



**2021 Success Plan**  
**Shelby Eastern Schools**  
 Originally Approved on 7/14/21  
 Updated September 8th, 2021

**Reflection on 2020**

Shelby Eastern Schools reopened in August of 2020 with the mindset that every day open is another opportunity for students to learn in their best learning environment. More than 95% of our students attended in-person for part or all of the school year. Shelby Eastern Schools never closed due to COVID and was able to operate in-person for the entire school year. 2020 was a challenging year with additional sanitization for staff, health screenings, masks, quarantine periods, absenteeism, and many other challenges, but the resilience of students and staff was on full display.

**2020 By the Numbers**

As we plan for a successful 2021 school year it's important to rely heavily on the data. Local, state and national level data help to understand the risk associated with in-person learning during COVID. The data we tracked last year provides us with details about what the potential risks are for contracting COVID as well as gives us an idea of what we can expect this coming school year.

<b>SES Data related to COVID</b>	Elementary (K-5) Students	Secondary (6-12) Students	Total Students
# of Positive Tests	19	48	67
% of Student Population	3.3%	8%	5.9%
Hospitalizations due to COVID	0	1	1

## Shelby County COVID Data

The image below shows the positive COVID cases in Shelby County dating back to March of 2020. The peak for positive cases per day was near sixty (60) in late November of 2020. As of June 22nd, 2021 we are averaging a little over one (1) case per day (7 day rolling average).

