

2021-22 Updated Noonday Academy COVID-19 Policies and Procedures

The Noonday Academy Staff and Board have been working diligently to create a safe plan that follows Georgia Health Dept. guidelines while maintaining a play-based learning environment that we all love. Our approach includes sensible social distancing, enhanced cleaning protocols, reasonable health precautions, and increased attention to healthy habits. A key element of the plan is to minimize potential exposure within the academy by keeping classes separated from each other and minimizing shared spaces. Creating “bubbles” around each class and minimizing cross class exposure will further limit possible spread among students and teaching staff if an individual does develop the virus. Despite our best efforts, including the following additions to the Academy’s policies and procedures to limit the risk of COVID-19 on campus, entering our school campus will mean assumed risk of exposure.

Health Monitoring at Home

Parents are the first line of defense at keeping infectious students away from other students and staff. Families are expected to monitor student health carefully and responsibly. It is imperative that no family sends a student to school with any infectious illness. Monitoring student health at home is required and will be crucial to our success of minimizing the potential spread of COVID-19 or other illness during the school year.

Parents are expected to do a check of symptoms each school day **prior** to arriving on campus. If the student exhibits any of the following within the past 48 hours they must be kept home:

- Fever (100.4 or greater) or chills (temperature check conducted without the use of fever reducing medicine for low grade fevers)
- Unexplained cough (C19 symptoms include “dry Cough”)
- Shortness of breath
- Unexplained fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- New loss of sense of smell or taste
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Any other signs of communicable illness (i.e. pink eye)

Masks

Masks are optional for teachers and students. We are working hard to create the safest and most child friendly plan and recognize how integral speech and expressions are to a child's development. In the event we are mandated by state law to wear masks, The Academy will immediately adhere to the ordinance and communicate expectations to families and staff.

Adults in the building

The GA Dept. of Health and the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning stress the need to limit the number of people entering the premises. Therefore, no outside visitors will be permitted in the building. Everyone will use carpool to drop off and pick up. If a student arrives late or needs to be picked up early, please call the academy office and someone will meet the pick-up person at the door. Only necessary academy staff and students will be in the building each day.

Cleaning

The Academy has always followed very thorough and specific cleaning policies which include the following:

1. Frequent cleaning in each classroom throughout the day with enhanced sanitizing procedures.
2. Sanitizing and disinfecting each classroom at the end of each day.
3. Encouraging use of hand sanitizing stations installed throughout our campus.
4. Encouraging hand washing in classrooms throughout the day.
5. Limiting the use of shared toys in classrooms unless they are cleaned between uses.
6. Limiting the use of shared spaces for large group specials (i.e. music, art, etc.). Specials will be integrated into individual classroom activities.

What if someone at Noonday Academy tests positive for COVID-19?

1. Students or staff who test positive for COVID-19 must follow Georgia Department of Public Health and guidelines, which currently require you to stay home for 10 days since symptoms first appeared and be fever-free, without use of fever-reducing medications, for 24 hours before returning to school.
2. There will be no mandated precautionary quarantines of students or staff for close contact at school with someone who has tested positive for

COVID-19. When the Academy is informed of a positive case among students or staff, we will notify all affected staff and students of the positive case and the important need to monitor for symptoms, but no precautionary quarantines will be required. Current Georgia Dept of Health guidelines should be followed for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals who have been exposed.

3. An entire class will not be closed due to a positive test of a student or teacher.

What if someone in a Noonday Academy family tests positive for COVID-19

1. The Academy must be informed as soon as possible if someone in a teacher's or student's household has tested positive.
2. Similar to the above, there will be no mandated precautionary quarantines of students or staff who lives with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19. When the Academy is informed of a positive case among a students or staffs' family, we will notify all affected staff and students of the positive case and the important need to monitor for symptoms, but no precautionary quarantines will be required. The individual who has been exposed is encouraged to follow current GA Health Dept guidelines which are dependent on the individuals vaccination status. These guidelines include self isolation/quarantine in certain situations.

How can you help?

These are trying times for our school, local community and world. We covet your prayers and support as we navigate and plan. We ask you to practice hand washing, social distancing, and health transparency. Our number one priority is to keep your child safe, healthy, and happy. To that end, these policies have been created and put in place based on the most current guidelines from the GA Dept. of Health and other Early Learning experts. As additional guidance or information becomes available these policies will be revised as needed. We are excited for the start of this school year and cannot wait to welcome each of you.