

# 2020-2021 Reopening in the Fall



# WELCOME

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Dear Parents,

The start of each school year brings an array of emotions from excitement to stress. This year is unprecedented with reopening our school during a global pandemic and reinventing so much of the normal process of school. We cannot completely eradicate risk, but our plans are comprehensive, thoughtful, and prioritize mitigating risks to ensure the health and safety for every member of our community.



Decisions about reopening and operating modes are made with the guidance of multiple infectious disease and public health organizations (i.e. CDC, SCDHEC, and MUSC), our medical advisory board, and governing independent school organizations.

The strength and grace of our Porter-Gaud community are among our greatest assets. We are confident our students, faculty, staff, administrators, and families will work together and support one another as we step into this new educational landscape.

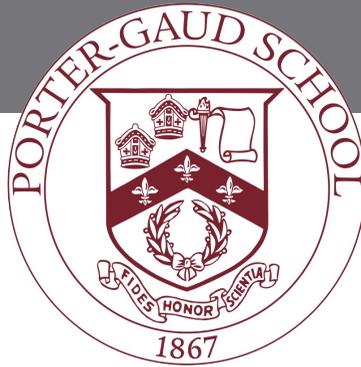
Wearing masks, hand washing regularly, and maintaining physical distancing are required to keep our students, faculty, staff, and families healthy and our campus open. We need your partnership and your commitment to instilling healthy behaviors at school and at home!

Together, we are Cyclones!

D. DuBose Egleston Jr., Head of School  
The Porter-Gaud Reopening Task Force

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# GUIDING PRINCIPLES



Our school's guiding principles are mission-driven and will serve as our North Star in plans for reopening in the Fall and throughout the 2020-21 school year.



**Maintain safety and health of all students, faculty, and staff.**



**Preserve the integrity, continuity, and excellence of our educational program.**



**Foster strong connections within the Porter-Gaud community among students, faculty, staff, and parents.**



PORTER-GAUD REOPENING IN THE FALL

# OUR DECISION PROCESS

While decisions about the safest mode of operation will be made based on the recommendations and guidance of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC DHEC), Porter-Gaud will also be monitoring the following metrics in an effort to better anticipate operating mode transitions that may need to occur:



Community health and outbreaks



Virus transmissibility, percentage of positive cases among students, faculty, and staff, response capacity, and treatments

PG will closely monitor data among age groups due to the discrepancies in infection severity and transmission rates among younger students. The health and safety of our entire community is our top priority.

Our partnership with MUSC's Back2Business COVID-19 team and our medical advisory board led by alumnus Dr. Melvin Brown will also provide invaluable medical input, guidance and recommendations throughout the school year.



# HEALTH & SAFETY GUIDELINES

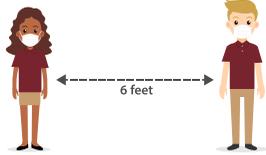
FOR A COMPLETE GUIDELINE OVERVIEW VISIT:  
[www.portergaud.edu/reopen2020](http://www.portergaud.edu/reopen2020).



Due to widespread community transmission of COVID-19, it is imperative that any student, faculty, or staff member who feels unwell or exhibits any symptoms of illness stays home.



Handwashing/hand sanitizing is the single most effective way to prevent the spread of infections.



Physical distancing is an effective, proven measure to decrease the risk of transmission of COVID-19. Classroom space will be leveraged to accommodate physical distancing between students, faculty, and staff.



The goal of screening students and staff is to identify those that should not be on campus because they could potentially expose others. We will be using a screening platform called Ascend where you complete a quick, HIPAA compliant self-screening form each morning.



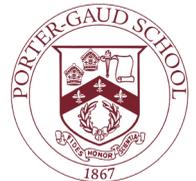
Faculty, staff, and students will be required to wear a cloth face covering/mask that fits snugly over the nose and mouth and comfortable along the sides of the face, made with 2 layers of fabric. Single-layer fabric masks, buffs, neck gaiters, and bandanas are prohibited as they do not provide adequate protection. Face coverings with valves, mesh material or holes of any kind are not acceptable.



