



## Infectious Disease Control Plan: COVID-19 Designed for Summer School 2021 and the 2021-2022 School Year Last updated May 20, 2021

The spreading of respiratory illnesses including COVID-19 could necessitate the closing of schools to help break the spread of disease. The nature of the disease will be important to a decision that schools be closed and the following questions should be considered:

1. Can someone spread the disease without showing symptoms?
2. What are the ways in which the disease can be transmitted to/between persons?
3. What is the incubation period for the disease?
4. Is there a vaccine available for the disease?
5. Are the numbers of students and staff getting sick increasing day-to-day?

In addition, the local health authority or the Director of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) (or their designated representative) are empowered to close schools in order to protect the public health (19CSR 20-20.050). If the-Director of DHSS determines that the local health authority does not take adequate control measures to protect public health, including the closure of schools, the Director may do so [19CSR 20-20.040 (2) (J) and (3) (C)].

The school leadership should consult with the local health officials to answer the above questions before advising their board on the decision to close, or subsequently reopen schools. School leadership should also seek guidance from the local health authority of other recommended measures leading up to the decision to close. Measures will include (but not be limited to) increased hygiene and social distancing.

In addition to daily general cleaning for classrooms, custodial staff should immediately institute the additional sanitation measures outlined in the *City of St. Louis Public Schools Infectious Disease Control Administrative Guidelines and Procedures* including:

1. Wipe down all hard surfaces with a disinfectant solution and disposable towels. This includes, but may not be limited to: desktops, tabletops, and chairs.
2. Mist the room with a disinfectant spray as a final step before leaving the room.
3. Dispose of all towels used to disinfect a room. Disposable towels will not be used to disinfect more than one room.

Custodians are to ensure there are tissues available in all instructional areas. Teachers will instruct students on the use and disposal of tissues when sneezing or coughing.



Custodians are to make sure soap is available in all restrooms. Teachers will supervise students in frequent and thorough hand washing and hand drying.

Advise all students and staff to be particularly mindful of eating well, drinking plenty of liquids, and getting adequate sleep.

Part of the problem associated with developing immunity to a new strain of virus is that the markings by which the immune system recognizes the virus (called antigens) are not yet recognizable. Just as the virus is mutating, the antigens associated with the virus are changing (a process referred to as antigen drift). After a new strain of influenza has been acquired, specialized white cells (called 'memory T cells') and antibodies that bind to the antigen remain in the body. If an invader carrying the same antigen attacks again, the immune system responds far more quickly than the first time, but when antigen drift occurs, the virus can gain a foothold even in people whose immune system has loaded itself with antibodies that bind to the older shapes. (p. 109, *The Great Influenza: The Epic Story of the Deadliest Plague in History*, by John M. Barry, 2005).

It is because of the continued mutation of the influenza virus and the antigen drift that pandemic influenza strikes in waves. The same areas that experienced the influenza several weeks to several months earlier will experience it again in the new form. Fortunately, this succession of mutations tends to result in less virulent strains, but not always. People who had gotten sick in a previous wave may have a fair amount of immunity to another attack, but it may have mutated enough, its antigens drifted enough, to rekindle the epidemic. The 1918 influenza pandemic resulted in wave after wave, finally fading away after January 1922 (Barry, p. 391).



## Infection Control Guidelines and Procedures

### Coronavirus (COVID -19)

Locally, the St. Louis City Health Department has been working closely with school organizations and other large organizations to guide and advise. There is no vaccine for COVID 19 at this time. The virus is being transmitted from person-to-person and can be transmitted from an individual who is non-symptomatic.

Health experts advise that the best course of action is to practice good handwashing skills; avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth; practice distancing yourselves from others and avoid large groups. The first two points are certainly the easiest to control.

The St. Louis Language Immersion School is engaged in efforts to provide for and promote personal hygiene practices among students and teachers. We have secured supply lines and additional orders of soap and hand sanitizer. Adjustments are being made to ensure that students have more personal space in classrooms and in cafeterias. In addition, we are enlisting parents in the effort to promote good handwashing at home and to keep lines of communication open with their child's school.

