



Updates to Paideia Academy Covid-19 Policies

August 31st, 2020



Dear Paideia Families:

First I want to thank each of you for your diligence in helping us successfully implement our Covid plan this year. I additionally want to thank our Covid Task Force members for their efforts to keep abreast of the most current information available in monitoring the situation. Therefore, below you find school policy updates in keeping with the newest CDC recommendations concerning monitoring, testing, and quarantine situations. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out with questions and concerns. Though we recognize that no plan will likely accommodate everyone's feelings about how best to relate to the situation, we appreciate your support in upholding what we believe are the best practices we can follow at this time in history. It has been amazing to have all of the children in their own classrooms, and I look forward to a great rest of the school year with all of you. Please remember, that as updates come out regarding changes to our Covid policy, the full text of the plan will be available on the website with recent adjustments updated as we make them.

Blessings,
Mark Hamilton

Per recommendations from the Paideia Academy Covid Task Force and approval from the Board of Trustees, we are updating the following policies:

Current Policy

Close contact is defined as closer than six feet for 10 minutes consecutively.

Teachers will not be required to wear a mask in the classroom but may choose to do so.

Students with a temperature of 100F or above should stay home and consider COVID testing if no other explanation is available.

Updated Policy

Close contact is defined as closer than six feet for 15 minutes or more consecutively.

Teachers will not be required to wear a mask in the classroom unless they are unable to physically distance themselves 6 feet away from students. Close contact without a mask is permitted as long as contact is less than 15 minutes in duration.

Students with a temperature of 100F or above should remain home and monitor for other symptoms. Students may return to school when fever free for 24 hours and absence of other symptoms. (Pediatrician offices in our area are not routinely doing COVID testing on children for a fever without the presence of other symptoms).



Current Policy

The school will take student temperatures each day upon arrival at school.

In the event of any positive test, immediate efforts should be made to inform any close contacts (closer than 6 feet for 10 minutes consecutively) so that they can be quarantined at home. Classmates who were not close contacts should be closely monitored for any symptoms. Empiric testing of all students in the class is not recommended; only those who develop symptoms require testing. Parents will be notified of any positive cases in the classroom and/or school to encourage closer observation of any symptoms.

Updated Policy

We will no longer take student temperatures upon entering the building. CDC does not currently recommend universal symptom screenings. Parents or caregivers are strongly encouraged to monitor their children for signs of infectious illness every day.* Temperature checks could be resumed on affected groups as needed if a case is identified within the school, if numbers of sick students are coming to school or if community transmission increases significantly. *<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/symptom-screening.html>

Parents will be notified of any positive cases in the classroom and/or school. Anyone within close contact (within 6 feet of the positive person for 15 minutes or longer consecutively) of a positive person will be required to quarantine at home for the length of time recommended by the CDC (see below). All other persons are classified as “secondary contacts” meaning they do **NOT** require quarantine but will need to monitor closely for presence of symptoms. If symptoms do arise in secondary contacts, they will be asked to notify the school and begin quarantine as outlined in policy. These changes are being made to reflect current guidelines from the Knox county health department and CDC in regard to school operation.

Update to the Quarantine Policy per CDC Recommendations

You should stay home for 14 days after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19. **For all of the following scenarios, even if you test negative for COVID or feel healthy, you should stay home (quarantine) since symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus.**

Scenario 1: I had close contact with someone who has COVID-19 and will not have further contact or interactions with the person while they are sick. **Your last day of quarantine is 14 days from the date you had close contact.**

Scenario 2: I live with someone who has COVID-19 and that person has isolated by staying in a separate bedroom or location in the home. I have had no close contact with the person since they isolated. **Your last day of quarantine is 14 days from when the person began home isolation.**

Scenario 3: I live with someone who has COVID-19 and started by 14 day quarantine period because we had close contact. What if I ended up having close contact with the person who is sick during my quarantine? What if another household member gets sick with COVID? Do I need to restart my quarantine? **Yes, anytime a new household member gets sick with COVID-19 and you had close contact, you will need to restart your 14 day quarantine.**

Scenario 4: I live with someone who has COVID-19 and cannot avoid close contact. I am providing direct care to the person who is sick, I don't have a separate room for isolation or I live in close quarters where I am unable to keep a physical distance of 6 feet for 15 minutes or longer. **You should avoid contact with others living outside the home while the person is sick and quarantine for 14 days after the person who has COVID-19 meets the criteria to end home isolation.**