

# **COVID-19 Health and Safety Summary of Updated Understandings, Policies and Procedures for Salisbury Academy Families**



*Updated as of 10-6-21*

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## Salisbury Academy Community Health Standards

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is a mild to severe respiratory illness that was first identified in late 2019 and declared a global pandemic in March 2020. It is spread mainly through close contact from person to person via respiratory droplets and is characterized by fever, cough, and shortness of breath and may progress to pneumonia and respiratory failure. Some people without symptoms may be able to spread the virus. Preventing infection, particularly for those with increased risk of complications, is critical. The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to someone with the virus. This set of community standards and policies has been developed for Salisbury Academy students, faculty, staff and visitors. ***We are all in this together.*** Together, we can manage the challenges presented by COVID-19 with flexibility, resilience, and support for the SA community.

Salisbury Academy's approach and best practices have been shaped by:

- the lessons learned during SA's emergency response to COVID-19 in spring 2020 and during the 2020–2021 school year;
- the expertise of a community of health care, communicable disease and medical professionals;
- and most of all, by balancing the shared desire to provide the best possible in-person learning environment for SA students, faculty and staff with the health and safety precautions that protect their well-being.

### Present Situation

As we prepare for the 2021-2022 school year, SA looks to continue to safely conduct school on campus. While we cannot predict the impact of new COVID-19 virus variants or the rate of community spread in the fall, we are optimistic about the year ahead for many reasons.

- The consistent cooperation of our families reporting exposed or symptomatic children and keeping them home and getting them tested for COVID-19.
- The knowledge we now have about prevention of community transmission thanks to 18 months of work by researchers, epidemiologists, and physicians working with the virus.
- The availability of effective vaccines across the region and country.

### Guiding Principles

The 2021–2022 school year will require flexibility, understanding and collaboration to continue SA's commitment to academic excellence under circumstances that are often difficult to predict. It is our goal to:

- Create exceptional, sustainable and equitable learning experiences in environments that prioritize the physical, developmental, emotional and social health, and wellness of students.
- Evolve, respond and build expertise and resiliency as circumstances change.
- Maximize opportunities for on-campus learning and social engagement within the bounds of public health restrictions.
- Equip families with the information and support needed for a successful educational experience through consistent, clear, transparent communications.

## **New for 2021-2022**

### **COVID-19 Vaccines:**

- COVID-19 vaccinations are not required but are strongly encouraged for all eligible age groups. Salisbury Academy will provide an option for vaccinated individuals to upload copies of their COVID-19 vaccination cards. Over the course of the year, this proof of vaccination status will be essential for determining quarantines and, if and when, public health agencies and SA's medical team expand allowable behavior for fully vaccinated students and staff.

### **Exposure:**

- Person who is not fully vaccinated and has been in close contact with someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19:
  - Rowan County Public Health is currently requiring a person can return to school after completing up to 10 days of quarantine. The 10 days of quarantine begin after the last known close contact with the COVID-19 positive individual.
    - RCPH reserves the right to adjust quarantine based on local conditions
    - Anyone who ends quarantine before 14 days should continue to monitor symptoms, wear a mask, social distance, and wash their hands.
  - **There are four exceptions:**
    - 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.
    - People who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 3 months and recovered and do not have symptoms do NOT have to quarantine.
    - Students who are not fully vaccinated after a close contact in a classroom or other school setting if masks were being worn appropriately and consistently by both the person with COVID-19 and the potentially exposed person do NOT need to quarantine.
    - If an exposed individual does not develop symptoms and has a negative PCR test result on day 5 after their exposure, the individual can return to school after a 7-day quarantine.

### **Health Screenings and Signs of Illness:**

- Daily health screenings via the Ascend App will continue for each student.

### **Visitors:**

- Visitors and volunteers will be allowed on campus and will be required to abide by all campus health and safety protocols.

## **Existing Policies**

### **Mask-wearing at SA**

- All individuals in grades K-8 will wear masks at school indoors (except when eating or drinking in a socially distanced way).
- Students should wear a clean mask each day and keep an extra in their book bag. Cloth masks or face covering design or fabric should be appropriate for the classroom and the workplace.

### **Hand-washing at SA**

- Faculty and staff will schedule hand-washing breaks throughout the day for all students, especially before and after eating, and after using the restroom.
- Hand sanitizer stations with at least 60% alcohol will be available on all campuses.

### **Social distancing at SA**

- Faculty, staff and students are asked to adhere to the 3 feet of social distancing whenever possible in order to reduce the risk for quarantine and exposure.
- On campus events, when permitted, will be limited to numbers specified by national, state, and local guidance or at the discretion of school administration guided by the Medical Task Force.
- All efforts will be made to maintain 6 feet of social distancing when eating indoors.

