



Student Services

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Lancaster, SC 29720
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Dear Parent/Guardian:

Attending school in-person is how children learn best. COVID-19 prevention strategies are important for safe in-person learning. Schools will have a mixed population of both people who are fully vaccinated and people who are not fully vaccinated. It is important that steps be taken to protect all students and staff from COVID-19 and limit the spread of the virus. Below are a few reminders as we prepare for the upcoming school year.

- **Preventive Measures:** Talk with your child about the importance of social distancing, handwashing and cough etiquette (covering nose and mouth using tissues when coughing and sneezing or coughing /sneezing into elbow) to keep from getting and spreading infectious illnesses including COVID-19. Encourage handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- **Mask Use:** DHEC recognizes mask use cannot be mandated, but strongly recommends mask use for all people when indoors in school settings, especially when physical distancing is not possible. The most effective fabrics for cloth masks are tightly woven, such as cotton and cotton blends, breathable, and in two or three fabric layers. Masks with exhalation valves or vents, those that use loosely woven fabrics, and those that do not fit properly are not recommended.
- **Screenings:** Continue to monitor your child daily for symptoms of COVID-19. If your child is experiencing any of the symptoms below, *with or without fever*, do not send them to school.
 - o Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing -or -
 - o Loss of taste or smell -or -
 - o New or worsening coughOther symptoms may include fever, chills, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea/vomiting, or diarrhea. A person is able to spread the virus up to two (2) days before they have any symptoms. Anyone who has symptoms should stay home and contact their healthcare provider.
- **Stay Home:** Do not send your child to school if he/she is experiencing symptoms of COVID- 19, has been in close contact with someone who has tested positive with COVID-19, within the last 14 days, or someone in your home is being tested for COVID-19. Notify your child's school nurse.
- **COVID-19 Vaccination:** Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. The CDC and DHEC recommend everyone 12 years of age and older get fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Currently, the Pfizer vaccine is the only COVID-19 vaccine available for those 12 years of age and older. Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are available to those 18 years and older. To find a COVID-19 vaccine near you, use [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) or call DHEC's COVID Vaccine Info Line at 1-866-365-8110.

We all have the responsibility to protect ourselves, our families, friends and community. Families and schools working together can keep students and staff safe and in school, where they need to be. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's school nurse with questions or concerns.

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