



Lee Academy

COVID19 Response FAQ

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These preliminary FAQs are merely intended to provide insight into planning for the coming school year--they are subject to change and not meant to be all-inclusive. The families of Lee Academy will be notified of any significant changes to any of the protocols listed below and as new developments arise regarding the novel coronavirus.

Will Lee Academy be open and in-person to start the school year? Yes! We are planning to have a modified Prayer Service on August 9 with the teachers returning August 10 for In-Service Training. Students will return on August 13. Be prepared for some forms of modifications to the norm. Some of our classes are already close to capacity, and we have interest from new families every day. **We are very excited and ready to return to school and are excited to see our students!**

Where is Lee Academy getting their guidelines for re-opening? Is Lee Academy going to follow the local public school districts and the decisions that they make? The governing body for Lee Academy is The South Carolina Independent Schools Association. We are in communication with them weekly. SCISA is monitoring recommendations and guidelines from sources such as the CDC, the AAP, DHEC and the SCHSL, along with information provided by Governor McMaster. The goal of SCISA is to see each of their member schools return to school safely, on time, and in person this school year. AccelerateSC establishes guidelines for the public school sector. While there is valuable insight and expertise that comes from AccelerateSC, Lee Academy is not bound by its recommendations. Public schools have some very specific challenges that really do not apply to independent schools.

Will Teachers and Students be required to wear face coverings? The new normal for a while is going to be asking the question, "do you have your mask?" Teachers and students will need to have face coverings at school but my hope is that we only use them on an as needed basis and that they don't have to wear them during instructional time in the classroom. A final decision regarding face coverings will be made as we get closer to the start of school. **Please be preparing your students to wear face coverings, even for short periods of time. This is especially important for our younger students.**

Will there be daily temperature checks as students arrive on campus? For the time being, there

will likely be temperature checks every morning. The checks will occur before each student will be permitted to enter the building. Students will not be allowed to attend school when they are sick. Lee Academy will have very strict guidelines that reinforce many of our updated handbook policies--students with a fever of 100.5 degrees or who exhibit virus-related symptoms are required to return home immediately, without exception. Such students must remain symptom-free for at least 24-48 hours, if not longer. It is also likely that a negative COVID test must accompany a student before they are able to return to school.

Will there be changes to the drop-off and pick-up schedules? At this time, it is safe to say that there will likely be some minor modifications to the traffic schedule. The main thing is to be prepared for longer wait times in the morning and the afternoon.

What are the plans for handwashing and hand sanitization throughout the school day? The current plan includes installing hand sanitizer dispensers in every classroom. Students will be required to sanitize their hands frequently throughout the school day. In high school, this could mean that hands must be washed after every class. We will also be looking at ways to sanitize every desk and every classroom often throughout the day.

How will students be distanced in the classrooms? The AAP suggests that a distancing of three feet approaches the same benefits of six feet of spacing. Six feet of spacing is probably not feasible for all of our classrooms but three feet is definitely doable in most. As much as Lee Academy wants to grow, we are having to evaluate the safety of our students right now and prioritize that over the growth of the school.

How will the students practice social distancing in the hallways? The primary concern on this topic is with the high school students. There are measures that can be taken such as staggering the bell schedule and utilizing both ends of the hallways for entering and exiting the building. A definite plan will be in place and the plan will be communicated and practiced upon returning to school in August.

Will Elementary School students change classes for related arts? The current plan is to have the teachers go to the classrooms for Related Arts. As the virus becomes more controlled, we will resume a regular procedure of allowing the students to change classes.

What about recess and PE? Recess and PE are a very important part of every school. We will have both in some form or fashion but may have to resort to cohorting of classes for the time being with the purpose being to minimize crossover with other students. Sanitization protocols will be further developed related to the recess and PE, with students being expected to wash their hands both before and after each session.

Will Lunchroom Procedures be affected? The lunchroom procedures will be further developed as well. The AAP is recommending that student crossover with other students not in their classrooms be minimized until the virus is more controlled. This may mean that students will eat in their classrooms or that a staggered lunch schedule is implemented for the time being.

Technology Technology is a necessary component of education as evidenced this past spring. Lee Academy is working diligently to be able to provide each student with a technology experience that enhances and accelerates the educational process. Our teachers are receiving training in Google Classroom to better prepare them to integrate technology into the classroom. In addition, this training will serve our teachers and students well in the event that distance learning is required at any point during this school year. The goal is also to have new devices for every classroom in Grades 1-12. This goal may happen as early as the fall semester of this year.

What will be the protocol if a faculty member or student becomes affected by COVID19? Lee Academy will follow CDC/SCDHEC guidelines should a member of the school community test positive for coronavirus. Family and members of the class that have been determined to be “in close contact” with the affected party will be notified.

Please regard this as a living document. Changes will occur quite frequently. Updates to our protocols will be communicated via the school website. Please refer to the website weekly for updates to the COVID19 regulations.