



COVID-19 Guidance for 2021-2022

The purpose of this document is to give COVID-19 guidance to Lake Wales Charter Schools students and staff during the 2021-2022 school year. Lake Wales Charter Schools may amend these procedures for students and staff as necessary.

Face Coverings

Face coverings will not be a requirement for any staff, student, volunteer, or contracted service on any Lake Wales Charter Schools premises. Face coverings are optional but highly recommended.

Vaccinations

Vaccinations will not be a requirement for any staff or student to attend any of the Lake Wales Charter Schools. CDC guidance states that getting vaccinated can prevent severe illness, staff and students who are able to be vaccinated are strongly encouraged to do so.

Social Distancing

All Lake Wales Charter Schools will be face-to-face learning for the 2021-2022 school year. Given the number of students on campus, social distancing may be a challenge. Staff and students are encouraged to maintain a minimum 3-foot distance between individuals when feasible.

Sick Policy

Lake Wales Charter Schools has a sick policy that addresses symptoms and situations that require absence. Students and staff displaying symptoms known of COVID-19 will be required to have a negative PCR COVID-19 test or a doctor's note with symptom improvement before being allowed to return to school or work. If the individual is diagnosed with COVID-19 they will be required to isolate for a minimum of 10 days and remain fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications and symptoms are improving before being allowed to return to school/work. Please see the Student/Staff Sick Policy during COVID-19 for more information.

Lake Wales Charter Schools will provide three(3) days of sick leave the first time an employee is diagnosed with COVID-19, or they are the guardian of a child who tests positive for COVID-19 and will need to stay home to care for them during their isolation period. Any additional time required to complete isolation or quarantine a staff member will utilize their sick leave balance.

Contact Tracing and Case Investigation

When a COVID-19 case is identified as having contact with a school campus, contact tracing will be conducted by each school's COVID team and reported to the Department of Health in Polk County.

Direct contacts will be required to quarantine at home for 10 days to monitor for COVID-19 symptom development. However, parents/guardians may choose to opt their child in to in-person learning during the identified quarantine period by completing an "Opt In During Quarantine" form. By completing this form the parent/guardian is signing that they are aware that the student has been identified as a direct contact to a positive COVID-19 case and the student will wear a mask while on LWCS premises. Completing this form also signifies that at any time during the 10-day quarantine period the direct contact develops known COVID-19 symptoms,

they will be required to follow the sick policy and have a negative PCR COVID-19 test or a doctor's note to return to school/work.

Classroom teachers and bus drivers will keep seating charts to aid our COVID teams in determining who are direct contacts. Only those identified as a direct contact will be contacted by the Florida Department of Health. The Florida Department of Health will make the direct contacts aware of current CDC recommendations regarding quarantine.

Outbreaks & school-wide closures

Lake Wales Charter Schools has discussed our contact tracing & quarantine plans with the Florida Department of Health in Polk County. We acknowledge that if the Florida Department of Health identifies a COVID-19 situation that meets their "outbreak" guidelines (5 cases that are connected) their epidemiology department may close a classroom for a timeframe determined by current health guidelines. A school-wide closure could happen if 10% of the entire school population contracted COVID-19 at the same time.

Pre-K Programs

Pre-K programs will follow current DCF COVID guidelines for COVID positive students and contact tracing. Pre-K Programs will follow the Lake Wales Charter Schools mask policy.

Transportation

Buses will be transporting students at full capacity this year. Bus drivers will be required to assign seats and keep a seating chart to aid COVID teams with contact tracing. Buses will continue to be cleaned/sanitized daily as they were in the 2020-2021 school year.

Isolation Rooms

Every school will have a designated space for sick/symptomatic students to sit and wait for parent pick up. While in the isolation room, students displaying known COVID-19 symptoms will be required to wear a face covering. If the student does not have a face covering, one will be provided to them. To return to school, the student will need to have a negative COVID-19 PCR test or their symptoms improving with a doctor's note of the date of return.

Cleaning of Campuses

Lake Wales Charter Schools have contracted with a cleaning company to provide nightly cleaning to all 8 locations and will evaluate this cleaning company quarterly. All schools will be provided with supplies to clean & sanitize high-touch surfaces. Additionally, each school has supplies to be able to fog after a COVID-19 case is identified.

COVID-19 Rapid Testing

During the 2020-2021 school year, Lake Wales Charter Schools worked directly with the Florida Department of Health in Polk County to provide COVID-19 Rapid Testing at every school. At this time the Florida Department of Health has asked that Lake Wales Charter Schools apply for their own CLIA waiver if they would like to continue to test students for COVID-19.

Daily Health and Temperature Screenings

Staff and students will be asked to self-evaluate for COVID-19 symptoms before coming to school or work. If symptoms are present, they should refer to the Student/Staff Sick Policy during COVID-19 for further guidance.

Students and staff will continue to be encouraged to practice good hand hygiene & cough etiquette.

Volunteers & Contracted Services

Lake Wales Charter Schools updated the Volunteer & Contracted Services procedures during COVID-19 at the end of the 20-21 school year. At this time, no changes have been made to those procedures.

Updated 8.25.21