FCS FRIENDS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

COVID Response 2021-2022

Updated 8/9/2021

COVID Response 2021-2022

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year. This is a year full of great promise, challenge, and opportunity. We are excited to be able to fully open our campus to all of our students and employees. While we all want to be back to normal and operate as we did pre-COVID, we recognize that the pandemic is still present and will impact some aspects of our day-to-day operations.

The safety and well being of our students and employees remain imperatives and we will continue to abide by our guiding principles:

- **FCS students and employees stay safe.**
- **Our educational program meets students' intellectual, social-emotional, and developmental needs.**
- **We preserve our community.**
- **We maintain equity for all members of our community.**

In July we reviewed our reopening plans with our consulting physicians at PM Pediatrics. Given the rising COVID cases and the fact that the majority of our student body is unvaccinated, we have been advised to keep many of the protocols and practices enacted last spring in place. These protocols are dictated by guidance and mandates from the CDC, the state of Maryland, the Maryland Health Department, the Prince George's County Health Department, as well as our consulting physicians. Everything included in this booklet is based on medical research and public health policy. Following these protocols will help to keep our community safe.

In Peace,
Angela G. Garcia
Head of School

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FRIENDS COMMUNITY SCHOOL SY 21-22 HEALTH PROTOCOLS

MASKS

All staff and students will wear masks inside *and* outside.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

3 feet of physical distance will be maintained in classrooms and hallways.

FREQUENT HAND WASHING

All staff and students will practice good hand hygiene.

POOLED TESTING

All staff and students will participate in pooled testing on campus twice a month.

DAILY HEALTH CHECKS

All staff and students will complete a daily health screening via the Magnus App prior to arrival on campus.

VACCINATIONS

All FCS faculty and staff are 100% vaccinated and we encourage all students 12 and older to be vaccinated.

FACILITIES

FCS air filtration systems meet all CDC requirements and the facilities are thoroughly cleaned each day.

Current as of July 2021

General Protocols

- Students will be grouped in “pods” that they will stay with for the duration of the day. Pods will be determined by homeroom at the Lower School. In the Middle School, each grade level will be split in half forming two pods per grade. Students will travel to each subject area class in these pods.
- Pods will be separated and not interact with each other inside the building though they may periodically interact, while masked, outside.
- Parents and visitors are prohibited from entering the building. Essential visitors will be required to complete a health assessment and temperature check before entering.
- School events will be modified to ensure health and safety.

Health Protocols

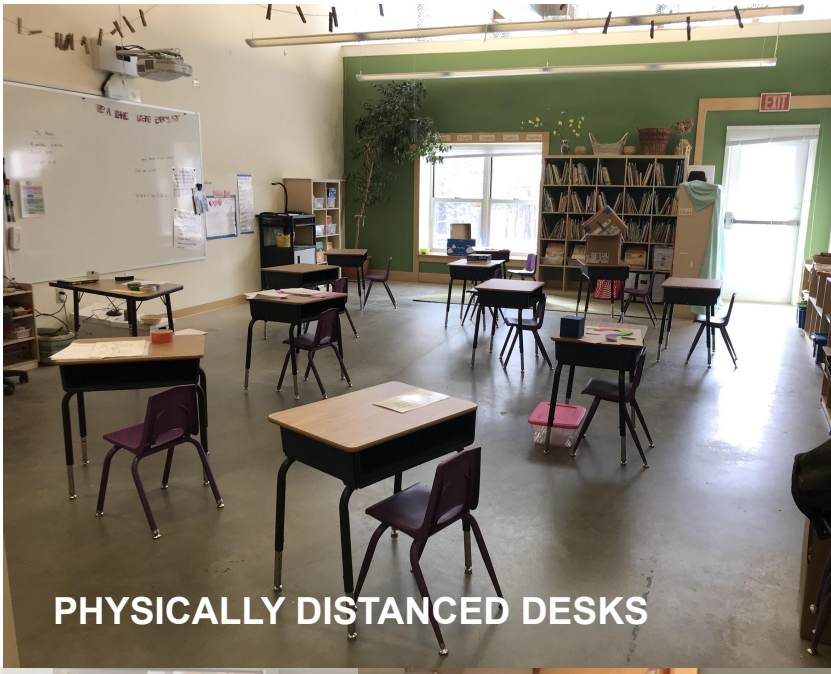
- Daily screening of temperature, symptoms, exposure, and travel for all students and employees is required. Families must use the Magnus App to complete this daily screening. We will monitor the completion of screenings electronically.
- Masks are mandatory for students and employees.
- Scheduled handwashing.
- An isolation space for students with symptoms of contagious illness has been created. A full-time nurse has been hired.
- Anyone exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms (even a headache or runny nose) enters the isolation space and will be sent home immediately.
- Negative test results or a doctor's note with alternative diagnosis will be required prior to return for suspected COVID-19.
- Maryland Department of Health, Prince George’s County Health Department, and CDC guidance will be followed for any suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases. The classroom will be deep-cleaned, and the pod may be sent home and quarantined.

