

ReEngage



SPOTSYLVANIA
COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Operational Procedures and Instructional Support and Strategies 2021-2022

As of 9.13.21

IMPORTANT NOTE: Information in this document is subject to change based upon Centers for Disease Control, Virginia Department of Health and Virginia Department of Education Guidance



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In-Person Learning Overview

We are excited to invite all Spotsylvania County Public School students to return to school 5 days a week during the 2021-22 school year. To support learning, students will have access to a school-issued computer as part of our division's one-to-one technology initiative. Within our 2021-22 academic calendar, we have dedicated half days to support ongoing connection opportunities between students, staff, and families.

Supporting the Transition

We understand that the 2020-21 school year was difficult for everyone due to extended isolation. Many students may be anxious about returning to school. You can support your student's transition back to school next year. Here are some ideas and strategies:

- Have conversations at home about what this upcoming school year will be like, particularly if your student is transitioning from elementary to middle school or from middle to high school. Talking about the transition in advance helps students prepare for this transition.
- Read and carefully review updates and information sent by the school.
- Engage as a family in orientation and connection events facilitated by the school. These events are designed to set students up for success, lower student stress levels, and provide opportunities to connect with peers and staff.
- Reach out to the school if you have questions or if your student has specific needs you wish to discuss. Connect with an administrator or school-based



other ways to connect with the school community.

- Regularly check ParentVue for the latest information on grades and assignments, and discuss progress, strengths, and challenges. While report cards are issued at the end of the quarter, teachers enter grades into StudentVue and ParentVue regularly. You can view each individual assignment that receives a grade.
- Don't hesitate to call your student's teacher, school-based mental health professional, or administrator. We're here to help.

Supporting the Social-Emotional Needs and Diverse Needs of All Students

We recognize that the social and emotional needs of students impact their ability to fully engage in learning. In alignment with *Engage 2025: The SCPS Strategic Plan*, our work includes promoting a culture of safety, security, and wellness for all students and staff in their learning and work environments. Embedding social and emotional learning concepts into instructional practice will be a priority for SCPS throughout the 2021-22 school year.

The SCPS Strategic Plan also highlights the importance of cultivating an environment that respects the diversity of all students. In collaboration with division and school staff, we will employ learning that meets the needs of students in a way that honors their diverse backgrounds and maximizes their strengths. We will continually seek feedback from advisory groups and committees (Parent Advisory Team, Student Advisory, Teacher Advisory, and special committees) to reflect on the impact of our work.

Students with Disabilities



- Replacement masks will be available as needed.
- The mask may be removed when eating and drinking as needed.
- Disposable face masks will be available if needed.

Disability Exemptions of the CDC Order

Most people, including those with disabilities, can tolerate and safely wear a mask and are required to wear one as per CDC's Order. However, certain people with disabilities who, because of their disability, cannot wear a mask, or cannot safely wear a mask, are exempted from CDC's mask-wearing requirement.

The exemption is not meant to cover people with disabilities for whom wearing a mask might only be difficult or whose disability does not prevent them from wearing a mask or wearing a mask safely.

The following narrow subset of persons with disabilities are exempt from CDC's requirement to wear a mask:

- A person with a disability who, for reasons related to the disability, would be physically unable to remove a mask without assistance if breathing becomes obstructed. Examples might include a person with impaired motor skills, quadriplegia, or limb restrictions
- A person with an intellectual, developmental, cognitive, or psychiatric disability that affects the person's ability to understand the need to remove a mask if breathing becomes obstructed

The following persons with disabilities might be exempt from CDC's requirement to wear a mask based on factors specific to the person:

- A person with a disability that cannot wear a mask because it would cause the person to be unable to breathe or have respiratory distress if a mask were



worn over the mouth and nose. A person with a condition that causes intermittent respiratory distress, such as asthma, likely does not qualify for this exemption because people with asthma, or other similar conditions, can generally wear a mask safely.

