



SAND SPRINGS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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August 3, 2021

Dear Sandite Families,

Summer has flown by, and the 2021-2022 school year is fast approaching. In preparation for the upcoming year, **we have updated our Ready Together Sandites plan** (previously referred to as Health Guidance document), which can be viewed [here](#). These updates were made after consulting with our school nursing staff, local and state health officials as well as guidance from the CDC.

Some particular points that might be of interest include the following:

- In accordance with Oklahoma Senate Bill 658, **masks will be optional** for students and employees.
 - In the event of a State of Emergency declaration by the governor, SSPS will consult the Tulsa County Health Department on any changes.
- **If a student is sick or has tested positive for COVID-19**, parents should keep the student at home and notify their school.
- Isolation is required for employees and students who have tested positive for COVID-19. People who are in isolation should stay home until it's safe for them to be around others.
 - If an employee/student has tested positive for COVID-19 and has symptoms, they can discontinue home isolation and return to work/school under the following conditions:
 - At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared **and**
 - At least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication **and**
 - Symptoms have improved
 - If an employee/student has tested positive for COVID-19 and is **asymptomatic**:
 - Employee/student may return to work/school 10 days from date of positive test
- According to the CDC, quarantine is recommended for anyone who has been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19, unless that person has been fully vaccinated.

- Likewise, according to the CDC, if you are fully vaccinated, you do not need to quarantine after contact with someone who had COVID-19 unless you have symptoms.
 - While we will not ask for verification of vaccination nor impose quarantines, we would ask that parents make responsible decisions in an effort to keep our children and staff safe.
- Parents are encouraged to transport their children to school if possible. Face masks will be offered to students riding the bus.
- **Physical distancing is promoted whenever possible**, and contact tracing will continue in the classroom setting.
- We will continue to notify parents/guardians if their student is deemed to have been in close contact with a positive COVID-19 case.
- SSPS will continue its **rigorous cleaning procedures**, including thorough disinfecting and increased ventilation whenever possible.
- SSPS will continue to support all students with an educational program that best fits their needs. Programs could include **traditional learning, distance learning, virtual learning, or blended learning**. Please refer to our full *Ready Together Sandites* guidelines to learn more about these options.

State and Local Health Agencies recommend anyone aged 12 and up receive the COVID-19 vaccine if they are able and haven't already. Receiving the vaccine is the best way an individual can protect their community, and I am grateful to have received my vaccine in March. Learn more and make your appointment through the [Oklahoma Department of Health](#).

If you have any questions about our guidelines, please contact your student's school.

I am honored to serve a community that always exemplifies compassion and selflessness. Thank you for supporting our district, and I look forward to another fantastic year at Sand Springs Public Schools. GO SANDITES!

Sincerely,

Sherry Durkee
Superintendent