Face Mask Specifications

Students and staff are required to wear face masks at all times except when eating or during mask breaks when they will be outside and physically distanced. We recommend all students have **10 double-layered fabric masks available**. The required face covering is at least 2 layers of cloth and ***does not have*** an exhalation valve as these release unfiltered air. Gaiter-style masks have been proven less effective and are therefore not allowed. Students will need to keep two spare masks at school in case the one they wear when they arrive gets soiled or broken.

Building and Facilities Protocols

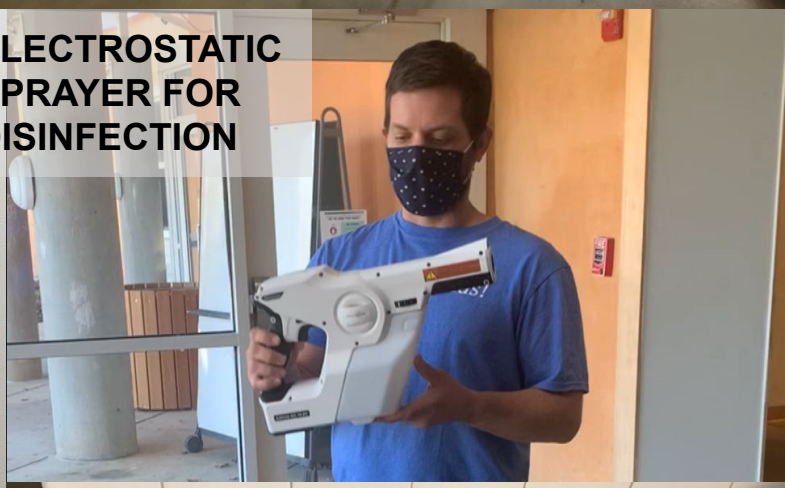
- Use of our outdoor space is encouraged, weather conditions permitting.
- Desks have replaced tables to ensure physical distancing.
- To the extent possible, students will not share materials and those that they do share will be regularly disinfected.
- Each class will have their own designated play time and space outdoors.
- Narrow hallways will be designated as one-way; floor decals mark the required physical distancing.
- Common surfaces will be disinfected throughout the day.
- Bathroom occupancy will be limited. Bathrooms have been equipped with additional HEPA filtration.
- HVAC fans will run full time to achieve 9 air changes/hour, 50% above CDC recommendations.
- UV filters have been installed in the ventilation system throughout the building to provide continuously decontaminated air.



