



## JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT

**from St. Helena Parish School District and  
Southeast Community Health Systems**



We would like to thank everyone for their support and understanding as we, as a nation and community, continue to respond to COVID-19 and the latest DELTA variant. We are very proud of the way our employees handled the demands we were faced with to protect everyone as we continued to educate, feed, and provide medical services to our students since the onset of this pandemic in March 2020.

As you know, there are more concerns and questions related to the new DELTA variant and how we plan to mitigate the spread during this new school year. Our first priority has always been the safety of our students and our employees. Be assured, the medical experts at Southeast Community Health Systems have access to COVID-19 tests and vaccines that are readily available to everyone in our school community.

The School District wishes to remain open as normal with enhanced safety and cleaning procedures because it is the best educational option for students. For this to happen, it is critical that all eligible individuals (12 and older) get vaccinated. **It is the only way to overcome the surge.** However, it will remain flexible during these rapidly-changing times to continue educating students if and when circumstances change. With that said, we will implement the following protocols for next week, August 16 – 20, 2021.

Day	Event	Links to Resources
<b>Monday and Tuesday</b>	<b>Hold-harmless Days</b> – Families will have the option to keep their non-vaccinated student(s) at home without being penalized. Parents can use these two days to fill out the <b>SCHS Consent Form</b> so their student(s) can access the COVID-19 test and vaccine. They can also visit their family doctor to get tested or vaccinated; and monitor symptoms if they suspect their student(s) was exposed to COVID-19.	<a href="#">Southeast Community Health Systems Parental Consent Form for vaccine</a>
<b>Wednesday</b>	Mass Testing – Southeast Community Health Systems’ medical staff will be available to administer COVID-19 tests to all students. For students >12 years of age, if receiving a negative test and vaccine consent on file, receive first vaccine dose.	<a href="#">Southeast Community Health Systems Parental Consent Form for COVID-19 Test</a>
<b>Thursday</b>	Mass Testing – Southeast Community Health Systems will continue to administer COVID-19 tests to all students. For students >12 years of age, if receiving a negative test and vaccine consent on file, receive first vaccine dose.	<a href="#">CDC Guidelines</a>
<b>Friday</b>	The number of COVID-19 cases will be assessed by medical experts to determine next steps for the week of August 23 -27, 2021.	

The following actions will be triggered if reported COVID-19 cases reach certain thresholds:

Threshold of COVID-19 Cases	Phase	Action
<b>3% – &lt;5%</b>	1	100% Face-to-Face, students with a verified letter from their doctor stating specific reasons why they must remain home will be accepted.
<b>5% – &lt;10%</b>	2	“Black and Gold” Blended Model – combination of face-to-face and eLearning instruction.
<b>&gt;10%</b>	3	100% eLearning Model – all students will utilize Microsoft Teams to access their classes. Parents will be responsible for providing WIFI access.

Our priority is to keep everyone safe while not making life more difficult for our parents. There is no way to please everyone as we make these very difficult decisions. We fully understand your varied concerns about health and safety, virtual learning, the importance of face-to-face instruction, parents needing to work, the economy, and all other consequences **of not being in school.**

We encourage parents to frequently visit the school district’s website and social media platforms for up-to-date, accurate information. Thank you for your continued support as we work to do what is best for all students and employees during these unprecedented times.