### Prevention

There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. However, as a reminder, the CDC (Center for Disease Control) always recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, including:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. Viruses can remain on frequently touched objects such as doorknobs and cell phones for quite some time. If you touch a contaminated surface and then touch your face, you can transfer the germs, which can lead to illness.
- Stay home if you are sick, especially if you have a fever.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. Block the spread of germs by using a tissue or the inside of your elbow. Do not use your bare hands.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

### Testing

- SLLIS employees should consult with Nurse Michele Voss when determining whether to be tested for COVID-19.
- Staff members may not report to the building while awaiting test results.
  - Once received, employees should share a copy of test results with Nurse Michele Voss ([nurse@sllis.org](mailto:nurse@sllis.org)) and Talent Director Anthony Graham ([anthony.graham@sllis.org](mailto:anthony.graham@sllis.org)).



- SLLIS may require that employees receive additional COVID testing periodically.

## Travel

SLLIS employees must plan ahead when traveling and be certain of quarantine requirements so it does not interfere with attendance at work.

## Face Coverings

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness. Face coverings which cover both the nose and mouth are one of our best tools to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses spread by respiratory transmission. The following are requirements related to face coverings at SLLIS:

- Face coverings are required when entering the SLLIS facility.
- Face coverings must cover both the nose and mouth completely.
- Face coverings must be worn when two individuals are working in the same space.
- Best efforts should be made to allow six feet of distance between persons working in the same space - even when they are wearing face coverings.
- There is no need for individuals to wear a face covering when working on their own in their own space.
- Individuals must wear face coverings over their mouth and nose in common areas such as hallways and restrooms.
- An individual's face covering must cover their mouth and nose when another person enters their work space.

## Social Distancing

- All individuals in the SLLIS building will be required to maintain six feet of distance between themselves and others
- When individuals gather in an indoor space, each individual must have a face covering over their mouth and nose. Individuals must maintain six feet of distance at all times.

## Hand washing

Hand washing is another effective measure shown to prevent the spread of infection. Hand washing procedures should be followed even if gloves have been worn. If an emergency situation precludes proper hand washing, the hands should be washed as soon as possible after exposure.

Any skin surface that comes into contact with blood or other body fluids should be cleansed using the same procedures used for hands. Hands should be washed:

- Before and after touching open wounds (even if gloves are worn).



- Before eating
- After any direct exposure to blood or other body fluids.
- After removing gloves
- After handling soiled or contaminated items and equipment.
- After using the toilet

The correct method used for hand cleaning and decontamination is with soap and water:

- Wet hands.
- Lather hands with either bar soap or liquid soap.
- Rub repeatedly for at least 20 seconds
- Rinse.
- Turn faucets off using a dry paper towel.
- Dry hands properly and dispose of used paper towel in plastic bag.

In areas where running water is not readily available:

- Remove obvious soil with a wet towelette
- Use waterless foams or rinses to clean skin.

## **Staff Reporting of Health Status**

All SLLIS staff members who report to campus will be required to perform daily health screenings.

- These screenings will include information related to symptoms of COVID-19 (see below).
- Staff members will be subject to daily temperature checks upon arrival.
- Each day, SLLIS staff members will certify that:
  - They have not been in contact with any individual with a known case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
  - They are not currently waiting for results from a COVID-19 test.

Should a staff member or individual in a staff member's household test positive for COVID-19, the staff member should notify Talent Director Anthony Graham immediately.

## **Common Symptoms of COVID-19**

When screening staff members or students for COVID-19, the SLLIS Nurse will utilize the CDC's list of symptoms. This list currently includes the following:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches



- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

## Temperature Checks

SLLIS will check each student's temperature daily upon arrival. SLLIS will maintain records of daily temperature checks.

Should a student or individual in a student's household test positive for COVID-19, the family should notify Nurse Michelle Voss immediately ([nurse@sllis.org](mailto:nurse@sllis.org); 314-533-0975 x 2911).

## Cleaning Protocols

- SLLIS will provide all classrooms with all necessary supplies, including sanitizing wipes, hand sanitizer, and face coverings.
- Custodial attention will be increased in the following areas:
  - Classrooms
  - Restrooms
  - All surfaces and items that have frequent hand contact (like doorknobs, desks, faucets, handrails and cell phones) are being managed, particularly areas that are visibly soiled.
- Custodial and cafeteria staff have access to cleaning agents that all staff can use in between regular cleanings as needed.