PHYSICALLY DISTANCED DESKS

PHYSICAL DISTANCING MARKERS

HAND SANITIZER STATIONS



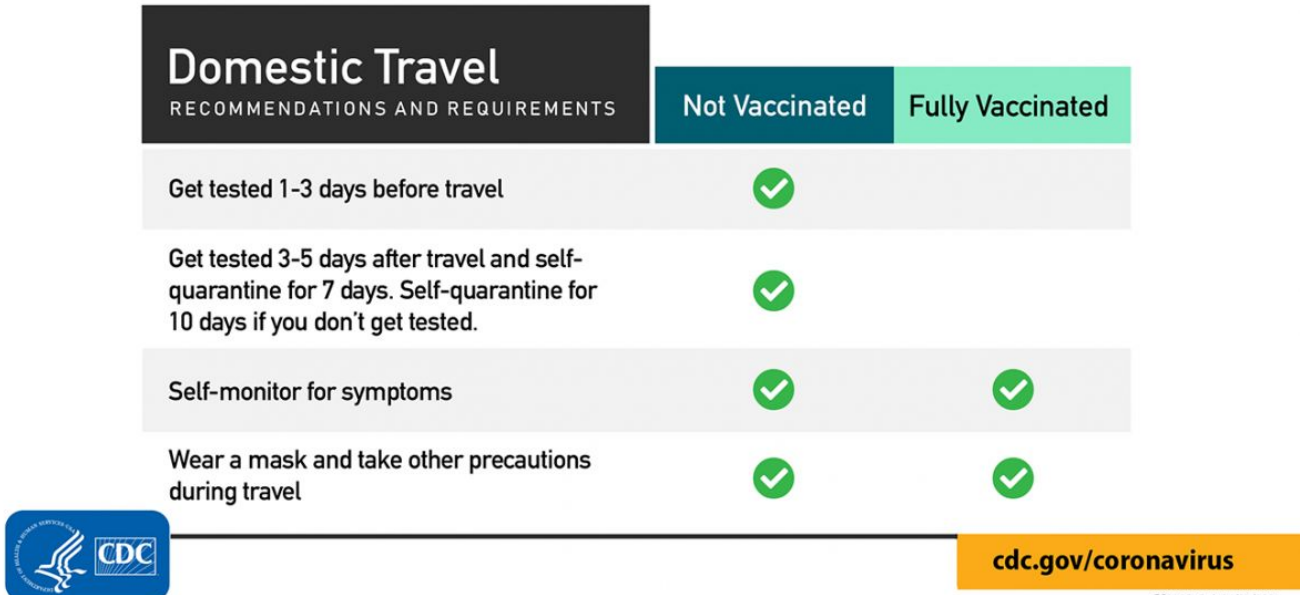
ELECTROSTATIC SPRAYER FOR DISINFECTION

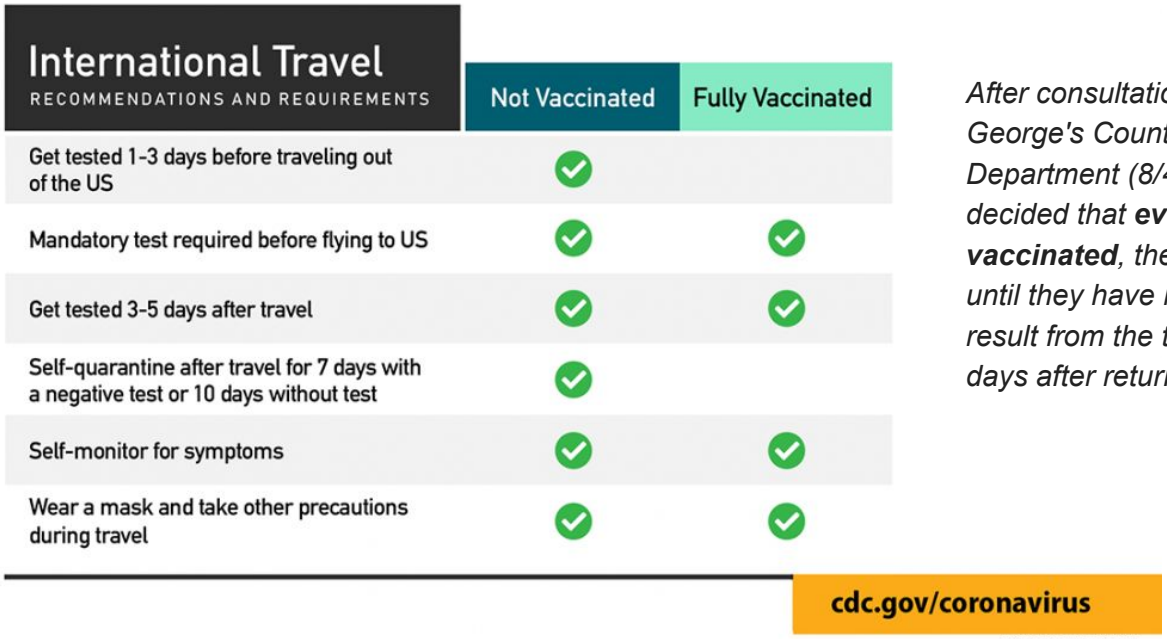
AIR FILTERS IN BATHROOMS

COVID and Travel

In order to protect the health and safety of our school community in which the majority of students are not vaccinated, we ask that families restrict their travel as much as possible and follow CDC guidelines when travel is necessary.

