

Noonday Academy COVID-19 Policies and Procedures

The Noonday Academy staff and Board have been working diligently to create a safe reopening plan that follows CDC 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 not using shared spaces. Creating “bubbles” around each class and not allowing 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 Screenings at School

All staff members and students will have a health screening each morning with results logged. Health screenings will include:

1. Measuring for elevated temperature using a no touch thermometer
2. Answering questions regarding the student’s symptoms of illness
3. Answering questions regarding exposure to anyone experiencing symptoms or testing positive for COVID-19

Anyone exhibiting symptoms, or with a temperature greater than 100.4 degrees will not be allowed to enter the building. Students who are not exhibiting any other COVID-19 symptoms must be fever free for 48 hours before returning to class. Carpool will be held at multiple locations to lessen contact between children and expedite the drop-off and pick-up process.

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

Academy staff will wear masks or face shields during carpool drop-off and pick-up and while in hallways. It is the teacher's choice to wear a mask while in the classroom. 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. Masks are optional for students, but strongly encouraged during drop off and pick-up. 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 Dept. of Health, the CDC and the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning all 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. No large gatherings will be held, (i.e. beginning year parent meeting, Family Fun Night, School wide programs, etc.).

Cleaning

The Academy has always followed very thorough and specific cleaning policies. The following will be added to our standard practices:

1. Increase the frequency of cleaning in each classroom throughout the day with enhanced sanitizing procedures.
2. Sanitize and disinfect each classroom at the end of each day.
3. Stagger playground schedules to allow for sanitizing between use.
4. Encourage use of hand sanitizing stations installed throughout our campus.
5. Increase attention to hand washing in classrooms throughout the day.
6. Limit the use of shared toys in classrooms unless they are cleaned between uses.
7. Limit the use of shared spaces by postponing 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. Individuals (teacher or student) testing positive for COVID-19 will be required to stay out of school for 14 days.
2. The classroom affected by the individual testing positive will also be closed 14 days. The affected rooms will be cleaned, sanitized and disinfected. Members of the class will be required to stay out of school for 14 days.
3. Families will be informed of a positive diagnosis within a student's classroom. No identifying information will be shared in accordance with HIPPA law. Current CDC guidelines recommend individuals who have come into close/direct contact (within 6 feet for 15 mins or more) with a person testing positive should quarantine themselves for 14 days. A single reported case of COVID-19 affecting a student or staff member will not automatically warrant an entire school closure. Each report will be evaluated carefully. A temporary closure could include just the affected classroom, but also a building, or the entire campus as the situation requires. Careful consideration will be given to all surrounding facts and circumstances, and necessary details will be communicated to families in a timely manner

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. The individual who has been exposed must be kept away from school for 14 days from the onset of symptoms of the infected person.

3. Monitor the exposed individual for COVID-19 symptoms. Students and teachers are not required to be COVID-19 tested to return to school. However, even a negative test result for a student or teacher will not change or decrease the required monitoring period. Families must observe the full two-week quarantine period in these instances.

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 CDC, 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.