possible with the minimum goal of 3' distance between students per CDC guidance.
- Seating charts will be maintained to facilitate contact tracing.

- A separate area will be maintained to care for anyone with a suspected COVID-19 infection.
- ACA is in the process of adding modular classrooms that will further our capacity for spacing beginning in the second semester of 2022.

MEALS AND DISTRIBUTION

Initially, students will eat in classrooms or outside. Teachers will schedule hand washing before meals. Students will not be permitted to use the microwave ovens at this time. Students who order lunch will be released to the cafeteria at specified time to line up with appropriate distance and enter the kitchen in a staggered fashion.

LOCKERS & HOOKS

Students will have the option to use hooks in the classroom, and lockers will be assigned for students in grades 7-12.

MASKS

All members of our community (regardless of vaccination status) must wear a cloth or paper mask while inside our facilities per Atlanta Public Schools guidelines, unless medically exempt. Masks are optional while outside.

- Masks should not include writing or logos other than the ACA logo, nor should they feature fluorescent colors, glitter, images, or other accents or colors that might be distracting for other students.
- Neck gaiters and vented masks are not permitted.
- Masks should be worn properly, covering both the nose and mouth.
- Masks will be provided upon request.
- All indoor Fine Arts practices and performances require masks to be worn.
- While eating lunch, students will be physically distanced as much as our physical space permits.
- When riding school transportation, masks are required by all passengers (regardless of vaccination status).

SCHOOL-SANCTIONED GATHERINGS, ACTIVITIES, & ATHLETICS

The following guidelines apply to activities on or off campus that include students.

- All gatherings including students must be pre-approved by the Director of Operations (drosenzweig@atlantaclassical.org) to facilitate cleaning and preparation.
- Activity leaders will:
 - Supervise participants at all times.
 - Ensure mask guidelines are adhered to.

- Take note of any students who are within 3' of others for 15 minutes or more and are not both wearing masks. This allows us to contact trace should an infection occur.
- When possible, restrooms should be limited to two persons at a time.
- ACA will adhere to GHSA guidelines, where appropriate. The Athletics Director and coaches will monitor requirements and communicate the same to athletes, parents, and spectators.

WHEN TO STAY HOME

- **Students and employees who have symptoms or are sick (e.g fever, cough, nausea, sore throat, respiratory distress, etc.) should stay home.**
- Parents, caregivers, or guardians are asked to monitor their children for symptoms of infectious illness every day through home-based symptom screening. **Students who are sick should not attend school in-person.**
- Students who cannot attend class should report absences to attendance@atlantaclassical.org and their teacher(s). Employees with symptoms should notify their supervisor.
- Sick individuals should follow CDC-recommended steps (avoid spreading germs, isolate) and should not return to campus until the CDC criteria to discontinue home isolation are met, in consultation with healthcare providers. **Questions about when to return should be directed to the school nurse (health@atlantaclassical.org)**

Special Guidance for Unvaccinated Individuals

- Unvaccinated employees who do not have symptoms but who have a sick family member at home with COVID-19 should notify their supervisor and follow CDC recommended precautions, and remain at home at this time as well.
- **No unvaccinated employee, student or visitor should come to campus if they are waiting on a COVID-19 test result, or if they qualify as a close contact of a person who has tested positive.**

SYMPTOMS ON CAMPUS

Staff or students that present with symptoms of communicable disease (fever, cough, runny nose) at school will be evaluated by the school nurse for further follow-up. If symptoms are confirmed, symptomatic individuals will be escorted to the designated area at the school, and parents will be contacted for pick-up and provided further guidance by the school nurse. ACA will ensure symptomatic students safely remain under the supervision of a staff member until parents or guardians arrive. Individuals presenting with a fever cannot return until symptom-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications. If a healthcare provider suspects COVID-19 the student should remain out of school and follow the CDC's "Return to School and Child Care

Guidance After COVID-19 Illness or Exposure.” Cleaning and disinfection of the designated space will take place within 24 hours following the student’s departure.