### **Before School**

Before arrival on SA's campus, families should be alert for any symptoms of COVID-19 and keep students home if they show *any* signs of illness.

**When to Stay Home: Symptoms**

<b>If your child is experiencing any of these symptoms:</b>	
✓ Fever (100.0 or higher) or Chills	✓ Cough
✓ Sore Throat	✓ New loss of taste or smell
✓ New headache that doesn't improve in 24 hours	✓ Fatigue
✓ Diarrhea	✓ Muscle or body aches
✓ Nausea or vomiting	✓ Congestion or runny nose
✓ Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing	
<b>Then, student must provide one of the following in order to return to school:</b>	
▪ Provide a physician's note confirming an alternate diagnosis for the COVID-19 symptom and no fever for 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medicines	
▪ Provide a negative <b>PCR</b> COVID-19 test	
▪ Quarantine for 10 days from symptom onset	
<b>*Should COVID testing be recommended</b> , your child must stay home until test results are known. Salisbury Academy will provide a remote learning option for your child.	

**When to Stay Home: Exposure**

<b>Exposure is defined as a close contact (within 6 feet of a positive case for 15 minutes over a 24-hour period) to an individual who has tested positive.</b>
▪ When identified as being in close contact of an individual who tested positive for COVID, a full <b>10-day quarantine just be completed</b> before returning to the school setting.
▪ <b>Exceptions to quarantine for close contact:</b> Individuals who remain symptom free and are either fully vaccinated or have had confirmed COVID in the last 90 days are not required to quarantine.
▪ <b>If no symptoms develop and with a negative PCR test result on day 5</b> , the student may return to school following a 7-day quarantine.

## Returning to School

Category	Scenario	Criteria to Return to School
<b>Diagnosis</b>	Student has tested <b>positive</b> with an <b>antigen test</b> but <b>does not have symptoms</b> of COVID-19 and is not known to be a close contact to someone diagnosed with COVID-19	<p>If the student takes a repeat PCR/molecular test performed in a laboratory within 24-48 hours of their positive antigen test, and that PCR/molecular test is negative: the positive antigen test can be considered a false positive and the student can immediately return to school; OR</p> <p>If the student does not take a repeat PCR/molecular test, or takes one within 24-48 hours and it is also positive: the student can return to school 10 days after the first positive test, as long as they did not develop symptoms.</p> <p>The student is not required to have documentation of a negative test in order to return to school.</p>
<b>Diagnosis</b>	Student has tested <b>positive</b> with a <b>PCR/molecular test</b> but <b>does not have symptoms of COVID-19</b>	Student can return to school when they complete 10 days of isolation. Isolation should begin starting from the date of their first positive test.
<b>Symptoms</b>	Student <b>has symptoms</b> of COVID-19 <u>and</u> has tested <b>positive</b> with an <b>antigen test or PCR/molecular test</b> .	<p>Student can return to school when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*They complete 10 days of isolation. Isolation should begin starting from their first day of symptoms, AND</li> <li>*It has been at least 24 hours since the student had a fever (without the use of fever-reducing medicine) AND</li> <li>*Other COVID-19 symptoms are improving.</li> </ul> <p>The student is not required to have documentation of a negative test in order to return to school.</p>
<b>Symptoms</b>	Student has symptoms of COVID-19 but has not been tested for COVID-19 nor has visited a healthcare provider. Therefore, the student with symptoms is presumed positive for COVID-19 due to the presence of	<p>Student can return to school when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*They complete 10 days of isolation. Isolation should begin starting from their first day of symptoms, AND</li> </ul>

