



PINEWOOD PREPARATORY SCHOOL

RETURN TO CAMPUS GUIDE 2021-2022

UPDATED JANUARY 2022



JANUARY 2022 UPDATES

The RCC met on January 4th to review updated Covid guidelines. Our decisions are driven by the prioritization of slowing the spread of the virus and limiting the disruption of daily activities.

At this time, masking is strongly encouraged. Given that Pinewood conducts thorough contact tracing, individuals wearing masks would only be subject to a 3 ft. distance of exposure (for longer than 15 minutes) rather than 6 ft. without masks. The chances of needing to quarantine dramatically decrease if individuals wear their masks during the school day.

Please note: In the spirit of full transparency, the administration reserves the right to implement temporary mandatory masking for Grades K-12 should we determine that increased virus activity becomes detrimental to normal operations. Such a measure would be taken to reduce mass quarantines and is once again intended to be a temporary action. The School will communicate any such decision promptly with all families if necessary.

Additionally, the following guidance has been adopted as policy by the administration. Our nurses or administration will continue to communicate with families and notify anyone affected by virus activity.

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Per SC DHEC:

Definition of Fully Vaccinated: People who have completed their primary series, and ideally have had a booster shot if eligible to be fully vaccinated.

- Individuals are eligible for a booster six months after completing their Pfizer or Moderna vaccination series, or two months after their single-dose of Janssen.

If You Tested Positive (Isolation):

If you test positive for COVID-19, you need to isolate regardless of your vaccination status:

- Stay home and avoid in-person contact with others for at least 5 days
- If you have no symptoms after Day 5, you can end isolation but must wear a mask around others for 5 more days

If You Were Exposed to Someone with COVID-19 (Quarantine):

- If you have received the vaccine doses you're eligible for (completed initial vaccination series and booster for ages 16 and up, or completed initial vaccination series for ages 5-15), you don't have to quarantine. DHEC recommends you get tested on Day 5 and wear a mask around others for 10 days.
 - Individuals are eligible for a booster six months after completing their Pfizer or Moderna vaccination series, or two months after their single-dose of Janssen.

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- School Note: If eligible for a booster, updated documentation should be submitted to the school nurse as part of confidential health records.
- If you are not vaccinated or you have completed your primary vaccination series and are booster eligible, but haven't gotten a booster, you need to quarantine for 5 days. We recommend you get tested on Day 5 and wear a mask around others for 5 more days.
- If you develop symptoms, stay home and get tested

Between mask options and vaccination status, families have choices to confront possible exposure and quarantine status. For nearly two years now, Pinewood has shown the resolve necessary to overcome the challenges of the pandemic. Ideally, our ultimate goal is to eliminate the need for quarantines altogether. Children need to be at school and benefit from the academic and social-emotional value that Pinewood provides. When the availability of testing improves, the RCC will evaluate the feasibility of a Test-to-Stay option. However, with increased virus activity due to the Omicron variant and general wellness impacted by flu season, we must remain vigilant and take appropriate action in line with current conditions.

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It is important to reiterate the emphasis placed on trust and responsibility inherent within the Pinewood culture and our Honor Code. Families who intentionally circumvent school policies or falsify information related to the contact tracing or testing process would be in breach of said trust and require a meeting with the Headmaster to discuss formal dismissal from school. I am confident that our families respect the gravity of such decisions and would not jeopardize community well-being in such a way.

We understand there are strong feelings about the virus, the Omicron variant, and various mitigation strategies. Pinewood's administration continues to try and take a measured approach that we believe is in the best interest of our community as a whole. We cannot thank our families, faculty, and staff enough for their efforts and resolve throughout the pandemic.