

## **COVID-19 Mitigation Plan for NC Governor's School Summer 2022 – As of May 18, 2022**

### **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.

## CONTACT-TRACING:

Close contacts during the three Area classes will be determined by [CDC Guidance](#) and appropriate steps will be taken.

- To summarize:
  - **a close contact who is up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations** will not need to quarantine; they will need to wear a well-fitted mask for 10 full days and be monitored for symptoms. If symptoms develop, they should get tested. If symptoms don't develop, they will get tested with a rapid antigen at least 5 days after their last close contact with someone with COVID-19.
  - **a close contact who is unvaccinated** will need to be given a rapid antigen test, be quarantined for at least 5 full days and wear a mask for 10 full days.
    - *Unvaccinated students who are exposed to a confirmed positive case must quarantine for at least 5 days.* Because there are no on-campus isolation/quarantining capabilities at Governor's School, students will need to leave campus for their period of quarantine. Students are expected to be picked up within 12 day-time hours by a parent or designee and leave campus. Students will be temporarily quarantined in a special dorm room while awaiting parent pick-up.
    - Even if symptoms don't develop, students should get tested at least 5 days after their last close contact with someone with COVID-19.
    - Students may return to campus if a negative PCR/molecular test is received after their 5 days quarantine period. Students must wear a well-fitted mask if they return to campus for a full 10 days since the close contact
  - A close contact who has recovered from COVID-19 in the past 90 days will not need to quarantine; they will need to wear a mask for 10 full days. If symptoms develop, they will be tested.
- Unvaccinated roommates must quarantine, unless they have had COVID-19 in the past 90 days, and therefore will also be sent home immediately, like the original student case.
- Vaccinated roommates will be observed for symptoms and will have to wear a fitted mask for 10 days, per [CDC Guidance](#). If they develop symptoms, they will be tested. Even if symptoms don't develop, they should get tested at least 5 days after their last close contact with someone with COVID-19. They should wear a well-fitting mask for 10 days when around



others in public.

- If transport to urgent care/emergency room is required, staff will wear a well fitted mask, windows open, with as much distance as possible.

#### **FACE COVERINGS (Well fitted masks):**

- Face coverings are encouraged but will be optional in indoor spaces.
- 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.
- 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 emails sent to the campus community, including parents.

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](mailto:sneha.shahcoltrane@dpi.nc.gov).