	a clinically compatible illness in the absence of testing.	*It has been at least 24 hours since the student had a fever (without the use of fever-reducing medicine) AND *Other COVID-19 symptoms are improving.
<b>Symptoms</b>	Student has symptoms of COVID-19 but has visited a healthcare provider and received a <b>negative PCR/molecular test and/or an alternate diagnosis</b> that would explain the symptoms of a temperature of 100.4 Fahrenheit or higher, sore throat, chills, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, new cough or new loss of taste or smell, diarrhea or vomiting, or the new onset of a severe headache, especially with a fever. The healthcare provider has determined that COVID-19 testing is not necessary.	Student can return to school when: *It has been at least 24 hours since the student had a fever (without the use of fever reducing medicine) AND *They have felt well for 24 hours.  Note: The healthcare provider is not required to detail the specifics of the alternate diagnosis in the clearance note.
<b>Exposure</b>	Student has been in <b>close contact</b> with someone with a <b>confirmed case of COVID-19</b> .	<b>Student can return after a 7-day quarantine if the student is not presenting with COVID-19 symptoms and has a negative PCR test on day 5.</b> Students who choose not to test must still follow a 10-day quarantine.  Local public health authorities make the final decisions about how long quarantine should last in the communities they serve, based on local conditions and needs.  <b>The student must continue to monitor symptoms and strictly adhere to all non-pharmaceutical interventions</b> (e.g. wear a mask, practice social distancing) through 14 days after the last date of exposure. NCDHHS recommends that schools <b>not require an individual who is fully vaccinated (at least 2 weeks after getting their second dose in a 2-dose series or one dose of a single-dose series) to quarantine</b> if they have had no symptoms after being a close contact to someone with COVID-19, and they do not



		live in a congregate setting (such as a shelter).
<b>Household member, exposure</b>	Student is a <b>household member</b> (e.g. a sibling) of someone with a <b>confirmed case</b> of COVID-19	<p><b>Student can return after a 7-day quarantine if the student is not presenting with COVID-19 symptoms and has a negative PCR test on day 5.</b> Students who choose not to test must still follow a 10-day quarantine.</p> <p>If unable to avoid close contact with the confirmed case, <b>quarantine begins at the end of the 10-day isolation the confirmed case of COVID-19.</b></p> <p>NCDHHS recommends that schools <b>not require an individual who is fully vaccinated (at least 2 weeks after getting their second dose in a 2-dose series or one dose of a single-dose series) to quarantine</b> if they have had no symptoms after being a close contact to someone with COVID-19, and they do not live in a congregate setting (such as a shelter).</p>
<b>Household member, symptoms</b>	Student is a <b>household member</b> (e.g. a sibling) of someone who has symptoms of COVID-19 but who has <b>not</b> been tested for COVID-19, nor has visited a healthcare provider. Therefore, the student who has symptoms is presumed positive.	<p>Student can return to school after completing 10 days of quarantine if no symptoms are present in daily monitoring.*</p> <p>Because COVID-19 was not ruled out through an alternative diagnosis, quarantine begins <b>at the end of the 10-day isolation of the student with a confirmed case of COVID-19</b>, since that student may remain infectious for up to 10 days after symptom onset.</p> <p>NCDHHS recommends that schools <b>not require an individual who is fully vaccinated (at least 2 weeks after getting their second dose in a 2-dose series or one dose of a single-dose series) to quarantine</b> if they have had no symptoms after being a close contact to someone with COVID-19, and they do not live in a congregate setting (such as a shelter).</p>

<p><b>Household member, symptoms</b></p>	<p>Student is a <b>household member</b> (e.g. a sibling) of someone who has symptoms of COVID-19 but has visited a healthcare provider and received an <b>alternate diagnosis</b> that would explain the symptoms of a temperature of 100.4 Farenheit or higher, sore throat, chills, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, new cough or new loss of taste or smell, diarrhea or vomiting, or the new onset of a severe headache, especially with a fever. The healthcare provider has determined that COVID-19 testing is not necessary.</p>	<p>Student can return to school when the household member receives their alternate diagnosis.</p> <p>Note: The healthcare provider is not required to detail the specifics of the alternate diagnosis. NCDHHS recommends that schools <b>not require an individual who is fully vaccinated (at least 2 weeks after getting their second dose in a 2-dose series or one dose of a single-dose series) to quarantine</b> if they have had no symptoms after being a close contact to someone with COVID-19, and they do not live in a congregate setting (such as a shelter).</p>
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## **At School**

SA's highest priority is the health and safety of our students, families, faculty, and staff. Health and safety precautions for the 2021-2022 school year include protocols to ensure the ongoing growth and learning of our students, to prevent COVID-19 exposure and transmission, and to allow for rapid and effective responses to any outbreaks. In preparation for the mutual responsibility families will share in supporting the health and safety of the SA community, we encourage families to understand and practice these precautions to help make campuses safer.

### **Safe students**

- Verify medical and emergency contact information on FACTS family portal
- Keep children home if they are exhibiting signs or have symptoms of illness
- Stay home and contact a family health care provider if a child or someone in your family is symptomatic or exposed to COVID-19
- Families are encouraged to have current student-recommended immunizations covered by most health plans, including the COVID-19 vaccine and annual flu shot.