RESPONSE TO POSITIVE CASES

If a student or staff member contracts COVID-19, the school will provide information on isolation requirements and return-to-school criteria. Should a student need to isolate or quarantine, Principals, teachers, and the Student Services department (when applicable) coordinate with students and families to support academic progress. Within 24 hours, the school will complete contact tracing, and provide close contacts with the school’s quarantine guidelines and return to school criteria. Contact tracing will protect the privacy of all parties.

Types of Notices

Phone Notices will be provided to all students and employees who test positive or are identified as close contacts as a result of a school activity, followed by a written notice.

Positive Notices are sent to people who have tested positive for COVID-19. The positive notice outlines the requirements for isolation and returning to campus.

Close Contact Notices are sent to people who have been in close contact with a person who has tested positive, as defined by the CDC. The close contact notice outlines the requirements for quarantine and returning to campus.

Small Group Notices are sent to people who have shared a space with someone who has tested positive but they are not considered a close contact by CDC standards, and therefore are not required to quarantine. Small group notices keep people informed so that they can watch for symptoms, limit interactions with others, and make decisions about the possibility of testing.

Public Health Notifications will be sent to public health officials in the case of positive infections and outbreaks, as required by GA Dept of Health.

Legenda will include an updated case count each week in order to remain consistent and transparent about how COVID-19 is impacting our campus.

QUARANTINE & ISOLATION GUIDELINES

Atlanta Classical Academy adheres to the following quarantine and isolation guidelines.

Isolate: Self-isolation is required for those who have received a positive test result, even if they don’t have symptoms. If you have tested positive for COVID, you should isolate yourself from others, including family members. **You may discontinue isolation after the following criteria have been met:**

- 10 days since symptoms first appeared, or, if you did not have symptoms, since the date of your positive test.
- 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and
- Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving. (Loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation.)

Note that these recommendations do not apply to people with severe COVID-19 or with weakened immune systems (immunocompromised). People who are severely ill with COVID-19 might need to stay home up to 20 days after symptoms first appear. Talk to your healthcare provider for more information.

Quarantine: Self-quarantine is required for those who have been in close contact* of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19. **It is recommended that quarantine last for 14 days following the last close contact* with a person with COVID-19 unless the criteria below are met.** One should only leave quarantine in the case of an emergency or to be tested for COVID-19.

A person does not need to quarantine if they

1. have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past three (3) months and recovered, OR
 2. are fully vaccinated
- AND
- c. do not show any symptoms.

In order to qualify for these exemptions, please provide Nurse Holland (health@atlantaclassical.org) with a copy of a lab-confirmed positive test dated within the past three (3) months or proof of vaccination.

A close contact* may discontinue quarantine after 10 days if no symptoms are experienced during the monitoring period.

A close contact* may discontinue quarantine after seven (7) days, if they:

- a. Do not experience any symptoms during the monitoring period, AND
- b. Take a lab-confirmed PCR or antigen COVID-19 test on day five (5) or later of the quarantine period (at-home tests cannot be accepted due to variability in results and positive identification of student or staff is not verified,) AND
- c. This test result is negative. A list of free testing sites can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Quarantine may not be discontinued until a minimum of seven (7) full days have been completed since the most recent exposure, even if negative test results are received earlier. If the result is positive, please contact the school and follow DPH isolation guidance.

In order to return to school activities after seven (7) days, please provide the test result, including the date of the test, to the school nurse - health@atlantaclassical.org.

If quarantine is discontinued prior to 14 days, continue to monitor your health and follow mitigation strategies until 14 days after the most recent exposure and isolate immediately if symptoms develop. Mitigation strategies that should be practiced include correct and consistent mask use, social distancing, hand and cough hygiene, environmental cleaning and disinfection, avoiding crowds, and ensuring adequate indoor ventilation.

***Definition of a Close Contact**

A close contact is someone who was within 6 feet of a person who has tested positive for COVID for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, beginning from 2 days before they have any symptoms (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days before the positive specimen collection date), until they meet criteria for discontinuing home isolation. In the indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) were engaged in **consistent** and **correct** use of well-fitting masks.