



RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN 2021-2022

*Updated on 09/03/21



Message from the Head of School

Dear Randolph Community,

From our earliest experiences with the COVID-19 pandemic, Randolph has prioritized health and safety, learning continuity and the importance of relationships in our school community. With a student-centered approach to learning, we continue to adapt our school operations to offer our students the best opportunity for in-person learning in a safe and healthy environment.

Our greatest opportunity in meeting these goals will be the result of a strong partnership between the school and our families. This plan shares our current expectations and health and safety measures for the 2021-2022 school year. Our learning model this year will be fully in-person, with no plans for a virtual school option. We will work to accommodate the learning needs of any students who are required to quarantine, and this will be coordinated with faculty and divisional leadership.

With guidance from our medical advisory team, we are closely monitoring CDC and state guidelines, and will review our policies as conditions in our community evolve. Our hope is that the rapid increase in COVID-19 cases that we are experiencing at the start of the school year will not be sustained. We also anticipate the authorization of the vaccine for students under the age of 12. As a reminder, individuals who are vaccinated are not required to quarantine per current guidance if they remain symptom free. The information shared here reflects the current operational plans and expectations and will be updated as appropriate.

There is much to look forward to in 2021-2022. We have shifted as many community activities as possible to outdoor venues. Additionally, we are bringing back many of the special experiences we had to limit last year. After-school clubs, performances, dining services, transportation services, and many other activities will return. Building community is our focus for the school year and we remain fully committed to engaging with all of you. I'm grateful for our partnership.

Sincerely,

Adam Dubé
Head of School

COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS

All members of the Randolph School community have a shared responsibility to adhere to the safety policies and procedures listed in this and future communications to help keep students and employees safe. *Please note that current guidelines are subject to change and will be updated as needed.*

»**Stay Home if Sick.** Parents or guardians are required to screen students each morning prior to arriving on campus. If your child is sick, has a fever, or exhibits [symptoms of COVID-19](#), you are expected to keep them home from school and notify the division office or [a school nurse](#).

»**Stay Home If Exposed.** If anyone in your household has been notified by the State Health Department or knows otherwise that they were in contact with an individual infected with COVID-19, you are asked to notify [a school nurse](#). Based on the circumstance, you may be asked to keep your child home from school for a period of time.







»**Stay Home Until Test Results are Received.** Anyone who has tested for COVID-19, regardless of reason, should self-quarantine at home pending test results and follow the advice of your health care provider. Unvaccinated members of the household of the individual being tested should also remain home until test results are received. All affected individuals in these circumstances should consult with a school nurse before returning to campus.

»**COVID-19 Testing and Notification.** If your child or someone in your household tests positive for COVID-19, you must notify [a school nurse](#) as soon as possible.

»**Sickness During the School Day.** The School will contact parents or guardians to arrange for immediate pick-up or departure if their child has a fever or exhibits any COVID-19 symptoms or indications.





HEALTH & SAFETY MEASURES

The health and safety of our community is our highest priority. The following is a list of current safety measures for the 2021-22 school year.

 <p>Face Coverings</p>	<p>Face masks are required for indoor spaces on campus. Approved masks should have a minimum of two-layers and fully cover the nose and mouth. Any mask with a respiration valve must be covered. Face shields, bandanas, neck gaiters, and buffs are not a substitute for masks. Masks should be solid colors or simple patterns, free of text or logos, other than Randolph School logos.</p>
 <p>Physical Distancing</p>	<p>Students will be seated in classrooms and assemblies with 3' spacing or in small cohorts, as practicable, in order to reduce the risk of transmission and minimize required quarantines.</p>
 <p>Health Screenings</p>	<p>Families will be responsible for checking for COVID-19 symptoms each morning, and students and employees should not proceed to campus if they exhibit symptoms. School employees will observe students throughout the day, and students with symptoms will be monitored while parents or guardians are contacted to arrange immediate pick-up or departure.</p>
 <p>Visitors on Campus</p>	<p>For the safety of students and employees, all visitors to campus, including parents, tutors, technicians, and service providers, must make an appointment to come onto campus. Visitors and parent volunteers will be allowed on campus for approved community events. Face masks are required for all campus visitors while indoors.</p>
 <p>Campus Enhancements</p>	<p>All HVAC units have been adjusted to bring in the maximum amount of outside air and filters have been upgraded to the highest possible level for each unit. Clinics on each campus have a separate room for symptomatic students. Additional picnic tables have been added to provide additional outdoor seating and dining options.</p>
 <p>Enhanced Cleaning and Hygiene</p>	<p>Students and faculty will follow a regular schedule of hand washing or use of hand sanitizer throughout the day. Hand sanitizer dispensers will be available throughout the facilities to ensure convenient access. Daily cleaning and sanitization practices will be compliant with CDC recommendations, including the types of cleaning products used and the frequency of cleaning.</p>

HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES

Continued

 <p>Dining Services</p>	<p>Food service will be offered daily on both campuses. Students purchasing meals will go through the serving line and take lunches to designated dining areas. We will continue to dine outside where possible at picnic tables or grassy areas on campus. As always, students will be able to bring lunches from home as well.</p>
 <p>Transportation</p>	<p>All individuals riding in school-provided transportation will be required to wear face masks. Windows will be fully or partially opened to increase ventilation, if doing so does not pose a safety risk. Bus capacity will not be reduced, but riders will be asked to space as fully as possible, and a seating roster will be maintained where possible.</p>
 <p>Before- and After-School Care</p>	<p>Students who are registered participants for Randolph's After-School Care program and Late-Start Wednesday Before-School Care program will follow guidelines for masking, hygiene, and other indoor school operations. Physical distancing will be maximized as best possible given assigned spaces, and seating charts will be maintained.</p>
 <p>Self-Care and Well-Being</p>	<p>Pedagogy and classroom practices will provide greater attention to student self-care and well-being to build resilience and cope with the stress or anxiety students may experience in this pandemic context. If your student has any social, emotional, or health concerns, please reach out to school counselors Vanessa Robinson (Lower School), Savannah Short (Middle School), Leslie Shelor (Upper School), or nurses Deb Smith (Garth Campus) or Kim Dunar (Drake Campus).</p>

ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE

Randolph will follow the guidance of the CDC and ADPH for isolation in the event of COVID-19 related illness and for quarantine in the event of exposure.

»**Isolation for COVID-19-Positive Individuals.** Individuals who test positive or are diagnosed with COVID-19 must stay home for 10 days following the onset of symptoms or a positive test result and must be 24 hours fever-free without fever-reducing medications and symptoms improved before returning from isolation. These individuals must consult with a school nurse prior to returning to campus for class or extracurricular activities.

»**Quarantine for Exposure to COVID-19.** The CDC definition of close contact is someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. In our K-12 setting, the close contact definition excludes individuals who were at least 3 feet or more from an infected individual if both persons were wearing masks and other school prevention strategies are in place.

Randolph will follow these guidelines in the event of known exposures to COVID-19. The required quarantine period is 10 days after the last exposure to COVID-19, with careful monitoring for symptoms for an additional 4 days, as long as the individual is asymptomatic. Individuals who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 should stay home and consult with their primary care physician and the school nurse. Individuals who meet the following exceptions are not required to quarantine:

- Individuals who are fully vaccinated (more than two weeks since final vaccination dose) and remain asymptomatic.
- Individuals who have tested positive and recovered from COVID-19 in the prior 3 months, as long as they remain asymptomatic.

In such cases, individuals may be exempted from quarantine by providing documentation of vaccination or a positive test result and dates to a school nurse. These exempted persons should wear masks while indoors, monitor for symptoms and isolate and contact the school nurse if symptoms develop.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

All information provided here is subject to change as guidance is updated from the CDC, ADPH, and other agencies. Updates will be provided when guidance changes.

»**If my child has been vaccinated but is subsequently diagnosed with COVID-19, is he or she required to isolate?** Yes. Any individual who is diagnosed with COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, is required to follow the isolation protocols outlined by the CDC.

»**Are face coverings and distancing required for outdoor classes or school events?** Masks are optional for all individuals when outdoors on Randolph's campus, and the CDC does not generally recommend masking for most outdoor activities.* For school day activities, we continue to work to encourage distancing to the extent practical when outdoors for recess, PE or lunch.

*When COVID-19 case numbers are high in a community, unvaccinated persons are encouraged by the CDC to wear masks in crowded outdoor settings. We work to avoid those settings during the course of the school day, but families are encouraged to ensure that their children or any unvaccinated individuals in their families wear masks and seek as much distance as possible when participating in outdoor events with congregate settings.