We expect families to follow the testing and self-quarantine expectations listed under "not vaccinated" for their unvaccinated children which means students may not return to school immediately following travel.





*After consultation with the Prince George's County Health Department (8/4/21), we have decided that **even if your child is vaccinated**, they must stay home until they have received a negative result from the test they take 3-5 days after return from travel.*

These guidelines are current as of August 6, 2021 and will be updated when the CDC makes changes and/or if additional guidance is provided by the state of Maryland or Prince George's County.

What Happens If There Is A Case In Our School?

This decision-aid from the Maryland Department of Health outlines the process we will follow and will be updated per county guidance.

Decision Aid: Exclusion and Return for Persons with COVID-19 Symptoms and Close Contacts in Child Care, Schools, and Youth Camps

For the purposes of this decision aid, **COVID-19 symptoms** are any ONE of the following: fever of 100.4° or higher, sore throat, cough, difficulty breathing, diarrhea or vomiting, new onset of severe headache (especially with fever), or new loss of taste or smell. For persons with chronic conditions such as asthma, the symptoms should represent a change from baseline.

Exclude all persons (child, care provider, educator, other staff) with COVID-19 symptoms and recommend evaluation by a health care provider and testing for COVID-19[1]	Recommendations for the person with symptoms who is NOT FULLY VACCINATED Individuals are fully vaccinated 2 weeks after receiving either 1) both doses of a 2-dose vaccine series or 2) a single dose vaccine.	Recommendations for close contacts of the person with symptoms
Person has symptoms and positive test for COVID-19 or clinical diagnosis of COVID-19	May return when it has been at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication AND improvement of other symptoms.	All close contacts should quarantine according to MDH and local guidance *except* those who are fully vaccinated OR have been infected with COVID-19 in the past 90 days AND are asymptomatic.
Person has symptoms and negative test for COVID-19	If no known exposure, may return when symptoms have improved, no fever for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, AND applicable criteria in the Communicable Diseases Summary have been met. If known exposure, may return when quarantine completed according to MDH and local guidance.	Close contacts do not need to quarantine.
Person has symptoms and health care provider documents symptoms are due to a specific alternative diagnosis (ex. strep throat, otitis media, pre-existing condition such as asthma)	If no known exposure, may return when symptoms have improved, no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, AND applicable criteria in the Communicable Diseases Summary have been met. If known exposure, may return when quarantine completed according to MDH and local guidance.	Close contacts do not need to quarantine.
Person has symptoms with no negative test for COVID-19 AND no specific alternative diagnosis	If no known exposure, may return when it has been at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication AND improvement of other symptoms.	Household members[2] should not attend or work in a child care, school, or youth camp until the person with symptoms is able to return *except* those who are fully vaccinated OR have been infected with COVID-19 in the past 90 days AND are asymptomatic.
	If known exposure, may return when it has been at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication AND improvement of other symptoms.	All close contacts should quarantine according to MDH and local guidance *except* those who are fully vaccinated OR have been infected with COVID-19 in the past 90 days AND are asymptomatic.