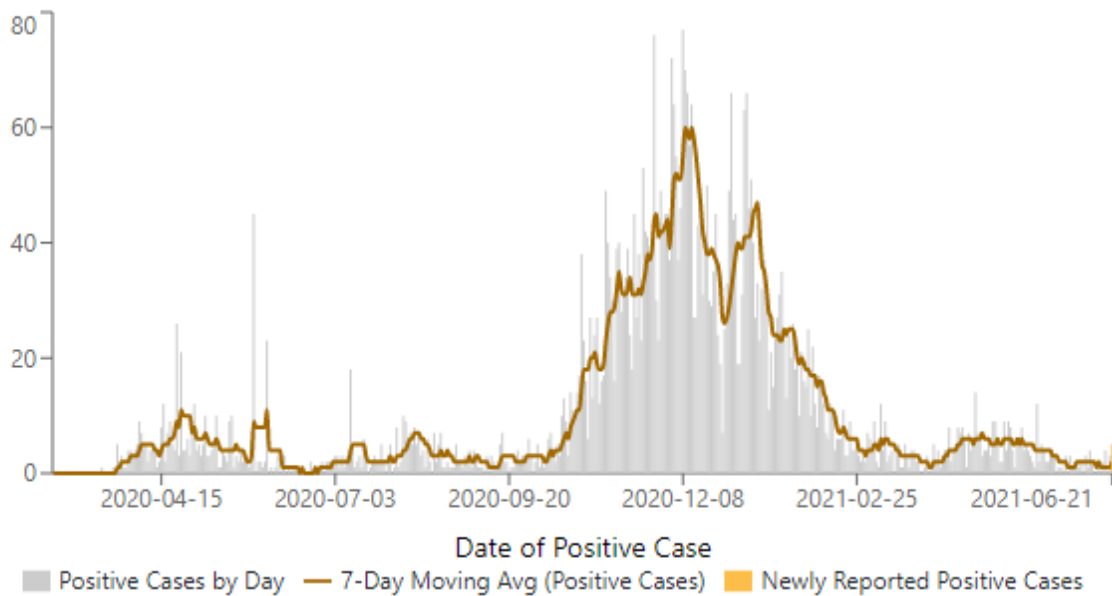
## Positive Cases

### Shelby County Positive Cases by Day



All

Newly Reported



## State COVID Data

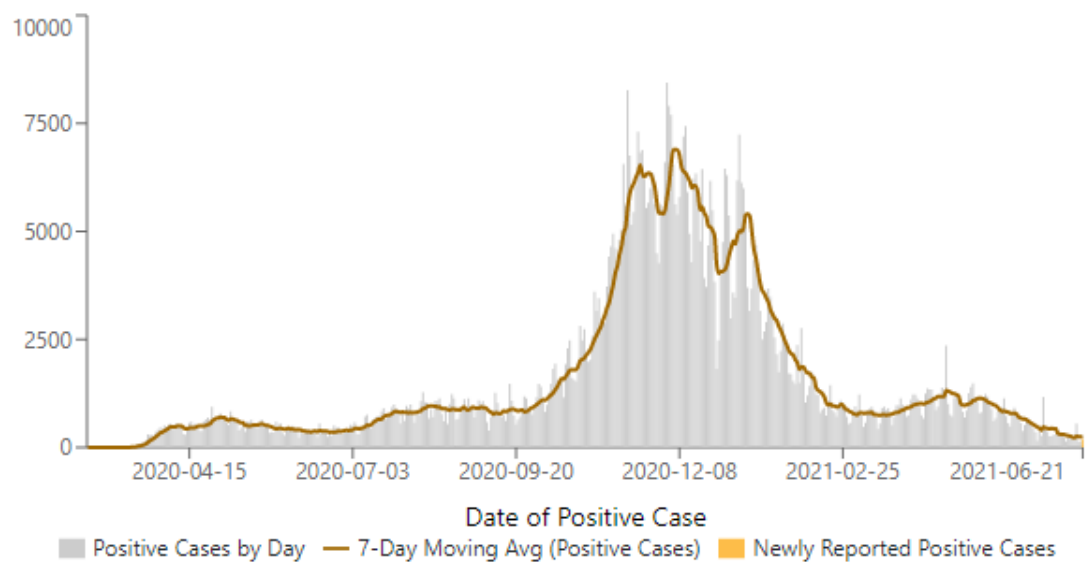
The image below shows the positive cases for our state as a whole. As of June 22nd, 2021 as a state we are averaging 130 cases (7 day rolling average).

## Positive Cases

### Statewide Positive Cases by Day i

All

Newly Reported



## Vaccination Factor

As we currently prepare this document, roughly 40% of the population in Indiana has been vaccinated. When school reopens in August, all faculty and staff as well as all students over the age of 12 will have had the opportunity to be vaccinated. SES does not plan to require vaccinations or inquire with students or staff about their vaccination status. However, we also recognize the county health department and CDC guidance that eliminates quarantine periods for individuals who have been identified as close

contacts in the event they have been fully vaccinated. It will be the responsibility of the parent to divulge this information in the event their child is subject to a close contact quarantine situation at any time during the school year.

### **Executive Summary**

In reviewing the data, having discussions with stakeholders, and working to determine the best path forward for SES students, parents, and staff; our committee's plan is reflective of what we consider to be the least restrictive mitigation strategies to be put in place for this fall. Our desire is to allow students to learn free of anything that could possibly hinder their learning experience and re-engage in collaboration with their teachers and peers. While the mitigation strategies are greatly reduced in this plan they are not non-existent Shelby Eastern Schools will continue to monitor the number of COVID positive cases in our state, communities and schools. In the event the numbers begin to increase and additional mitigation strategies are needed, SES will put those measures into place.

### **Acknowledgements**

A special thank you to the teachers, administrators, directors, and parents who helped develop and refine this plan. Your contributions are greatly appreciated. Also, thank you to the Shelby County Health Department for your guidance and contributions.

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## **Health Protocol for Schools**

### **(From the Indiana Dept. of Education)**

#### **Symptoms that would impact consideration of exclusion from school.**

Symptoms Impacting Consideration for Exclusion from School Students and employees should be trained to recognize the following COVID-19-related symptoms:

- A fever of 100.4° F or greater
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

Students and employees should be excluded from school if they test positive for COVID-19 or exhibit one or more of the symptoms of COVID-19 based on CDC Guidance that is not otherwise explained.

#### **Return to School After Exclusion**

Once a student or employee is excluded from the school environment, they may return if they satisfy the recommendations of the CDC. Currently those guidelines are:

**Untested** - Persons who have not received a test proving or disproving the presence of COVID-19 but experience symptoms may return if the following three conditions are met:

- They have not had a fever for at least 48 hours (that is two full days of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers); and
- Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved); and
- At least 10 calendar days have passed since your symptoms first appeared.
- The state website has a list of over 200 testing facilities, their location, and hours of operation. This list is updated frequently.

**Tested Positive - Symptomatic** Persons who experienced symptoms and have been tested for COVID-19 may return to school if the following conditions are met:

- The individual no longer has a fever (without the use of medicine that reduces fevers); and
- Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved); and
- At least 10 calendar days have passed since symptoms first appeared; or
- The individual has received two negative tests at least 24 hours apart.

**Tested Positive - Asymptomatic** Persons who have not had symptoms but test positive for COVID-19 may return when they have gone ten calendar days without symptoms and have been released by a healthcare provider. Students may also return if they are approved to do so in writing by the student’s health care provider.

