



SCCPSS Health & Safety Protocols (SY 21-22)



SCCPSS remains committed to providing a safe in-person learning environments for all students and staff. We continue our mission to provide quality educational services that meet the needs of every child.

SCCPSS continues to monitor the community transmission index with guidance from community health professionals. Following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, quarantine or isolation practice remains the safest way to protect teachers/staff and students from the spread of COVID-19. **Recognizing the importance of in-person learning, however, K-12 schools may elect to adhere to different quarantine requirements as developed by the local school district to facilitate in-person learning.**

SCCPSS remains committed to providing in-person learning options for students through the implementation of layered mitigation strategies while using isolation and quarantine approaches that account for the operational needs of the District. As a health and safety matter, SCCPSS COVID-19 guidelines are provided based on the impact of COVID-19 in our schools. These guidelines may be changed at any time. Please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html> for additional information and recommendations.

COVID CASE RESPONSE (AS OF 02/08/2022):

SCCPSS has updated its COVID Response plan to account for in-person learning needs and will utilize strategies that support multiple mitigation efforts in a manner that seeks to limit disruptions.

KEY UPDATES INCLUDE:

- Provides for a return from isolation or quarantine after 5-days under certain circumstances.
- Tiered approach developed for responsive actions based on the number of confirmed positives in a group.
- Quarantines targeted on cluster groups where multiple positive cases have been identified indicating the likelihood for substantial spread among the group.
- For school-based exposures outside of an identified cluster (Non-Cluster Situations), students notified of a potential exposure who remain asymptomatic do not need to quarantine.

POSITIVE TEST RESULT: Any student who tests positive for COVID-19 will be directed to isolate in accordance with the CDC & DPH guidelines.

CONFIRMED POSITIVE:

(Regardless of Vaccination Status)

Students who test positive for COVID-19 may return to school or work on day 6 (after 5 days of isolation), if they have improved symptoms and are fever-free for at least 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medications.

Per DPH: If you are unable to wear a mask when around others, you should continue to isolate for a full 10 days.

*****Lack of staff availability due to the impact of COVID-19 may influence return dates.***

If symptoms are not improving or fever has not resolved after 5 days, parents or guardians are recommended to consult with your child's doctor. The student may return to school when symptoms have improved, and they are fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.

SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 WITH EXPOSURE

(Regardless of Vaccination Status)

If at any time in the 10 days following an exposure (School-based, Community based, OR Cluster-based), symptoms of COVID-19 develop, your child should stay home, isolate immediately, and get tested. When a determination of a positive case occurs, follow the isolation guidance in this document for Confirmed Positive Students for COVID-19 (Regardless of Vaccination Status).

Anyone who tests negative will be suspected to have COVID-19 and will isolate for 5 days from the date symptoms started. Follow the directions above for positive students.

SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 WITHOUT EXPOSURE

(Regardless of Vaccination Status)

Students who experience symptoms of COVID-19 should not report to school. If symptoms have not resolved for at least 24 hours, a test is recommended (not required). The test should be completed no later than 48 hours after symptoms began. The student may return to school when they are symptom free for 24 hours.

If you have tested positive for COVID-19 by PCR or Rapid test within the last 90 days, follow up with your healthcare provider, instead of testing.

MANAGING INSTANCES OF COVID EXPOSURE

CONFIRMED EXPOSURE OR POTENTIAL EXPOSURE:

To effectively ensure the availability of in-person learning, SCCPSS is now utilizing a tiered approach for managing the potential spread of the virus.

This includes a cluster-based quarantine process for student/staff groups (such as a classroom). As health, safety, and operational conditions warrant, individualized contact tracing protocols may resume at any time.

CLUSTER-BASED EXPOSURES:

PreK-12 Grades: Identified Cluster for Quarantine

In schools that have 4 or more positive school-based cases within an identified group (a classroom or office or bus for example) within 14 days, the school shall immediately place the entire group on a 5-day quarantine regardless of vaccination status. Parents/guardians will receive notification from your child's school providing instructions.

Quarantined students should refer to *itsLearning* for assignments and remote work. Teachers will provide instructions for teaching and learning while on quarantine.

Members of the group may return to school or work on day 6, if symptom free. Asymptomatic students or staff who have tested positive by PCR or Rapid test within the last 90 days are exempt from quarantine.