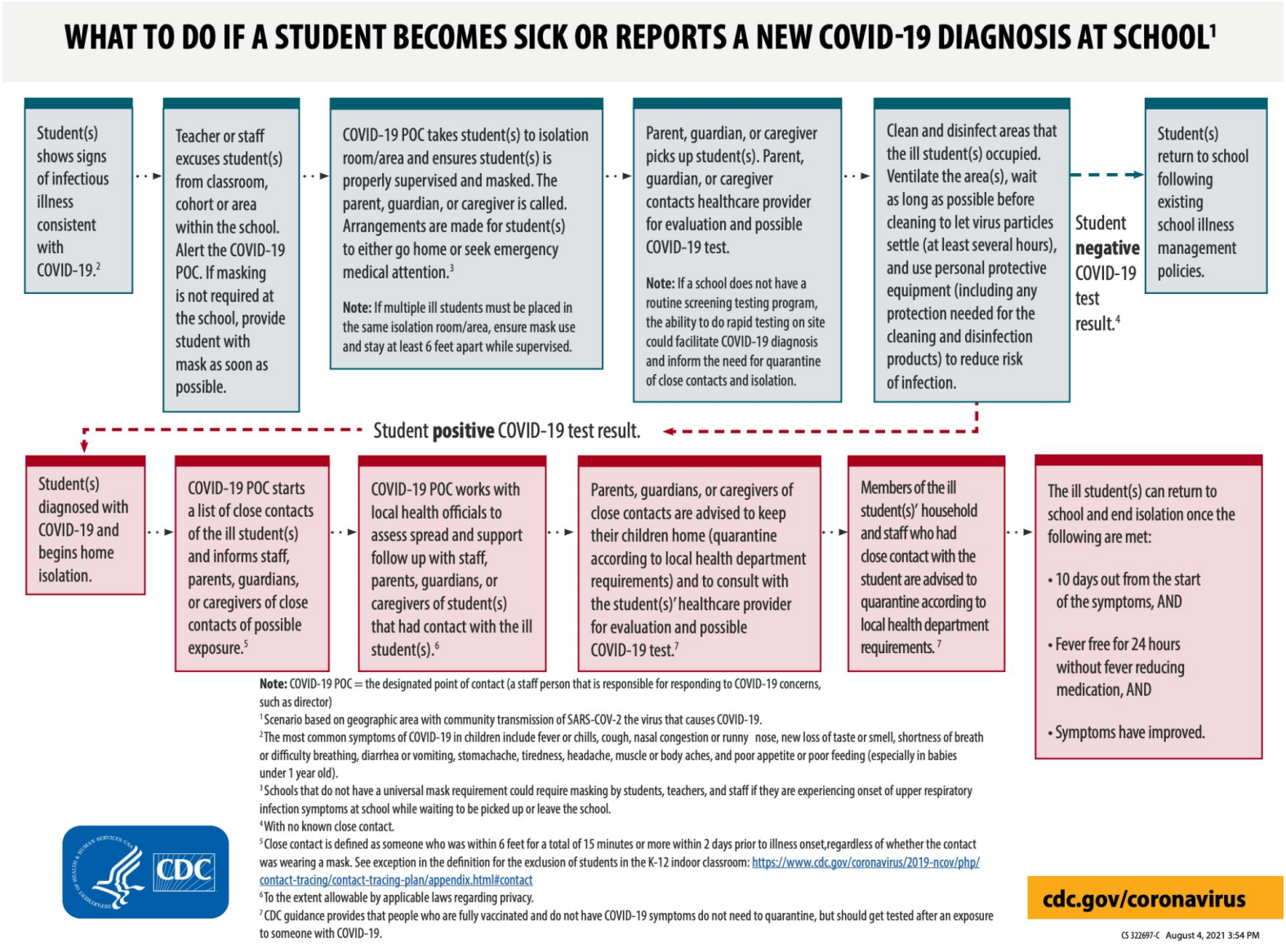
[1]For persons with symptoms who were previously infected with COVID-19 and recovered, follow CDC guidance.
[2]These persons should not be reported to the local health department as contacts. The child care, school, or youth camp should inform the household members of these recommendations.

Maryland Department of Health and Maryland State Department of Education, July 23, 2021

IN BRIEF: The class/pod will be notified by the school. The school nurse will be in touch with the Prince George's County Health Department to determine next steps. If all classmates are deemed "close contacts," the entire class will be required to quarantine. During this time we will switch to a remote learning model. (See current CDC guidance here.)

What will FCS do if a child gets sick with COVID-like symptoms *at* school?

We will follow the most current recommendations from the CDC, the Prince George's County Department of Health and Maryland Health Department. The flowchart below from the CDC is current as of 8/4/2021. It outlines the process we will follow. **It is extremely important that every member of our community exercise extreme caution around any potential symptoms. If your child seems sick in any way before you leave for school, please stay home!**



What if my student is sick with something other than COVID?

