

# Pee Dee Academy

P. O. Box 449  
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Mullins, SC 29574



July 20, 2020

Dear Pee Dee Academy Families:

In light of COVID-19 concerns, I wanted to preface our normal mailing with a mailing entirely related to COVID-19. I know that there are many concerns around the start of school. As an organization, SCISA has made available to all schools the recommended guidelines for opening. While we respect anyone who wishes to keep a child home over concerns related to COVID-19, we also would like the same respect for those who choose to send students back to school in the Fall.

To that end, I attended the Heads Institute in Orangeburg, SC, on July 15-16. Dr. Jordan, executive director, and his staff shared a comprehensive list of recommendations for opening school. Today, I shared that information with teachers and spoke to our Chairman of the Board. In coming days, that same information will be shared with the Board.

Pee Dee Academy will act upon all guidelines recommended by the SC Independent Schools Association (SCISA). All of SCISA's guidelines are aligned to DHEC and CDC. Outlined below are the measures Pee Dee Academy will take in the Fall:

1. **A COVID team is being developed. This team will monitor the temperatures of students upon being dropped off to campus in the mornings. In the event a student is symptomatic (ex. Fever of over 100.4, cough, shortness of breath, etc.), the student will be sent home.**
2. **For those students that are high-risk, an Individualized Learning Plan may be provided. Parents will need to contact the school prior to August 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss any such plan.**
3. **All students and staff will be required to wear face coverings. This can be a mask, shield, or other type face covering.**
4. **Students will be social distanced in the classroom, with shared space being minimized and areas being sanitized frequently.**
5. **Hallway traffic patterns will be one way.**
6. **Lunch will be served in classrooms, with it being delivered from the canteen. No shared space around food preparation. Students are still free to bring their own lunch, but please note that no microwaves will be available to heat food.**
7. **Visitors will not be permitted into buildings without checking into the office for a temperature screening and face covering.**

8. In the event that a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, parents of exposed students will be notified, and the infected member of our community will remain at home until they are 72 hours symptom free without medication. Other students will continue to be monitored for emerging symptoms.

As we have all learned, this is a very fluid situation, and guidelines could change with little notice. We will make every effort to keep you updated as guidelines change. Please also note that teachers are making every effort to prepare meaningful online instruction in the event we are shut down.

I look forward to a great school year. I am here to serve the students of Pee Dee Academy! Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss how I can help best serve your student!