### **Safe spaces**

- Flexible furniture and instructional space configurations to support the AAP, CDC, and health department recommended social distancing.
- Limiting the mixing of students indoors to reduce possible exposure
- Advanced air quality features:
  - Optimized operability of HVAC systems
  - Upgraded building system controls
  - MERV 13 air filters
- Students are encouraged to wash their hands after used shared facilities or equipment
- Regular cleaning of high touch surfaces by our facilities team
- Water fountains disabled for button use, enabled for bottle fill use only
- Use of outdoor environments for snack, lunch, or class instruction as able.

### **Safe campuses**

- Hand sanitizer is available in all rooms and building entrances
- Visitors and volunteers will be allowed on campus for limited situations and will be required to abide by all campus and facility health and safety protocol (including wearing masks, frequent handwashing and maintaining social distancing between adults and students.) Visitors will be required to complete a health screening at entry points for indoor activities.
- Essential service repair persons must follow the protocols described above when they arrive for scheduled visits to campus and check in at the front office

### **Safe policies**

- Adherence to the local (Rowan County Public Health) directives regarding quarantine guidelines
- Use of the *When to Stay Home* and *When to Come to School* guidelines (page 6)

## **Student or Employee becomes Ill while on Campus**

### Evaluation and Care

In the event that a **student** develops COVID-19 symptoms while on campus, the following steps should be taken:

- Teacher should notify the school nurse or the front desk via the School's internal phone system to have the child relocated to the designated COVID care area.
- Upon arrival at the COVID care area, the staff member, wearing appropriate PPE, will take the child into a designated and separate section of the station for an evaluation. The adult should immediately wash their hands.
- If the student is found to be symptomatic for COVID-19, the school will contact the student's emergency contact for immediate pick-up via the exit door closet to the COVID care area.
- The School will then follow its Cleaning and Disinfecting and Communication guidelines.

In the event that an **employee** becomes ill while on campus, the following steps should be taken:

- If the employee is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 they should consult with the school nurse or administration using the school's internal phone system.
- If the employee is symptomatic and if they are well enough, he or she should put on a mask or face covering if possible and leave campus. They are then encouraged to consult with their health care provider. The School will then follow the Cleaning and Disinfecting and Communication guidelines.

Students and employees who become ill on campus with symptoms of COVID-19 must adhere to the Returning to Campus for Symptomatic or Positive COVID-19 Diagnosis Students and Employees guidelines before returning to campus.

### **Testing**

Testing is done based on the local health department recommendations for those with symptoms, those who do not have symptoms but came in close contact with someone who has tested positive, and those who are in a CDC-defined high-risk group. SA recommends that employees and students utilize their primary care physician to seek medical care and request SARS-CoV-2 testing.

Based on the clear advice of the school's affiliated public health experts and physician consultants, SA will not require widespread testing for every community member. The CDC does not recommend widespread, asymptomatic testing, and instead recommends that all individuals take preventative measures including:

- Get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as you can.
- Wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth to help protect yourself and others
- Practice social distancing
- Avoid crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water aren't available.

For more information, call the NCDHHS hotline at 888-892-1162 (available 24/7) or the Rowan County COVID-19 Hotline at 980-432-1800.

### **Communications**

Salisbury Academy will coordinate with the Rowan County Department of Health to determine when and how to inform families, students, faculty, staff as appropriate about any health directives, maintaining privacy and confidentiality as required by law.

SA's Office of Communication will keep families informed about announcements and information related to COVID-19.

### **After School (ASK)**

On campus after-school programs will follow SA's health and safety protocols including mask-wearing, frequent handwashing, and physical distancing.

Students will be kept in divisional groups for Early Ed (JK/K) Lower School (1-4), and Middle School (5-8) to limit the exposure to others.

For questions about Salisbury Academy's after-school options or protocols, please contact Melody Lee [mlee@salisburyacademy.org](mailto:mlee@salisburyacademy.org)

### **Athletics**

Salisbury Academy will continue to follow the guidance of the North Carolina Independent School Athletics Association, as well as SA's Medical Task Force when implementing policies and protocols for all sports

- Athletes must have a current physical on file before they can participate in practice
- Coaches or athletes who feel ill should not attend practices.
- For indoor sports, athletes and coaches who are on the sidelines are required to wear a mask at all times; this policy will be reevaluated as the start of the season approaches
- For outdoor sports, athletes and coaches are not required to wear masks
- Any person with positive symptoms will not be allowed to take part in practices and will be advised to contact their primary care provider.

### **Learning from Home if in Quarantine or if Sick**

If your student is quarantined or ill, each school division has established procedures to learn from home. Each situation is unique and should be worked out with the classroom teacher. Please note there is no year-long learn from home (online distance learning) option available.