

PORTER-GAUD HEALTH & SAFETY GUIDELINES

AS OF AUGUST 2021

The health and safety of our students, faculty, staff and Porter-Gaud community is of utmost importance. The school will be following DHEC & CDC guidelines to reduce the risk of transmission on campus. These guidelines provide our best effort to decrease the spread of COVID-19 on our school campus. This information is evolving and may be updated as more information is available on COVID-19.

STAY HOME WHEN SICK

Due to widespread community transmission of COVID-19, it is imperative that any student, faculty or staff member who feels unwell or has exhibited any symptoms of illness should stay home. Anyone who feels ill, regardless of vaccination status, needs to stay home, thereby serving their community in the most responsible manner and helping keep our campus safe and open.

Please keep you or your children home if they have any of the following symptoms:



FEVER (TEMPERATURE \geq 99.9)



LOSS OF TASTE OR SMELL



DIARRHEA/VOMITING



**SHORTNESS OF BREATH OR
DIFFICULTY BREATHING**



NEW OR WORSENING COUGH



**SORE THROAT AND/OR BODY
ACHES AND/OR CHILLS**

***If these symptoms are explainable by an underlying condition (such as shortness of breath for an individual with asthma) exclusion may not be necessary. If, during the school day, a student develops COVID-19 symptoms, they will not return to class and will wait in the isolation room with the school nurse. **Parents will be contacted and the student must be picked up immediately. Students will be required to wear a mask while in the isolation room.**

ADDITIONAL EXCLUSIONS FROM CAMPUS



If any member of the household has symptoms of COVID-19 or tests positive for COVID-19, do not send your child to school. The student may return once cleared from quarantine.



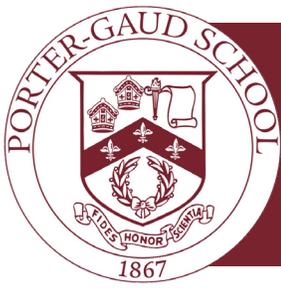
Faculty/Staff and students who test positive for COVID-19 must stay home until cleared from isolation.



Stay home if you are tested for COVID-19 and awaiting test results (unless this is a pre-op screening test).



Staff and students who have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 should stay home and self-monitor for 14 days* from the date of last exposure to the person.



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DAILY SELF-SCREENING:

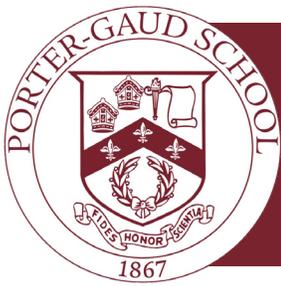
-  We strongly encourage every family to perform a self-screening of your child each morning prior to sending your child to school.
-  Any student returning from quarantine/isolation will be manually screened by the school nurses.
-  Students returning from quarantine before 14 days will be screened daily on days 11-14 by the school nurse or other appointed staff member.
-  Any fully vaccinated individual who is exposed will be manually screened daily for 14 days.
-  Please closely monitor your children for any COVID-19 symptoms. Often, children and adolescents have very mild, if any symptoms at all. If your child is feeling even slightly unwell, they must stay home from school.

FACE COVERINGS:

-  Face coverings will be required for all students, faculty/staff, and visitors while indoors.
-  Face coverings will be optional outdoors when physical distancing can be reliably maintained. Outdoor mask breaks will be encouraged throughout the day.
-  Waivers will not be accepted.
-  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.
-  Face coverings/masks may not contain messages or images that are inappropriate, offensive or political in nature.
-  We ask that all face coverings meet CDC guidance.
-  Masks should be cleaned daily.
-  Extra masks should be stored in student's book bags. The school will have an emergency stock of masks available but students should be responsible for bringing their own masks.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING:

Physical distancing is also 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. While it will be hard to keep students distanced from each other, we will space students out and do our best to enforce this.