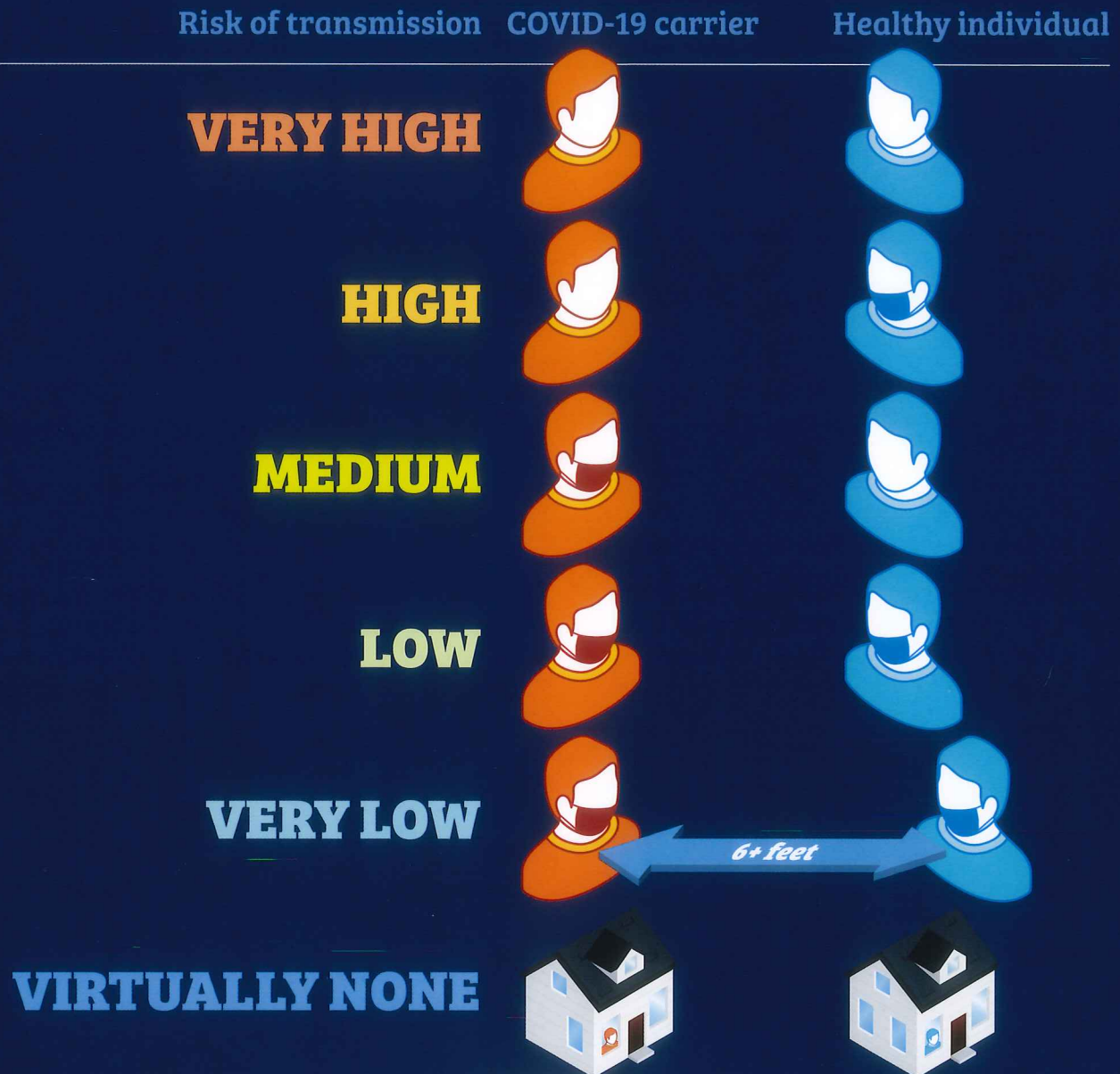
Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracy Holcombe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "H".

Tracy Holcombe, Ph.D.

Head of School

# Wearing a mask helps slow the spread of COVID-19.



**SAFE**  
IN OUR CARE

**COVID-19**

# Stop the Spread of Germs

Help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses like COVID-19 and flu.

## What are the symptoms?



**Fever**



**Cough**



**Shortness of Breath**

## How is it prevented?



**Wash hands often**



**Avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands**



**Avoid contact with sick people**



**Stay home while you are sick; avoid others**



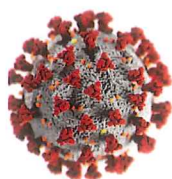
**Cover mouth/nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing**



**Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces**



# What you should know about COVID-19 to protect yourself and others



## Know about COVID-19

- Coronavirus (COVID-19) is an illness caused by a virus that can spread from person to person.
- The virus that causes COVID-19 is a new coronavirus that has spread throughout the world.
- COVID-19 symptoms can range from mild (or no symptoms) to severe illness.



## Know how COVID-19 is spread

- You can become infected by coming into close contact (about 6 feet or two arm lengths) with a person who has COVID-19. COVID-19 is primarily spread from person to person.
- You can become infected from respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks.
- You may also be able to get it by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it, and then by touching your mouth, nose, or eyes.



## Protect yourself and others from COVID-19

- There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. The best way to protect yourself is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.
- Stay home as much as possible and avoid close contact with others.
- Wear a cloth face covering that covers your nose and mouth in public settings.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.



## Practice social distancing

- Buy groceries and medicine, go to the doctor, and complete banking activities online when possible.
- If you must go in person, stay at least 6 feet away from others and disinfect items you must touch.
- Get deliveries and takeout, and limit in-person contact as much as possible.



## Prevent the spread of COVID-19 if you are sick

- Stay home if you are sick, except to get medical care.
- Avoid public transportation, ride-sharing, or taxis.
- Separate yourself from other people and pets in your home.
- There is no specific treatment for COVID-19, but you can seek medical care to help relieve your symptoms.
- If you need medical attention, call ahead.



## Know your risk for severe illness

- Everyone is at risk of getting COVID-19.
- Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more severe illness.



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)