If your child is sick with an illness not related to COVID we encourage your child to stay home and rest. They will be able to make up their work when they return to campus.

COVID Testing

All students and teachers *must take a COVID test* before the school year begins and a negative test result needs to be shared with our nurse (FCSnurse@friendscommunityschool.org). Only students with negative tests will be permitted to come to school. We have secured an arrangement with PM Pediatrics for testing of all students on campus during orientation. This facility takes all insurance except Kaiser. If you are insured by Kaiser please get your student's test at one of their approved facilities.

Grade	Date to Get Tested On Campus
Lower School	September 1, 11 AM
Middle School	September 2, 11 AM

What is Pooled Testing?

We require regularly scheduled pooled testing of each class. Pooled testing is when a collection of samples from one pod of students is tested all together. If a positive test occurs, that pod would all have to have a follow up PCR test because the pooled sample cannot identify an individual sample. Pooled testing is done on-campus and gives us a quick way to spot check for infection on a regular basis. Last year this approach successfully prevented any community spread of COVID-19.

Arrival and Dismissal on Campus

While we will make every effort to keep students contained in pods throughout the school day, the greatest potential for "mixing" of the pods occurs during arrival and dismissal from campus. For this reason, it is very important that families follow our carline procedures to allow safe and efficient movement of students.

Arrival Time	**Full-Day Dismissal Times**	**Wednesday Dismissal Times**
Students arrive between 8:00 and 8:15 AM.	2:45 PM Lower School 3:15 PM Middle School	2:00 PM Lower School 2:15 PM Middle School

At dismissal, if you have a child in both Lower and Middle School, come to the Middle School pickup. We will hold your Lower School child until the later pickup time.

Expectations for Carline

- Download the Magnus App (Android / Apple). Take your child's temperature before you leave home and complete the screening survey. If you get a green GO sign after submission, your child may come to school. *Take a screenshot of the GO page so you can easily show it to a staff member during drop-off. Wifi can be spotty in our parking lot and this will keep traffic moving.*
- Pay attention to the directions of staff members as you enter the FCS driveway and are in the circle.
- Do not use cell phones in the carline beyond showing the GO sign.
- Keep engines on while in the carline.
- Stay in cars. Staff will assist children.
- Make sure children have their book bags, coats, and shoes on and are ready to exit the car when the car door is opened by a staff member.
- Have children enter and exit cars from the right hand side.
- Display your car placard on the passenger side front window during pickup. (All families will receive car placards with student names on them.)

Morning Carline Procedure

- As you enter the school driveway, staff will be directing the flow of traffic. Be prepared to show a staff member the green Go sign from the Magnus App before entering the Peace Circle portion of the driveway. (*Remember to take a screenshot of the GO page so you can easily show it to a staff member during drop-off. Wifi can be spotty in our parking lot and this will keep traffic moving.)*
- Pull up to an available spot and stop car (but keep engine running). Do not exit your car. A staff member will take students in Kindergarten-Grade 3 out of the vehicle. Students in Grades 4-8 can exit on their own.
- **DO NOT** drive around cars that have children exiting. Wait to exit the Peace Circle driveway.
- Children in the Lower School go straight to their classroom through the main entrance once they exit their cars.
- Children in the Middle School will enter the building from the door near the picnic benches.

Afternoon Carline Procedure

- **If you have a child in both Lower and Middle School, come to the Middle School pickup. We will hold your Lower School child until the later pickup time.**
- Cars will form two lines in the Peace Circle driveway. The first car should go to the end of the circle and stop. Once the circle is filled with cars in the first line, a second line may pull in the driveway closest to the Peace Circle.
- Staff members will call children to their cars.
- Once the two carlines have students in their cars, a FCS staff member will dismiss the first line first followed by the second line. The next set of cars will enter the circle driveway and repeat the process creating two lines. *This year children will not be walked up to the top of the hill to be placed in cars.*

Note: Carpooling is encouraged but remember that all students in the vehicle must wear masks and make sure ventilation is used. *Drivers should have screenshots of Magnus GO pages for all students in the vehicle ready to show staff.*