****Lack of staff availability due to the impact of COVID-19 may influence return dates.**

Athletics: Due to the nature of athletic interactions and team play, athletic teams will continue to identify and quarantine close contacts when notified of a positive case within the team or among athletic staff. Close contacts should be advised to follow DPH guidance. In any athletic related group (team, bus, cheerleaders) when there are 2 positive school-based cases within 14 days, the athletic department should report the situation to the District Athletic Director. Asymptomatic students or staff who have tested positive by PCR or Rapid test within the last 90 days are exempt from quarantine.

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY BASED EXPOSURES (NON-CLUSTER):

Students or Staff Requirements when notified of Potential Exposure to COVID-19
(Regardless of Vaccination Status)

SCCPSS School-based exposures: If you were notified by your school of a potential exposure, students who remain asymptomatic after COVID-19 notification do not need to quarantine. Students and staff should monitor for symptoms for 10 days (cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle or body aches, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, headache, fatigue, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea.) If symptoms develop, follow the guidance above for *Students with Symptoms of COVID-19 With Exposure*.

Per Department of Health (DPH) for Community-based exposures:

Community-based exposures are exposures that take place outside of the school. If you have a community-based exposure, you should follow DPH quarantine guidelines. Depending on conditions related to your specific situation, you may be required to stay home from work or school.

As stated in the Georgia DPH Quarantine Guidance: If you are required to stay home from school or work, the quarantined person shall take his or her temperature twice per day and monitor any symptoms of respiratory illness. If at any time the quarantined person experiences the following symptoms of COVID-19, including cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever (a measured temperature over 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or a feeling of feverishness), chills, muscle pain or body aches, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, headache, fatigue, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea the quarantined person shall be considered a person with suspected COVID-19 and shall follow the requirements for isolation. Persons who are fully vaccinated (see DPH definition of fully vaccinated) for COVID-19, and who remain asymptomatic after COVID-19 exposure, do not need to quarantine following COVID-19 exposure.

Examples of Community-based Exposures may include but are not limited to:

- Household Exposures
- Carpool Exposures
- Family Gathering Exposures
- Travel Exposures
- Social Gathering Exposures

TIERED RESPONSE: SCHOOL NOTIFICATION**PreK-8 Grades:**

When a singular (1) positive case within a group is identified, schools will notify any potentially exposed staff and student(s) (entire class, bus, office) with the Notification of Potential Exposure Letter. Parents will be reminded about the importance of monitoring their child for symptoms for 10 days. Students notified of a potential exposure who remain asymptomatic do not need to quarantine. If symptoms develop, follow the guidance above for Students with Symptoms of COVID-19 With Exposure.

PreK-8 and 9-12 Grades:

When 2 or more positive cases are identified in a group within 14 days, schools will notify any potentially exposed staff and students (entire class, bus, office) with the Notification of Potential Exposure Letter. Parents will be reminded about the importance of monitoring their child for symptoms for 10 days. Students notified of a potential exposure who remain asymptomatic do not need to quarantine. If symptoms develop, follow the guidance above for Students with Symptoms of COVID-19 With Exposure.

PreK-8 and 9-12 Grades:

When 3 positive cases are identified in a group within 14 days, schools will assess the circumstances for a possible "cluster". Analysis may result in the need to initiate some level of contact tracing which could result in some isolated quarantines.

CONFIRMED EXPOSURE OR POTENTIAL EXPOSURE:

1st Positive (One): Minimal Exposure	2nd Positive (Two): Increased Exposure "within 14 days"	3rd Positive (Three): Indicates potential for substantial spread "within 14 days"	4th Positive (Four): Indicates Substantial spread "within 14 days"
<p>Pre-K to 8 Notification letter issued to class/group</p> <p>9-12 No Notification letter required</p>	<p>Pre-K to 8 and 9-12 Notification letter issued to class/group</p>	<p>Pre-k to 8 and 9-12 Cluster assessment initiated to review circumstances and determine interconnections among students and staff. (Analysis may result in the need to initiate some level of contact tracing which could result in some isolated quarantines.)</p>	<p>Pre-k to 8 and 9-12 Entire class/group is quarantined (moves to virtual) and cluster notification letter is issued.</p>

Absences:

Student absences related to positive COVID-19 tests or quarantine will be excused for up to 6-10 days. The student/staff questionnaire for reporting the required COVID-19 information must be completed. The questionnaire can be found on your school's website.



