

COVID-19 Mitigation Plan for NC Governor's School Summer 2022 – As of June 29, 2022

(updates since 5/18/22 are in color)

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

The North Carolina Governor's School...

- ...is a caring learning community with the health and safety of community members being of primary importance.
- ...will rely on sound scientific evidence, and follow established local, state, and federal regulations and guidance with fidelity.
- ...is committed to fulfilling its mission of providing an innovative, integrated residential educational experience for all students.
- ...is an optional activity, and is only for those who commit to required protocols and caring for the community.

MITIGATION PLANS:

Developed in consultation with NC Department of Health and Human Services.

PREPARATIONS:

Students and Personnel...

- Must complete and submit the Registration Form with Documents.
- Are encouraged to up to date our COVID-19 vaccines prior to arrival.
- Submit proof of vaccination status to NCDPI with Registration Form.
- Consider [CDC's guidance for domestic travel](#) before Governor's School arrival to reduce exposure to COVID-19, as much as possible.

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS:

Students and Personnel...

- Are strongly encouraged to be up to date with their vaccines ([CDC Guidance](#)), including boosters, for COVID-19 prior to their Governor's School arrival. Vaccination is the leading public health prevention strategy to manage the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Submit proof of vaccination with registration.
- Find vaccination locations at [Find your spot! Get your shot!](#)

Note: Vaccination status will inform COVID-19 exposure response for quarantine and will be used for rooming assignments as much as possible.

ARRIVAL TESTING REQUIREMENTS:

- **All students and personnel will be required to provide a negative PCR/molecular test result completed no more than 1-3 days prior to arrival.**

SCREENING:

- All students and personnel will follow basic symptom self-screening protocols before entering the classroom for the first time each day.
- If symptoms are present that are beyond a personal baseline, the Wellness Team or designated

staff will provide a rapid test. See next section for further information.

DIAGNOSTIC TESTING:

- If students and personnel are **suspected** of having COVID-19 based on the presence of symptoms, a rapid antigen test will be performed.
 - Negative rapid antigen test results will require no further action.
 - Positive rapid antigen test results will require immediate isolation in a pre-determined location on campus. Parents/guardians will be called.
 - It is an expectation that all students who are positive for COVID-19 will be picked up from the Governor's School site within 12 day-time hours by a parent or designee. Students will be temporarily isolated in a special dorm room while awaiting parent pick-up.
 - A student may return to Governor's School with a negative PCR/molecular test within five days or after their isolation period based on CDC guidance, a minimum of five days.
 - [CDC guidance on ending isolation](#) states that students may end their isolation after a full five-day isolation period if symptoms have improved and the student is fever-free for 24 hours.
 - Students must wear a well-fitted mask if they return to campus, for a full 10 days since the positive test.
- Students/faculty/staff who have had COVID-19 during the last 90 days do not participate in testing program. Proof of COVID-19 infection must be shared with Governor's School staff.
- If transport to urgent care/emergency room is required, staff will wear a well fitted mask, windows open, with as much distance as possible.

CONTACT-TRACING:

Close contacts during the three Area classes will be determined. A close contact in an educational setting is someone who has been [within 3 feet of the infected person for 15 minutes when both persons are masked](#).

- **All close contacts** will be monitored for symptoms. If symptoms develop, they will be tested. If symptoms don't develop, they will be tested with a rapid antigen 5 days after their last day of exposure. Close contacts are required to mask, like all students are at Governor's School.
- [Students will not be excluded based on vaccination status.](#)
- [If a student would like to be tested before the five days, they will be given a test.](#)
- A close contact who has recovered from COVID-19 in the past 90 days will not need to be tested; they will need to wear a mask for 10 full days.

FACE COVERINGS (Well fitted masks):

- [Face coverings will be required indoors.](#)
- Face coverings will not be required outdoors.
- Disposable surgical masks will be available for students and personnel use.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING/MEETING SPACES:

- When possible, a three-foot distancing will be encouraged indoors – [especially in the cafeterias](#).
- Hand sanitizer will be made readily available in classrooms and around campus.
- Outdoor activities will be selected as much as possible.
- If gathering indoors, consider ways to improve air flow such as opening windows and using fans.

OPENING DAY/CLOSING DAY:

- All registration forms will be available online and must be sent in by the deadline.
- There will be staggered-schedule arrival times for dormitory move-in to support screening.
- Parents/families may help their students move into their dorms, but they must be masked while



indoors.

RESIDENTIAL LIVING:

- In personal residence rooms, face coverings will be optional and physical distancing will be expected as much as possible.
- Residence rooms will be double occupancy. Vaccinated students will be assigned rooms with other vaccinated students as much as possible.
- No visits are allowed to other personal residence rooms.
- Residential faculty/staff will be single occupancy sharing suite bathrooms (exceptions for couples).

CLEANING:

- Regular cleaning by campus housekeeping following COVID-19 protocol established by the campus sites.
- Students and personnel will take care of their physical community spaces as they do in their typical communities to ensure Governor's School will remain open.

FIDELITY/OTHER:

- Fidelity to mitigation protocols is of utmost importance. Student noncompliance could be interpreted on par with *Honor Code* violation. Disciplinary measures, from coaching to and ***including student dismissal***, are at discretion of Site Director with NCDPI approval.
- If there is a COVID-19 cluster, Governor's School staff will coordinate with local health department and host campus administration to determine next steps.
- Similarly, faculty/staff will be accountable for their protocol adherence.

COMMUNICATION:

- Updates will be posted on a parent section of the GS campus websites, at least weekly.
- If there are COVID-19 cases, there will be communication with the impacted campus community, including parents. There will be a count kept on the campus websites. (6/22)

Based on guidance from NCDHHS, some protocols may be adapted based on community transmission.

If you have general questions regarding these health protocols, please contact Sneha Shah-Coltrane, NCDPI Director of Advanced Learning and Gifted Education, at sneha.shahcoltrane@dpi.nc.gov.