- A person with a disability requiring the use of an assistive device, such as for mobility or communication, that prevents the person from wearing a mask and wearing or using the assistive device at the same time. If use of the device is intermittent and the person can remove the mask independently to use the device, then a mask must be worn during periods when the person is not using the device.
- A person with a severe sensory disability or a severe mental health disability who would pose an imminent threat of harm to themselves or others if required to wear a mask. Persons who experience discomfort or anxiety while wearing a mask without imminent threat of harm would not qualify for this exemption.
- A person for whom wearing a mask would create a risk to workplace health, safety, or job duty as determined by the relevant workplace safety guidelines or federal regulations.

Self-Monitoring

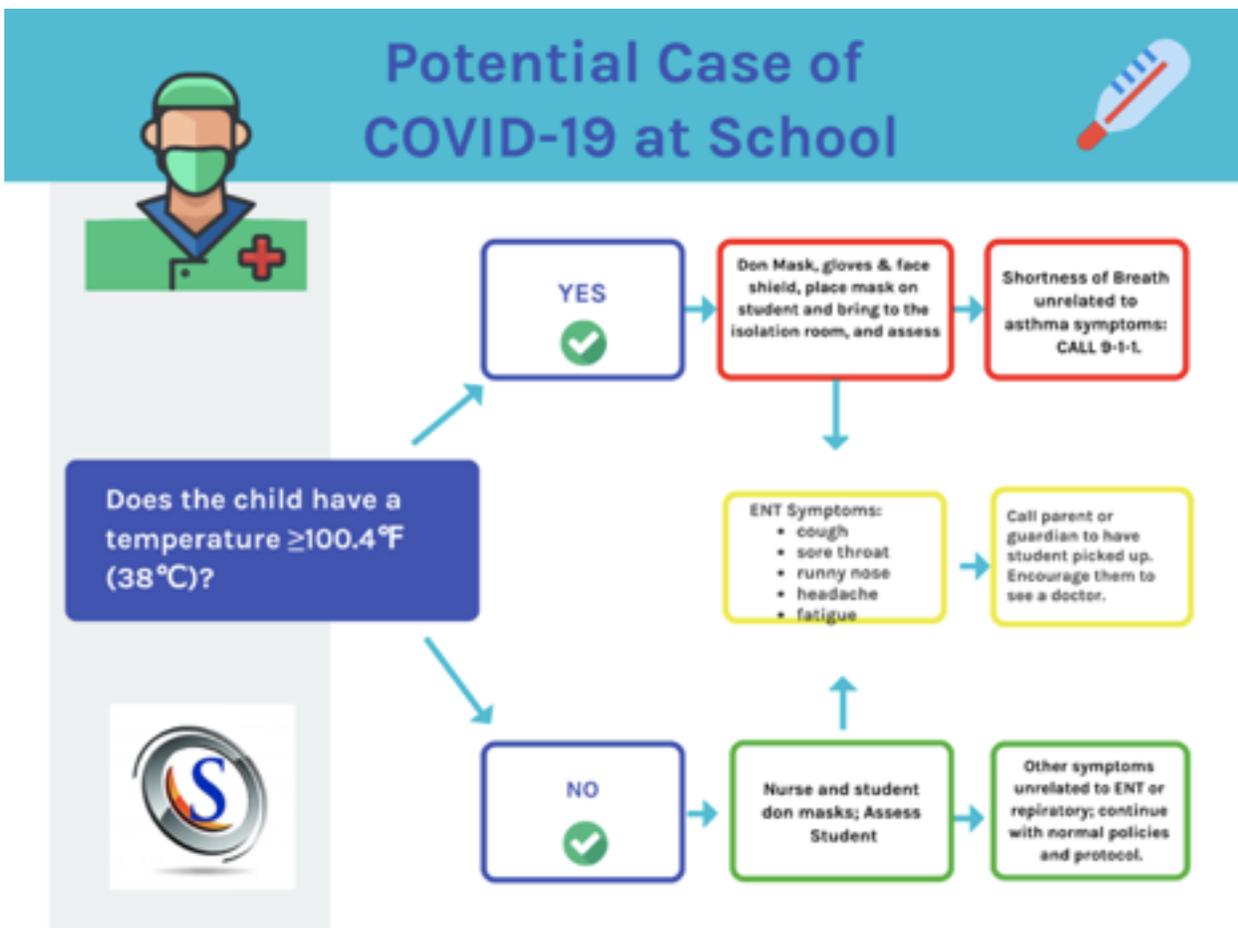
Students, teachers, and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as [influenza](#) (flu) or [COVID-19](#), should stay home and refer to their healthcare provider for testing and care, regardless of vaccination status. Staying home when sick with COVID-19 is essential to keep COVID-19 infections out of schools and prevent spread to others.