## School Operations

SLLIS will be strictly following these and other safety procedures across all areas of the school building:

- Limiting visitors to essential personnel only.
- Documentation of all persons on campus, including but not limited to vendors, parents, and faculty.
- Designating a quarantine space.
- Designating an outdoor waiting area for parent pick-up.
- Social distancing in all indoor areas.
- Scheduled transition times to prevent close contact of multiple groups of students.
- Gym class will be held in the auditorium, and six feet of social distancing will be maintained between all students.

In classrooms, the following procedures will be followed:

- Cohorting of students.



- 6 feet social distancing between students.
- Safely arranging classroom furniture for teacher and student safety.
- Barriers or dividers on tables.
- Designated, individual supplies rather than community supplies.

The following is a summary of updated instructional operations and how SLLIS will address these areas.

## Arrival

- All persons entering the building will be checked for fever upon arrival and have regular health screenings.
- Social distancing will be utilized at all points of entry.

## Breakfast and Lunch

- Breakfast will be grab-and-go, with students eating breakfast in their classrooms.
- Lunch periods will be staggered, and alternative locations may be used for lunch to ensure that social distancing can occur during lunch periods.

## Recess

- Recess activities must be limited to choices that permit social distancing.
- Recess times will be staggered to allow social distancing.
- Students will be taught how to use the playground in a safe way and practice social distancing. Designated areas will be assigned in the outdoor play area to allow for distancing between student cohorts.

## Bus Procedures

- When possible, seats will be assigned seats by cohort so that the same students sit together each day.
- All students must wear a face covering while riding the bus. These coverings will be provided by SLLIS.
- When feasible, SLLIS encourages students to use social distancing at bus stops.

## Dismissal

- Dismissal will be staggered to limit numbers of students in common areas.
- A designated outdoor space will be provided for parents waiting to pick up their child.
- Students will have designated areas to wait to allow for social distancing.
- All staff will be assigned to a specific role at the end of the day to supervise dismissal.

## Restrooms

- The number of students in each restroom will be limited.
- Spaces will be marked outside restrooms to ensure students are adhering to social distancing.



## Water fountains

- Water fountains will be closed.
- Students will be encouraged to bring water bottles to school each day and use the water bottle fillers on the fountains.

## Large Gatherings

- SLLIS will hold large student gatherings only for exceptional circumstances. Cohorting will be upheld to the greatest extent possible.
- When large numbers of adults must gather, SLLIS will utilize masking and social distancing at all times. Staff will arrange themselves in assigned seats.

## Health Room Procedures

SLLIS will designate an enclosed area for quarantine. The SLLIS Nurse will work in the Health Room (Nurse's Office) and will adhere to the following procedures.

- Once a person has been referred to the nurse as having been exposed to COVID-19:
  - Release all students in Nursing Office before this student comes down if notified ahead of time
  - Determine / assess symptoms
  - Determine / assess risk
- If realistic risk for COVID-19:
  - **Quarantine all persons currently in Nurses Office, including Nurse**
  - Sanitize hands of person assessing for COVID 19
  - Wash hands of person assessing for COVID 19
  - Put on Mask on person assessing for COVID 19
  - Have the person being assessed sit in and remain in the designated seat in "quarantine" room until everything can be put into place.
  - Contact Administration with names and risk assessment to contact parents / next of kin.
  - Send out message to staff: "no more students to nurse until further notice"
  - Repeat above hygiene steps with persons that were already in the Nurse's Office when the person with risk came into the office.
  - Other students / staff will remain in the outer area of the nurses office.
- Post sign on Nurse Office door that says "CLOSED".
- At all times, the Nurse will follow CDC Infection Control guidelines for COVID-19 quarantine, contact, droplet and airborne precaution to be used.
- Appropriate CDC PPE guidelines for above precautions must be maintained.
  - CDC PPE Donning and Removal guidelines should be followed.
- Post signs on "quarantine" room door in English and Spanish that say:
  - Contact Precaution