The school will strictly limit access to campus by visitors, parents, volunteers and external groups. Students, faculty, staff and essential personnel will only be allowed on campus at this time.

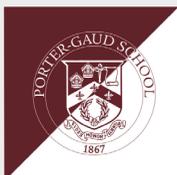


Cleaning and disinfecting commonly touched surfaces will occur throughout the school day. Our facilities team will perform a deep cleaning at the end of each school day.

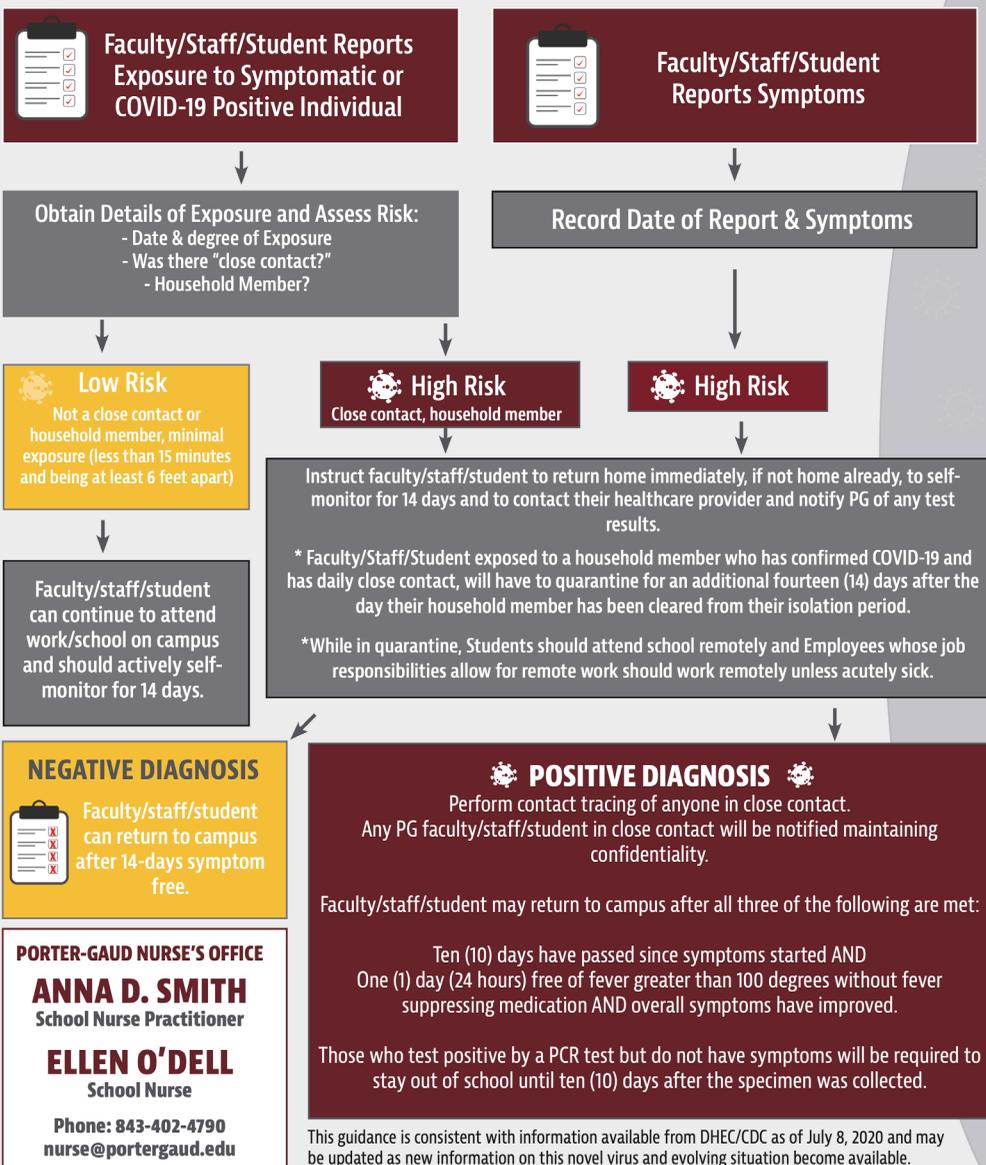


As a proud member of the Porter-Gaud community, I pledge to do my part in keeping my campus as safe as possible from the transmission of COVID-19. A shared commitment to health and wellness between families and the school will be more important this year than ever before.

