



## **ACS HEALTH & SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION:**

Please be sure that you are following the health and safety guidelines and are not sending your children to school if they are exhibiting any of the symptoms below. This is how we can continue to keep our school community safe and ensure that we stay in-person at school.

**All students, staff, and visitors will be required to follow the ACS Mask Policy and wear a mask over their nose and mouth to reduce the spread of Covid-19 based on the most recent data-driven metrics.**

### **EXCLUSIONS FROM SCHOOL:**

**Students, Teachers and Staff should not be present at school with any of the symptoms below and should seek Covid testing.**

- Fever (temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher)
- Sore throat
- Cough (for people with chronic cough due to allergies or asthma, a change in their cough from baseline)
- Difficulty breathing (for people with asthma, a change from their baseline breathing)
- New loss of taste or smell
- Diarrhea or vomiting
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever

Students presenting with any of the symptoms above that are on campus will be cared for by staff and isolated to prevent infection. Parents/guardians will be contacted to pick up sick students immediately.

If your child or someone in your household tests positive for Covid-19 your student(s) must remain at home. Parents or guardians are to contact the school for further instructions. You may call 336-270-5052 during school hours or email us at [frontdesk@alamancecommunityschool.net](mailto:frontdesk@alamancecommunityschool.net)

## **MASKING & QUARANTINE:**

Changes in the CDC guidelines and in the [StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit \(K-12\)](#) added an exception to the need to quarantine. It states that students do not have to quarantine if they were in close contact with another student who has COVID-19 **IF** all students were correctly wearing well-fitting face masks **AND** they attend schools that have a **universal masking mandate for inside**. Mask wearing outside is optional for students and staff. Previously, schools were required to have students stay at home for a 14-day quarantine due to COVID-19 exposure. This is a very important change for schools and families from last spring.

### **This exception to quarantine does NOT apply to:**

- Adults (teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting)
- Students who are not masked or are not in settings where other prevention strategies are present.

Alamance Community School has the measures in place to meet these guidelines. However, we need families to work with us to help promote correct mask wearing for students. Your child is required to have a clean mask daily. Last year, many of our students used a lanyard to keep their masks with them and off the floors. We highly encourage you to send these in with your child. Here is an example of a mask lanyard available on Amazon. [AMAZON Mask Lanyards for Children](#)

With your partnership, we will be able to keep children in school and limit the spread of the Coronavirus. Please see the [Covid-19 Control Measures in Schools](#) from the NCDHHS.

### **In addition to universal mask wearing, regardless of vaccination status, we will also continue to implement:**

- **Physical distancing**, as much as possible. Teachers and staff will help students & each other to be mindful of personal space.
- **Frequent hand washing and sanitizing** throughout the day.
- **Increased facilities cleaning and disinfecting will be implemented**. The building will be cleaned weekly with an electrostatic disinfectant that is approved for use in schools.
- **Air purifiers** for rooms without the ability to open a door for ventilation have been purchased.

## WHEN WE HAVE A CONFIRMED POSITIVE CASE OF COVID-19

### When we have a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 at the school:

- A letter/email is sent to all ACS families and staff stating that we were informed that an individual at the school tested positive for COVID-19.
- Next, a letter/email is sent to the group/classroom to let the families know there was a confirmed positive case of COVID-19.
- In accordance with State and federal law, the school is not able to share the identity of the person who tested positive for COVID-19.
- The administrative team works to identify any close contacts of the COVID-19 positive case and notifies families and/or staff members.
- If a child or staff member is identified as having been a close contact or potential exposure, we contact them via phone. A close contact is defined as someone who was within 6 feet of someone that has COVID-19 for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.
- ACS reports the case to the Alamance County Health Department.
- Students in the classroom are **not** considered close contacts based on the guidelines we are implementing and following from the CDC, the NCDHHS, and the [Strong Schools NC Public Health Toolkit \(K-12\)](#) and we do not have to quarantine those students.
- The administrative team ensures that the cleaning protocols are implemented and that impacted areas are properly disinfected and sanitized the impacted areas according to recommendations from the CDC and the NCDHHS.
- Based on updated CDC guidance, individuals who are not fully vaccinated after a close contact in a classroom or other school setting do not have to be quarantined **if** masks were being worn appropriately and consistently by **both** the person with COVID-19 and the potentially exposed person.
- We ask the parents to monitor their child closely for symptoms of COVID-19. **Below is a list of symptoms to monitor:**
  - 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