2021-2022 FCS Community Compact

While the COVID-19 pandemic has changed in many ways since last school year, the majority of our student population still does not have access to a vaccine and continued recommendations from the CDC and Prince George's Health Department urge schools to retain precautions to keep their communities safe. This compact has been updated to reflect the latest understanding of what those precautions should entail. ***To protect the safety of our community we are asking everyone to sign the following compact. It is live in the portal (a yellow reminder will show at the top of your screen when you login) and we ask that you sign it there by September 1.***

FCS believes that promoting individual and community health in the COVID-19 era is a shared responsibility. Since the pandemic began, our community has held fast to the following guiding principles, which will continue to be at the heart of our efforts moving forward:

- We maintain the highest level of safety possible for all FCS students, employees, and community members.
- Our educational program meets students' intellectual, social-emotional, and developmental needs.
- We preserve our community.
- We maintain equity for all members of our community.

Fulfilling these principles requires collective effort and responsibility on the part of the school, our families, faculty, and staff. It is vitally important that we exemplify the value of integrity that is part of the Quaker SPICES (simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality/equity, and stewardship) to mitigate the transmission of the COVID-19 virus.

To this end, we have outlined below the community, health, and safety guidelines we must commit to in the months ahead. These guidelines are based on the latest public health guidance regarding measures that help to stop the spread of the virus. Please read these guidelines as a family and affirm, as Friends do, that you will do your part to take care of the FCS community. As always, we appreciate your partnership in promoting the health and safety of the FCS community.

To support all members of the FCS community our school will:

- Follow Federal, Prince George's County, and state public health guidance.
- Maintain health protocols on campus to protect our community.

To support our community our family will:

- Treat everyone with respect and not discriminate against anyone perceived to have been in contact with the virus.
- Recognize that what we do outside of school affects the safety of our community within the school. Therefore, we will take precautions to wear masks where required, limit travel or quarantine when we do travel to minimize risk to others, limit gatherings with others outside of the school community and maintain physical distance when we do to prevent potential viral spread.
- Hold others in the FCS community in the Light and assume positive intent.

FCS Community Compact (cont.)

To follow health procedures our family will:

- Participate in accurate and truthful daily health screenings using the Magnus App.
- Immediately notify the school and provide accurate and complete information if we have a change in health status.
- Stay home if we are sick with COVID-19 symptoms or know that we have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

To prevent the spread of COVID-19 we will:

- Comply with all health and safety instructions on campus regarding mandatory mask-wearing, hand washing, and physical distancing.
- Follow all procedures outlined for traveling through the building and grounds to minimize exposure to staff and students beyond the grade pods.
- Comply with the expectation that parents, friends, and family members cannot enter school buildings unless we set an appointment beforehand and receive approval from the school.
- Follow county, city, and state policies regarding face coverings and safe physical distancing when we are outside of school.
- Follow all local city and state non-essential travel restrictions.

We acknowledge that the principles set forth in this Community Compact, as well as other protocols and guidelines established by FCS regarding the reopening of school, are subject to change as life on campus, public health guidance, and other circumstances related to COVID-19 continue to evolve. By signing below, we acknowledge that we have read this Community Compact and agree that we will adhere to the rules and protocols set forth in this document, as well as any other expectations set forth by FCS, and that failure to do so may result in appropriate consequences, as determined by FCS.

We acknowledge and agree that COVID-19 is a novel and extremely contagious communicable illness that spreads through person-to-person interactions. We understand that even though the school will make every effort to protect its community there is nonetheless a risk that our child(ren) could contract COVID-19 and/or become a symptomatic and/or asymptomatic carrier of COVID-19. By signing this agreement, I knowingly and voluntarily assume that risk on behalf of myself and my child, as well as the risk that such infection could spread to other members of my child's household or family, as well as others with whom they may have contact.

By upholding these practices, we affirm the vital role that each of us plays in safeguarding the health and well-being of the FCS community.

To protect the safety of our community we are asking everyone to sign this compact. It is live in the portal (a yellow reminder will show at the top of your screen when you login) and we ask that you sign it there by September 1.