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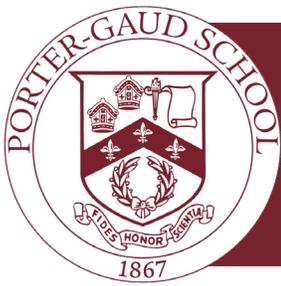
HAND HYGIENE:

Handwashing/hand sanitizing is the single most effective way to prevent the spread of infections. Hand hygiene will occur:

-  As soon as you arrive to campus and before leaving campus.
-  After blowing nose, coughing, or sneezing.
-  After using the restroom.
-  Before and after eating.
-  Before and after putting on, touching or removing face covering.
-  Any time the hands are visibly dirty (must wash not sanitize).

TESTING & QUARANTINE:

-  Any student, faculty, or staff member who feels ill or has exhibited any symptoms of illness should stay home until they are 100% healthy and ready to return. Our community members must also get tested when recommended, and comply with contact tracing, quarantine, and isolation protocols.
-  If a student or faculty/staff member has COVID-19 symptoms, is a close contact, or has tested positive for COVID-19, the nurses office must be contacted immediately, and they will advise next steps.
-  Individuals who are fully vaccinated are currently exempt from having to quarantine if they are identified as a close contact to a COVID-19 positive case and do not exhibit symptoms.
-  Students that are in masks and greater than 3 feet apart from the infected individual are not considered close contacts and not required to quarantine.



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PROTOCOLS FOR RETURN TO SCHOOL AFTER COVID-19 ILLNESS:

Any Faculty/staff/student who tests positive may return to campus after all three of the following are met:



Ten (10) days* have passed since symptoms started - and -



Twenty-four (24) hours have passed since last fever without taking medicine to reduce fever - and -



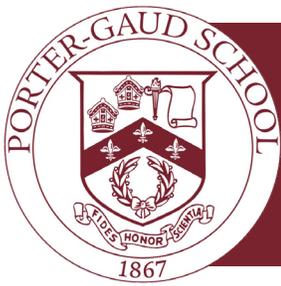
Overall improvement in symptoms

Those who test positive by a PCR or antigen test but do not have symptoms will be required to stay out of school until ten (10) days* after the specimen was collected.

*Note: some people may be required to extend the isolation period to twenty (20) days. Their doctor will need to determine if this is necessary.

The criteria above should be used to determine eligibility to return to school. Negative PCR test results are not required nor recommended after meeting these criteria.

Athletics: If the student participates in sports, they must remain out of sports for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms of COVID-19 or the date of collection of their positive test if they are asymptomatic. Students who have moderate to severe illness must follow-up with their pediatrician or PCP once cleared from isolation to obtain clearance to return to sports. All student athletes returning to sports after COVID illness must undergo a return to play protocol with the Athletic trainer.



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ISOLATION/QUARANTINE:

Isolation and quarantine are essential prevention measures that will continue to be enforced in accordance with CDC/DHEC.



CDC defines close contact as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person (laboratory confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) for a cumulative 15 minutes over a 24 hr period, regardless of mask use. An infected individual can spread COVID starting from 2 days before the onset of symptoms or for asymptomatic individuals, 2 days before the positive specimen collection date until the positive individual meets criteria to end isolation.



Exception: DHEC defines close contact among students in the K-12 setting as those unvaccinated students within 3 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period from 48 hours prior to symptom onset (or specimen collection for an asymptomatic infected person) until the infected person meets criteria for release from isolation. While mask use among unvaccinated individuals of all individuals age two years and older is strongly recommended, the presence or absence of masks does not affect the DHEC definition of a close contact for K-12 students. **This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.**



The standard CDC definition of a close contact (less than 6 feet apart, regardless of mask use, for a total of 15 minutes or more) applies to all unvaccinated adults, including teachers, staff, or other adults in the school setting.

CONTACT TRACING:

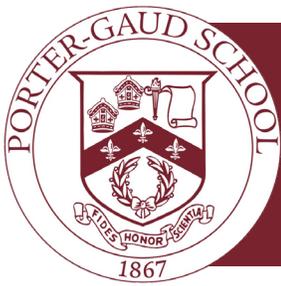
In collaboration with DHEC, contact tracing will be performed on all confirmed cases of COVID-19 affiliated with the school to determine close contacts and implement quarantine measures. Testing is recommended for all close contacts.