According to the CDC, based on studies from the previous school year, we know that using multiple prevention strategies can keep children, teachers, and staff safe and keep schools open.

MASKS AND/OR FACE COVERINGS ARE OPTIONAL:

Effective March 1st the District will move to a mask optional approach for our health and safety protocols regarding COVID-19. The CDC has updated its guidance and will no longer recommend universal indoor mask wearing in K-12 and early education settings based on low or moderate levels of COVID-19 in the community.

This guidance also extends to the school bus. Any student who is routed for transportation services will no longer be required to wear a mask. Masks will be [optional](#) on the school bus as well.

SCCPSS remains committed to listening to health professionals and utilizing a thoughtful approach for the implementation of our safety protocols to include the use of layered mitigation strategies and making appropriate adjustments to account for the changing conditions of the pandemic. While masks are optional, the District encourages all who choose to wear a mask, to do so while in the

school setting or on the bus. We recognize this is a personal choice and ask that everyone demonstrate respect and support for others regardless of one's personal perspective on the matter.

We also ask that you continue to wash your hands frequently, maintain appropriate distance where possible, disinfect high touch surfaces, and avoid large gatherings that could be potential super-spreader events. Staff and students should stay home when sick and monitor for symptoms of Covid-19. Contact your school nurse with questions and to seek guidance as to when a sick child should return to school. Taking these simple precautions is the best way for us to continue in-person learning.

Staff will continue to monitor positivity rates for Covid-19 and make appropriate adjustments in the spirit of safety to ensure our schools remain open and operational. The District will respond to positive COVID cases and may implement quarantine protocols when necessary.

*****Please remember, those returning from isolation or quarantine will be required to wear a well-fitting mask per public health guidelines.***

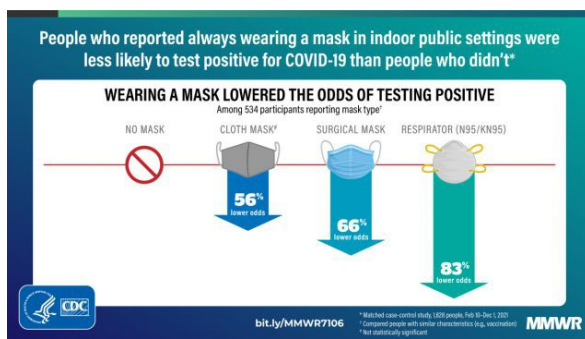
*****In the nursing clinics, anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 or other infectious respiratory illness will be required to wear a mask.***

MASK/FACE COVERING EXCEPTIONS:

The District is authorized to issue mask-wearing requirements from time to time for public health reasons. The scope and application of the mask requirement can be limited or expanded by the District.

A student may be considered for an exemption if a treating physician provides written documentation stating the medical reason a student cannot wear a mask. Students with disabilities may be exempted in accordance with accommodations established through individualized educational plans (IEPs and 504). Such exemptions should generally be made through IEP and 504 team meetings. Disability-based exemptions may be implemented prior to conducting an IEP or 504 meeting with the special approval of the District's 504 Coordinator.

As a health and safety matter, SCCPSS COVID-19 guidelines are provided based on the impact of COVID-19 in our schools. These guidelines may be changed at any time.



To protect yourself and others from COVID-19, CDC continues to recommend that you wear the most protective mask you can, that fits well, and that you will wear consistently.

SELF MONITORING:

Continue to self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19, especially if you have been around someone who is sick. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, it is recommended that you get tested, stay home, and stay away from others. SCCPSS has deployed temperature kiosks and hand-held thermometers

at all schools. Any student or staff member who seeks a temperature check while at school may utilize one of these devices.

Students should not be sent to school if anyone in the house is ill or waiting on COVID test results.

If you are experiencing any two of the following symptoms listed below that you would not typically experience, alert your classroom teacher, and stay home!