## **Shelby Eastern Schools and Shelby County Health Department Response to Illness**

Shelby Eastern Schools has met with and sought guidance from the Shelby County Health Department. Their guidance to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 includes many of the precautions outlined in our plan, but also extends to periods of quarantine for students/staff who have had positive COVID-19 tests or students/staff who may identify as “close contacts” of students/staff. Based on the most up to date guidance from CDC and IDOH student quarantine periods could last anywhere from 8 to 14 days depending upon the situation. Students, parents, and staff should be aware of the possibility of exclusion from school or self-quarantine exists and be prepared for alternate work/child care plans in the event that happens.

Shelby Eastern Schools will continue to seek the guidance of local health officials in situations that require quarantines of students/staff as well as potential school closures. Communication between parents, physicians, the health department, and the school will be essential to keeping students/staff safe in the event we have positive tests within our population. Utilizing the daily screener tool will be the first layer of communication to help ensure that the proper protocol is followed.

### **Shelby Eastern School General Precautions**

#### **Daily Home Screening and Certification (Students, Staff, Visitors)**

Shelby Eastern Schools will continue to ask each student, teacher, and any potential visitor to complete a COVID-19 Daily Screening each day before coming to school. This series of screener questions will help us ensure that students, staff, and visitors are assisting us in stopping the spread of COVID-19. SES is encouraging students,

parents, and staff to post this list of questions on your refrigerator, a mirror, or some other prominently viewed place in your house as a visual reminder. If you answer “yes” to any of the 4 questions, please proceed to fill out and submit the online exemption request form: <https://www.jotform.com/build/201663676193057> This will prompt a conversation with our school nurse to determine the appropriate course of action. If you are unable to complete the online form, please call the school office for assistance.

### **Daily Home Screener**

If you answer **YES** to any of these questions, you should **not** come to school and should complete the online exemption request form to make us aware of your health status or concern.

1. Have you been in close contact with someone who has a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days or been advised by a health care official to self quarantine or isolate?
2. In the past 48 hours, have you experienced any of the following NEW symptoms:
  - Fever of 100.4° or above
  - Cough
  - Sore Throat
  - Muscle pain
  - Chills or Repeated Shaking with Chills
  - Shortness of breath, Trouble Breathing or Severe Wheezing
  - Loss of Smell or Taste, or a Change in Taste
  - Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
3. Have you recently been in close contact with anyone who has exhibited any symptoms or tested positive for COVID-19?
4. Have you recently traveled out of state or internationally to a restricted area that is under a Level 2, 3, or 4 Travel Advisory according to the U.S. State Department?

### **Face Coverings**

With the governors face covering mandate expiring June 30th of 2021, Shelby Eastern Schools is making face coverings optional for the 2021 school year. Shelby Eastern Schools may re-institute a face covering requirement if school or community outbreak warrants and justifies the additional mitigation strategy.

- A mask or face covering is defined as:



- Cloth face covering that covers the nose and mouth and is secured to the head with ties, straps, or loops over the ears or is simply wrapped around the lower face.
- Face shields also qualify as a face covering so long as they cover both the nose and mouth.
- SES will provide a limited number of facial coverings for students who may not have a mask or may forget their masks and desire to wear one.

## **Other Aspects of the School Day**

### **Transportation**

SES will continue to run all bus routes as planned and coordinated by our Transportation Department. Parents, guardians, and students should be aware that the following guidelines are still in effect.

- All students will be issued an assigned seat by their driver.
- Student exceptions (Alternate Transportation) and Bus Pass requests should be kept to a minimum, when possible.
- We will continue with current cleaning practices for our school buses to ensure they are disinfected at the recommended frequency, with the appropriate cleaning products.
- No food items will be allowed to be consumed on the bus.

### **Food Service**

SES plans to continue serving meals and seating students in our cafeteria. All tables will be sanitized each time a group of students leaves a table and before another group of students sits down. Cafeteria staff will complete a daily health screener and proper sanitization in the food prep areas will be maintained.

### **School Safety**

The immediate safety of students and staff is a priority. When conducting required drills and exercises it is likely that social distancing will not be able to be maintained. In the event of an emergency situation, our previously developed school safety protocol will be enacted to ensure a clear and consistent response from everyone involved.

## **Classroom Spaces**

Shelby Eastern Schools has invested significant time, training, and other resources into the promotion of a collaborative learning environment for students. While we do believe there are sanitary precautions we can pursue in classrooms, we don't believe that modifying our approach to learning in classrooms is necessary at this time.