All individuals identified as close contacts exposed to someone diagnosed with COVID-19 MUST quarantine for no less than 10 days. Quarantine may end after Day 10 after last exposure to the case if **no symptoms** develop throughout the quarantine period and the individual has a negative PCR test at day 7 or later. The individual may return to campus on day 11 after the date of their last exposure. For Days 11 -14 the individual must be manually screened by the school nurse or other appointed school staff member. If any symptoms develop the individual **MUST** stay home from campus. The school nurse has the discretion to not allow an individual on campus if they have any symptoms post-exposure.



If an individual does not want to test for COVID-19 during their quarantine, they must complete the full 14 day quarantine and be symptom free throughout those 14 days to return to campus.



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CONTACT TRACING CONT.:



A negative COVID-19 test before day 7 without symptoms will not be accepted. The test must be performed 7 days after exposure if the individual is asymptomatic.



All individuals who end quarantine after 10 days must strictly adhere to Porter-Gaud's Health and Safety requirements (wear a face covering, maintain physical distancing, hand hygiene) while on campus. If an individual is found not to follow these practices they will be required to finish their 14 day quarantine at home.



At this time, Porter-Gaud School will not adopt the optional 7 day quarantine with a negative test. The risk is too great. We will continue to evaluate this developing preventative measure.



Individuals must comply with quarantine recommendations as set forth by the school. This cannot be countered by a family physician to shorten this quarantine period.



Household contact: If the student or staff member lives in the same household as a known case of COVID-19, they must quarantine for an additional ten days after the date their household member has been cleared from their isolation period unless the confirmed household member is able to completely isolate from all other family members for the duration of their isolation period.



Those who have recovered from COVID-19: If a student or staff member is a lab confirmed case of COVID-19 by antigen or PCR, they do not need to quarantine again after close contact to someone with COVID-19 in the first three (3) months after recovering but will for any close contact that happens after that three (3) month period.

- ****Please note this protocol could change at any point depending on transmission activity within our PG community and the recommendations from DHEC & CDC.*

CLOSE CONTACTS WHO ARE FULLY VACCINATED:



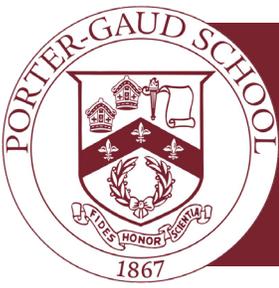
Individuals who are identified as close contacts who are fully vaccinated do not have to quarantine at this time. However, they must strictly follow health & safety measures both on and off campus.



The fully vaccinated individual may continue to come to campus following these mitigating measures:

- *You must wear a face covering that covers your nose and mouth for at least 14 days.*

- *You must self- monitor for any COVID symptoms. If you develop any symptoms, even very mild ones, you MAY NOT come to campus. Please notify the nurses if any symptoms develop. The nurses or appointed school staff will manually screen any students coming to school who are close contacts but fully vaccinated.*



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CLOSE CONTACTS WHO ARE FULLY VACCINATED CONT.:

- *You must wear a face covering that covers your nose and mouth for at least 14 days.*
- *You must keep your distance from others of at least 6 ft when feasible.*
- *You should perform hand hygiene often.*
- *Do not attend any large gatherings.*
- *Avoid touching your face, nose or mouth.*
- *It is recommended that you get tested 3-5 days after the last exposure, or sooner if you become symptomatic.*

ISOLATION:

This is used to separate individuals with COVID from those who are not infected.



Any Faculty/staff/student who tests positive for COVID must isolate for a minimum of 10 days from the onset of their symptoms of COVID-19 or the date of collection of their positive test if they are asymptomatic. Additionally, they must be free of fever (without the use of fever-reducing medications) and overall symptoms must be improving for at least 24 hours to end isolation after 10 days.



Confirmed individuals MAY NOT return to school or school activities while in isolation.



A subsequent negative COVID-19 test does NOT alter this isolation period.