»**Will there be a virtual school option for the 2021-2022 school year?** No. Randolph will return to a fully in-person learning model for the current school year. We will work to accommodate the learning needs of students who are required to quarantine, and this will be coordinated with faculty and divisional leadership.

»**Are face coverings required during athletic practices or competitions?** Face coverings will not be required for student athletes while engaged in strenuous physical activity. When a student is not actively engaged in physical activity, he or she will wear a face covering while indoors. The Athletic Department guidelines will be shared with families of participating athletes.

»**Will tickets be limited to athletic competitions?** No. Attendance at outdoor athletic competitions will be mask-optional, and fans are encouraged to practice distancing in the stands or while observing events. Indoor events will require fans to wear masks and they are asked to distance at least 3 feet between family units. Randolph will follow AHSAA guidance, and update policies should guidelines change.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

» **If my child is vaccinated for COVID-19, am I required to provide their vaccination records to the school?** Vaccination records for COVID-19 are not required. If a student is exposed to COVID-19 and meets the requirements for exemption from quarantine (see page 6), they may provide the school nurse proof of vaccination or evidence of a positive COVID-19 diagnosis within the past 3 months in order to be exempt from quarantine.

» **Can an individual who has close-contact exposure to COVID-19, but has not experienced symptoms, return to school after receiving a negative COVID-19 test result?** No. Randolph uses a time and symptom-based strategy for a return to campus, per guidance of the CDC and ADPH. Individuals who are required to quarantine due to close-contact exposure may return after quarantining for the prescribed period defined in the Return to School Plan and have been cleared to return by a school nurse.

» **How do I know whether my child should be tested for COVID-19?** The decision to test for COVID-19 should be made in consultation with an individual's primary physician or healthcare provider.

» **How are decisions made around school operations in the COVID-19 environment?** The School's Pandemic Response Committee** meets regularly to monitor regional and state health indicators, as well as the health of our school community. Decisions are chiefly guided by CDC and Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) recommendations. The team's review includes COVID-19 data from the county and state, current guidance from the CDC, ADPH and other guiding agencies, input from our Medical Advisory Team, the status of student and employee illness and quarantine, attendance, and a number of other data points that factor into our community's health status and our school's operational ability. This group monitors and analyzes these indicators for predictive trends and in determining actions based on the unique circumstances at the time. The committee works with our school nurses in navigating suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the Randolph community. Any changes to our health and safety protocols will be shared with our school community.

** The Pandemic Response Committee includes the Head of School, our school nurses, Assistant Head for Academic Affairs, Director of Athletics, Assistant to Head for Strategic Initiatives, and Interim Chief Financial Officer.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

» **What is the role of the Medical Advisory Team?** A volunteer Medical Advisory Team, composed of community physicians and hospital and public health leaders, meets regularly with the Head of School, Lead School Nurse, Assistant to Head for Strategic Initiatives, and the Chair of the Board of Trustees. The team's role is advisory, and the team does not establish policy or make decisions related to school operations. This team provides valuable information, insights and guidance that help inform the work of the Pandemic Response Committee. In light of this, any questions regarding school operational decisions should be directed to school administration.

» **Are quarantines required if a close-contact exposure occurs outdoors?** Quarantine guidelines apply whether a close-contact exposure occurs indoors or outdoors. A close-contact exposure occurs when an individual was within 6-feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, per CDC guidance. As noted in the quarantine guidelines on page 6, the close-contact definition excludes individuals in a K-12 classroom setting who were at least 3 feet or more from an infected individual if both persons were masked. In the event of an outdoor exposure where all affected students are masked and greater than 3-feet apart, Randolph will treat this like an indoor exposure under the same conditions and will follow the quarantine guidance noted in on page 6.

» **Why does the School require quarantines in the event of exposure?** In striving to sustain in-person learning during this time of high transmissibility of the COVID-19 virus, quarantines provide a measure for limiting possible spread of the virus associated with known infections. With the increasing availability of vaccines, we have a greater opportunity to keep more students and faculty in-person, as the CDC excludes from quarantine those who are fully vaccinated, as long as they remain asymptomatic.

» **May an individual be exempt from quarantine based on antibody testing?** No. The CDC does not recommend antibody testing to assess immunity to COVID-19.