# POSITIVE CASE PROTOCOL



## PORTER-GAUD COVID-19 POSITIVE TEST PLAN OF ACTION



# OPERATING MODES

Operating and learning modes are informed by health and safety protocols, classroom schedules, dining hall procedures, cleaning protocols, gathering and common spaces guidelines, as well as extracurricular and field trip activities. Operating modes by division are located at [www.portergaud.edu/reopen2020](http://www.portergaud.edu/reopen2020).



## ALL-SCHOOL PROCEDURES

### HEATH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS

#### BLUE

- Increased cleaning between classes and throughout the school day.
- Regularly enforced hand hygiene.
- Enhanced monitoring of student, faculty, and staff health.
- Visitor access to campus may be restricted.

#### YELLOW

- Increased cleaning between classes and throughout the school day.
- Regularly enforced hand hygiene.
- Enhanced monitoring of student, faculty, and staff health.
- Student seating and overall classroom organization will minimize contact between students and provide as much physical distance between students and teachers as possible.
- No close physical contact activities. School arrivals, transitional times and school dismissals will be coordinated to limit mixing of groups. Students will not share supplies. Locker use will be restricted.
- Visitor access is restricted to essential visitors to limited areas of campus.

#### ORANGE

- Increased cleaning between classes and throughout the school day.
- Regularly enforced hand hygiene.
- Before-school day health screening of students, faculty and staff.
- Directional arrows, designated exit/entrance, hallway sanitizing stations, staggered arrival and dismissal times to minimize large gatherings of students at transition points.
- Students will not share supplies. Locker use will be restricted.
- A CDC-approved cloth face covering over the nose and mouth will be worn on campus by all Faculty, Staff and Students.
- Visitor access is restricted to essential personnel only.

#### RED

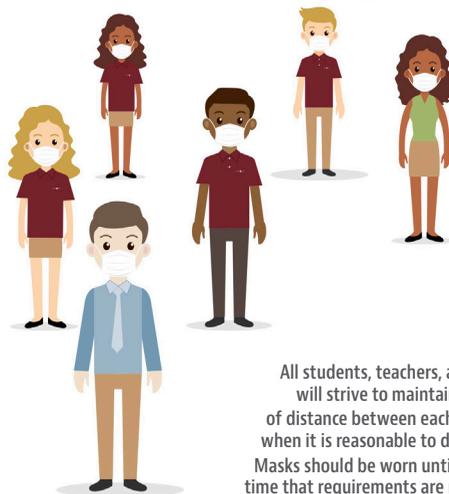
- Campus is closed.
- Remote monitoring of student, faculty and staff health.

### REMOTE LEARNERS

LS students who are at home for health reasons will access instruction (live classes) and content via Zoom, Nearpod, and See Saw.

MS/US Students who are at home for health reasons will access instruction (live classes) and content via Zoom and PG portal.

### PHYSICAL DISTANCING/MASKS



All students, teachers, and staff will strive to maintain 6 feet of distance between each other when it is reasonable to do so. Masks should be worn until such time that requirements are relaxed.

# THREE PATHS TO ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Recognizing that COVID cases in the community may require us to move between on-campus and virtual learning, Porter-Gaud has identified three different learning models that meet our needs for delivering on our academic promise to students and maintaining the integrity of our academic program. Parents will have the option to choose 100% virtual learning for their children, if desired.

**1**

## FULL ON CAMPUS LEARNING

All students on campus  
simultaneously

Physical distancing and  
health protocols in  
place

**2**

## HYBRID LEARNING

Blend of on campus  
and virtual learning

Students divided into  
cohorts that alternate  
attending school on  
campus on set days  
and completing guided  
independent work on  
other days

**3**

## VIRTUAL LEARNING

All students learn at  
home

Campus closed to  
students

Rotating schedule  
would allow for  
synchronous learning  
and provide time for  
tutorial and other  
student programming

# HYBRID LEARNING AND CYCLONES @ HOME

Among Porter-Gaud's many capabilities is our ability to serve and engage our community in ways that are flexible and accommodating while still delivering on our mission.