At least two of the following symptoms

- Fever (**subjective or measured** (100.4° or 99.4° with an SCCPSS approved device))
- Feeling feverish (chills, sweating)
- Rigors (a sudden feeling of cold with shivering accompanied by a rise in temperature)
- Myalgia (Muscle pain)
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Fatigue
- Congestion or runny nose

OR

Any one of the following symptoms:

- New Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing
- New olfactory (loss of smell) disorder
- New taste (loss of taste) disorder



As health conditions permit, students who miss school are encouraged to stay engaged with classroom teachers so they may stay on pace with class assignments. Simply log on through the **itsLearning portal**.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING:



When it is not possible to maintain physical distance, such as when schools cannot fully re-open while maintaining distances due to capacity limitations, it is especially important to implement multiple prevention strategies. CDC recommendations for physical distancing will be followed to include minimum spacing of 3-foot physical distance between individuals where feasible. Staying apart by at least 3 feet or more is strongly encouraged. SCCPSS will implement multiple mitigation strategies for the safety of students and staff.

VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS:

As we continue to manage mitigation strategies for CTI, only those with business necessary for the operation of the school shall be allowed entry. This includes vendors who may be dropping off school materials, parents seeking to meet with school personnel for education related matters, or visitors approved based on a clear programmatic connection to school activities. School Administrators shall work to ensure general community engagement is done in the safest manner possible including prioritizing outdoor activities and virtual options.

Likewise, volunteers are not permitted on campus until further notice. For questions about volunteer status or virtual opportunities, see our [Beacon Volunteer Page](#).

SCREENING/ENTRY POINTS (Visitors):

Any visitor entering an SCCPSS facility must follow sign in protocols and will be subject to a temperature screen and COVID-19 symptom questions. Masks/Face Coverings are required.

No person with a temperature of 99.4° or above (based on SCCPSS adopted kiosk thermal and non-touch handheld thermometers) will be allowed entry. School facilities are available by appointment only for approved visitors.

SCHOOL ENTRY POINTS

During school hours, the main entry point of the school shall be used for all visitors. No entry through side or rear doors is permitted. Perimeter doors will remain closed. After hours/athletic events shall include directions for entry and screening protocols.

SPECIAL EVENTS/LARGE GROUPS AND FACILITY USE:

Schools will work to limit large group gatherings. SCCPSS will take precautions to avoid large gatherings and/or stagger events using virtual and outdoor options when possible.

All events will seek to enforce the 3-foot physical distance minimum where feasible. Mask/face coverings are required. *According to the CDC, you are less likely to get or spread COVID-19 during outdoor activities.*

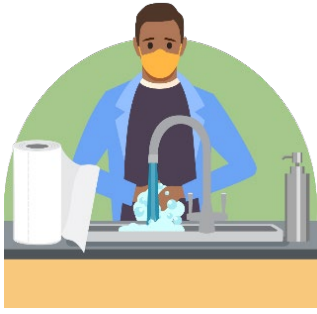
FACILITY USE REQUESTS: SCCPSS Facility Use Requests will be approved on a limited basis. A review of public health conditions will be conducted regularly, and requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis. No requests will be considered unless received using the proper online process. Simply visit sccpss.com, click the **District tab**, navigate to [Operations](#) and find the **Facility Rental Request** link.

HYGINENE AND SANITATION PROTOCOLS:

Custodial and school staff have been trained for effective cleaning protocols, and schools have been supplied with cleaning materials to add an additional layer of mitigation. Staff and students should frequently wash and/or sanitize their hands. Frequently touched surfaces must be disinfected regularly.



- Hand sanitizer provided in all classrooms, common areas, and school buses
- Daily cleaning of high-touch surfaces in school buildings & Disinfectant Foggers supplied to every school
- School buses will be disinfected after use
- Ventilation Systems will be cleaned regularly
- Water Fountains will not be operational. Parents are encouraged to send their child to school with a refillable water bottle



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds - especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, sneezing, or touching your face. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth, and wash your hands after touching your face.

MITIGATION PRACTICES AND CLEANING

Protecting our students, teachers, and staff from infection is critical to ensure instruction continues without interruption. Schools will continue to use masking, physical distancing when possible, and will encourage proper hygiene practices, such as washing hands regularly and using hand sanitizer. Students and staff should self-monitor daily for COVID-19 symptoms. SCCPSS will continue to invest in increased cleaning and sanitizing applications at all school locations and on buses. These measures have made an improvement in overall student and staff health.

Please remember, the guidance and protocols that we have outlined in this document are subject to change. The pandemic recommendations constantly evolve and the CDC/DPH information changes frequently. SCCPSS will provide updates to the document as guidance becomes available and is appropriate for our community. SCCPSS appreciates your support and understanding in following mitigation practices to minimize the transmission of the virus and ensure school remains open 5-days a week for in-person instruction.