- If a child, or anyone in a household, develops symptoms of COVID-19, we ask for them to contact their regular healthcare provider to request COVID-19 testing.
- We also ask that they keep their children home if they are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms.
- ACS continues to closely monitor the situation and implement health and safety protocols to keep our school community safe and healthy.

**Throughout the school, we continue to implement the COVID-19 prevention strategies of:**

- When inside the school building, requiring students and staff to wear their masks appropriately and consistently
- Students are distanced during lunch when their masks are off and they are eating
- The room has increased ventilation with our classroom HEPA air purifier

**ACS is following the quarantine and testing guidelines from the CDC, the NCDHHS, and the [Strong Schools NC Public Health Toolkit \(K-12\)](#).**

According to these guidelines, quarantine is required for an individual who has been in close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes cumulatively over a 24-hour period) with someone who is determined positive with COVID-19 with the following **THREE EXCEPTIONS:**

- Individuals who are fully vaccinated and do not have symptoms do NOT need to quarantine after a close contact.
- 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 be quarantined. This is based on updated CDC guidance and studies that have shown extremely low risk of COVID-19 transmission in classroom settings when face masks were being used appropriately by both the person with COVID-19 and the potentially exposed person, as well as multiple layers of prevention measures in place to prevent transmission in school settings.

**MY STUDENT IS ABSENT, WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?**

If your student will be absent from school for any reason, you need to email your child's teacher. Our teachers enter attendance daily. Please tell them why your student is going to be absent and the dates they will be out. This will help to make sure teachers are able to properly record absences.

If your child will be absent due to illness, please help us by doing the following: Please send an email to your child's teacher and [frontdesk@alamancecommunityschool.net](mailto:frontdesk@alamancecommunityschool.net). You can send one

email and include both recipients (teacher & frontdesk). Please include your student's name and that they will be out due to illness. Then immediately complete the Student Illness Reporting Form at this link: <https://forms.gle/d6BCYH5yMYVGJeBh7>.

Even during "normal" times, children are not permitted to be at school sick and with a fever. COVID-19 compounds the seriousness of this situation and this is a huge safety concern. We are counting on families to be honest and transparent, so we can keep everyone safe and continue with in-person learning! Because we are wearing masks, contact tracing, and following the quarantine guidelines, we have not had to quarantine entire classes or the school. It is extremely important for everyone to wear their mask appropriately and consistently inside the building, so they do not have to quarantine. It is a staff member's responsibility to identify anyone that is not consistently wearing their mask and determine if they are a close contact. Furthermore, if staff members are having to repeatedly remind students to pull up their mask and wear their mask correctly, it is highly probable that if there is a positive COVID case in their classroom, they will be considered a close contact and will then be required to quarantine. Also, be sure to inform the school if their child and/or someone in the household tests positive for COVID-19.

The school office will follow-up with you regarding your student's specific situation and any Return to School protocols that are applicable. It is helpful if you communicate absences through email so that we have written documentation.

### VISITORS ON CAMPUS:

#### All visitors must:

- Wear a mask while inside the building
- Schedule their visit with the classroom teacher. Unexpected visits disrupt classroom instruction and routines, student attention shifts away from the assigned task, dynamics change, and the teachers may have to refocus the lesson.
- Sign in at the front office.
- All visitors are required to wear a visitor badge while on campus.
- Once a visitor has checked in they will then be escorted to their destination. All visitors must abide by the policies set forth in the ACS Parent-Student handbook at all times.
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- Sometimes parents/guardians ask to observe in a classroom. To observe a class, a parent/guardian must make an appointment directly with the Principal/Managing Director or the Assistant Principal to visit a class for this purpose.