Our approach to the hybrid learning model does not change our mission to nurture individual potential and prepare students to thrive in a complex and interdependent world; rather, we are expanding our capabilities so that everyone in our community is able to benefit from a Porter-Gaud education and experience continuity.

Porter-Gaud has made significant investments in technology and professional development of our teachers in order to continue delivering a high-quality educational experience regardless of the location in which teaching and learning take place.

Supporting students who must attend classes remotely has been a focus of the Reopening Task Force since the beginning of our planning process. We recognize that these students will need special attention to make their learning experience as valuable and effective as possible.

Our Cyclones @ Home Learning Plan can be found at [www.portergaud.edu/reopen2020](http://www.portergaud.edu/reopen2020).



# OUR COMMITMENT

Even putting forth our best efforts, there remain circumstances beyond our control. We anticipate, based on CDC predictions, possible outbreaks of COVID-19 which could possibly impact on-campus programming in the future. In the event we are notified by government officials or the health department of the need to close the campus, school will continue remotely, and we will update the school calendar accordingly.

During any period of temporary virtual learning, we remain committed to:

- Delivering on our mission
- Maintaining the integrity of a high quality, student-centered learning experience
- Communicating clearly and consistently

## Tuition and Fees

As we make our plans for 2020-2021, it is extremely important to us that we do not sacrifice the distinctive Porter-Gaud educational experience. Tuition covers 92% of our operating budget. The majority of those dollars directly fund faculty and staff salaries with generous Annual Fund support and other philanthropic giving covering the balance. While we will incur significant expenses in preparing for the upcoming school year, we have worked tirelessly to reduce expenses, where possible, in order to absorb the additional costs.

For campus closures requiring more than 30 days of virtual learning, Porter-Gaud will examine extending credits for activities that a virtual environment may restrict the school's ability to deliver effectively. We realize that the pandemic has had significant financial implications for some in our school community.



PORTER-GAUD REOPENING IN THE FALL

# KEY CONTACTS



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## Administrative Support (Absences, Tardies, Check-Outs)

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**Shapton Shapiro**, Middle School | 843.402.4772 | sshapiro@portergaud.edu

**Anna McCubrey**, Lower School | 843.402.4672 | amccubrey@portergaud.edu

**Latisha Hendry**, Lower School | 843.402.4768 | lhendry@portergaud.edu

## Nurses (Medical Needs, Medications, Health Questions)

**Anna Smith** | 843.402.4790 | nurse@portergaud.edu

**Ellen O'Dell** | 843.402.4674 | nurse@portergaud.edu

## Counseling & Support

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# CYCLONE WELLNESS PLEDGE

In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the potential risk of exposure to everyone within our school community, we expect all students and families to share a commitment with the school to foster a Community of Care. We are in a unique, strong, and bonded community of faculty, staff, students and families. As such, we have a shared responsibility for each other's health and safety throughout this unprecedented time. This responsibility will be reflected by making an active commitment to practicing physical distancing, wearing a cloth face covering, and other personal hygiene and safety precautions in our daily lives, in and outside of school. This shared responsibility is imperative if we want to be able to provide and maintain a safe and healthy environment for in-person programming for all of our students. We must all do our part to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

As a Porter-Gaud Cyclone:

I will do my part to keep all members of our Porter-Gaud community healthy and safe. I will protect myself, protect others and protect my Porter-Gaud community by:

- Staying home when feeling unwell, especially if presenting with any symptoms associated with COVID-19.
- Staying at home if exposed to someone who is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or has been diagnosed with COVID-19.
- Staying home if you, yourself are awaiting test results for COVID-19.
- Completing a daily screening
- Wearing a face covering
- Practicing physical distancing
- Washing hands often
- Observing directional signage at school
- Observing physical distancing outside of school
- Practicing respiratory hygiene measures
- Sharing responsibility for the health of the Porter-Gaud community