- Droplet Precaution
- Airborne Precaution
- Retrieve necessary Medical Equipment and PPE for assessment.
  - Place PPE on student desk / table outside “quarantine” room door
  - Get Nursing Bag with COVID-19 designated medical supplies.
  - Place Nurse Emergency Medical Supply Bag Close to outside of “quarantine” room door
  - In addition gather:
    - Pulse oximeter
    - Flash light
    - Stethoscope
    - Hand sanitizer
    - CDC research and SLLIS COVID19 policy binder
    - Laptop
    - Surge Protector from back room countertop
    - One blanket and place all others outside “quarantine” room
- Inside Quarantine room will be set up as follows:
  - Desk - Nurse Station
  - Two adults chairs put together for PPE at doorway
  - White rectangular table for person being assessed
  - Square table - neutral area
  - Move around furniture as needed for comfort, ease of assessment and wait as needed.

## Communication

SLLIS understands the importance of clear, timely communication. In case of an emergency, SLLIS families will be notified via:

- Phone call and text
- Email
- Push notification on SLLIS app
- Facebook, Twitter, and LiveFeed posts

SLLIS staff will be notified of an emergency via:

- Email
- Remind message
- Push notification on SLLIS app
- Facebook, Twitter, and LiveFeed posts when appropriate
- SLLIS contractors and partners will be notified via:
  - Text message
  - Email



SLLIS will monitor the situation closely and provide ongoing updates to the school community.

SLLIS will ensure that students, staff, parents, community and media receive information, tips and updates on district procedures (including dismissal of classes or school) in accordance with health guidelines. Information sources include, among others, the St. Louis City Health Department and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the World Health Organization. We also work with other public school organizations to share best practices.

The City of St. Louis Department of Health Communicable Disease Bureau can be reached at (314) 657-1499. SLLIS will report all active cases or quarantine due to contact with a known case of COVID-19 to the St. Louis DoH.

The SLLIS website, [www.sllis.org](http://www.sllis.org), will be used when community health concerns are amplified. Information will be highlighted on the website and through social media, as updates are made available.

The Superintendent is the designated individual to issue information and updates on school dismissals to staff, parents and community (media).

## **Health Emergency Procedures**

- SLLIS will verify that staff and parent emergency contact lists are up-to-date.
- The school principal and school nurse will inform staff to observe for signs and symptoms of flu.
- The school nurse implements protocols for managing students who fall ill at school and track and report information to the City of St. Louis Department of Health.
- The school nurse will report daily to the school leader the percentage of enrolled students who are absent. Same report required for staff absences.
- School nurse will keep a record of students and staff who leave school due to illness. (As standard protocol, nursing staff regularly file reports with the City of St. Louis Department of Health.)
- The school has identified an area to temporarily hold students suspected of having influenza and/or a respiratory illness until parents arrive. This same space or another, will be used in the event large numbers of students or staff become ill.
- Counselor/Social Worker will develop specific strategies and share calming techniques with students, staff, and parents coping with fear and anxiety about current health events.

## **School Closure**

- The Superintendent will work closely with the City of St. Louis Department of Health in deciding on a school closure(s) due to a health threat. Such decisions will vary depending upon the number of absences, severity of cases and risk factors.



- In Missouri, local public health agencies (LPHA's) or, the Department of Health and Senior Services have the authority to close and/or open schools for public health reasons. In the event of a serious health situation, schools may be closed and/or opened **only** by order of the director of Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) designee. **(See19 CSR 20-20.050 (3).)**
- Due to the need for consistency throughout the state, school closures and/or openings to protect the public health and safety may be directed at the state level.
- In the face of a health crisis, or heavy absenteeism, the Superintendent has the authority to cancel ALL activities scheduled on school property including those of outside groups.
- In most instances, closed schools can be reopened by the school leader. However, in cases where schools were closed by DHSS or the City of St. Louis Department of Health, only the director of DHSS, his/her designee, or the City of St. Louis Department of Health may authorize the reopening of schools. Schools will be reopened only when the situation that caused the schools to be closed has sufficiently abated.

## Academics

In the event a school is temporarily closed due to a health emergency, teachers will use Google Classroom to communicate class assignments to students.