Classrooms and learning spaces will be organized and designed in ways that are conducive to learning, but also maximize floor spacing to help maintain some form of social distancing. All SES classrooms will have sanitization products available to spot sanitize and clean throughout the day. Sanitization of all common surfaces within the classroom will occur a minimum of one time throughout the school day and always prior to the start of school each day.

## **Common Areas in Schools**

All common areas in schools that were previously closed will be re-opened for the 2021-22 school year. Cleaning and sanitizing of those common areas will take place on a daily basis.

## **Nurse's Stations**

Each school will designate a secondary nursing station location within the building. The primary objective of multiple nursing stations is to separate students/staff who may be ill from students and staff who may come to the nurses station for regular medication and or typical first aid items such as band-aids or ice packs. Each principal, in conjunction with the school nurse will work to determine the best location for the secondary nurses station.

## **Extra Curricular Activities and Field Trips**

SES plans to resume field trip experiences for all grade levels and activities. If there are scheduled trips or activities that parents are not comfortable with, the teacher, coach, or sponsor should be made aware to make alternate arrangements.

## **Visitors**

SES will welcome back visitors on special events and occasions throughout the school year.

## **Student and Staff Attendance**

Daily attendance for students and staff is an essential part of the learning process. Attendance will still be taken daily and compulsory attendance laws at the state level have not changed due to COVID-19. What has changed is our ability to be flexible with pandemic related absences and our ability to continue learning from home without counting students absent for extended leaves. Absence due to illness from COVID-19 will be treated in the same manner as any other illness related absence.

Physician or health department recommended quarantine of a student due to a family member's positive COVID-19 test result will be considered an "exempt" absence.

Students who present with symptoms or answer yes to any of the daily screener questions should stay home.

## **Student Quarantines**

Contact Tracing/Quarantining- When a student tests positive for COVID we will identify (Contact Trace) students who may have been exposed to the positive student or staff. Contacts are identified as students who were within 3 feet of that person for 15 or more consecutive minutes.

When a close contact is identified at school, these factors will be considered before a symptom free student is sent home for quarantine:

1. Was the student wearing a mask? If so, remain at school.
2. Is the student vaccinated against COVID 19? If so, remain at school.
3. Has the student themselves tested positive for COVID in the last 90 days and able to provide test results to administration? If so, remain at school.
4. If the student was not wearing a mask, they can choose to wear a mask for a period of 7 to 10 days and remain at school. (7 days is allowable if the student can produce a negative test after day 5).

5. If the student doesn't qualify for any of the above, they will be asked to quarantine at home for 10 days or return after 7 with a negative test administered on day 5 – 7.

6. Student athletes who cannot answer “yes” to questions 1-3 would be excluded from athletic contests for a minimum of 7 days if identified as a close contact. During that time, athletes may practice, but must wear a mask.

Students who are at home under quarantine as of Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, may return to school on Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> as long they remain symptom free

### **Communication**

SES will publish COVID related data bi-weekly throughout the school year to ensure parents and our community have a clear and transparent understanding of how many cases are occurring in our schools.

### References/Resources

- Centers for Disease Control (CDC)  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
- IDOH Back to School Guidance Fall 2021  
[https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/Fall%202021%20COVID-19%20One%20Page%20Guidance%20\(6.8.21\).pdf?utm\\_content=&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_name=&utm\\_source=govdelivery&utm\\_term=](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/Fall%202021%20COVID-19%20One%20Page%20Guidance%20(6.8.21).pdf?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=)

## **Appendix A**

## **Daily Home Screener**

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1. Have you been in close contact someone who has a with a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days or been advised by a health care official to self quarantine or isolate?
  
2. In the past 48 hours, have you experienced any of the following NEW symptoms:
  - Fever of 100.4° or above
  - Cough
  - Sore Throat
  - Muscle pain
  - Chills or Repeated Shaking with Chills
  - Shortness of breath, Trouble Breathing or Severe Wheezing
  - Loss of Smell or Taste, or a Change in Taste
  - Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
  
3. Have you recently been in close contact with anyone who has exhibited any symptoms or tested positive for COVID-19?
  
4. Have you recently traveled to a restricted area that is under a Level 2, 3, or 4 Travel Advisory according to the U.S. State Department? Including China, Italy, Iran, and countries in Europe.

<https://www.jotform.com/build/201663676193057>