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, it is essential that parents keep children home if they are showing signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and get them tested per healthcare provider guidance.



- Staff should complete the COVID-19 daily questionnaire prior to reporting to work.
- Staff should contact their building nurse with any questions or yes answers to the questionnaire.

Sick at School



The school nurse (RN) will assess the sick student or staff member based on current CDC and VDH guidance/algorithms and community transmission. If a nurse is not available the following protocol will be used by trained staff.



IMPORTANT NOTE: If VDH has information that indicates that diagnostic testing capacity is being strained, recommendations may be revised.

- Persons can discontinue quarantine at these time points only if the following criteria are also met:
 - No clinical evidence of COVID-19 has been elicited by daily symptom monitoring during the entirety of quarantine up to the time at which quarantine is discontinued; and,
 - Daily symptom monitoring continues through quarantine Day 14; and
 - adhere strictly through quarantine Day 14 to all recommended mitigation strategies of correct and consistent mask use, social distancing, hand and cough hygiene, avoiding crowds, and self-monitoring for symptoms of COVID-19 illness.
- If any symptoms develop, the individual should immediately self-isolate, contact their healthcare provider to report this change in clinical status and notify the school.
- Parents/guardians should report any change in health status to the school nurse.
- Isolation for those positive for Covid-19 will be for 10 days, depending on individual circumstances the test date or symptom onset will be used.
- VDH may adjust quarantine/isolation time frames based on their investigation.
- VDH will contact individuals identified as close contacts that are not SCPS students or staff to perform case investigation and provide quarantine guidance.
- When a case of COVID-19 affecting the school or workplace has been confirmed by Virginia Department Health (VDH) officials, close contact tracing will be conducted by that agency; VDH may request assistance from



school staff.

- Additional disinfection will be performed per current CDC and VDH recommendations.

Exceptions to quarantine are as follows per the CDC:

- People who were diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last three months (90 days).
- In the K–12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition *excludes* students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) where
 - Both students were engaged in consistent and [correct](#) use of [well-fitting masks](#); and
 - Other [PreK–12 school prevention strategies](#) (such as universal and correct mask use, physical distancing, increased ventilation) were in place in the PreK–12 school setting.

Note: This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting as listed below,

- student-to-teacher exposures
- teacher-to-student exposures, or
- teacher-to- teacher exposures
- Fully vaccinated people who have a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 will be advised to be tested 3-5 days after exposure, regardless of whether they have symptoms per CDC recommendation. Quarantine is not required while pending test results.
 - In addition to correctly wearing masks in school, those fully vaccinated



- When the student is absent due to feeling ill, the student will be marked absent accordingly.

Returning to School Following an Illness

- A student or staff member diagnosed with COVID-19 cannot return to school until they have met CDC's [criteria to discontinue home isolation](#).
- A sick student or staff member who has been sent home with COVID-19-like symptoms must complete the 10-day isolation period, be fever free for 24 hours during the isolation period, and have improvement of other symptoms prior to returning to campus, or provide documentation from a health care provider attesting to an alternate diagnosis or confirmation that illness is not COVID-19.
- Determination of "Covid like symptoms" is made in collaboration with the local Virginia Department of Health (VDH), current algorithms, and level of community transmission.

SCPS will follow the most current guidance related to travel. It is important to note that this guidance may change. If you plan on traveling, we encourage you to visit [VDH Guidance for Travelers – Coronavirus](#) for the most current travel guidance.

Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)

- PPE available for SCPS teachers and staff:
 - School nurses and clinic assistants: Gloves, gown, surgical mask, and face shield or goggles
 - Teachers and paraeducators working with low-incidence populations of students with disabilities: gloves, face coverings/masks, and face shields
 - Food service workers: gloves, face coverings/masks, and face shields
 - Other employees: gloves available (not required), face coverings/masks



- Bus passes and accommodations to ride another bus will not be provided.
- Failure to follow the prevention plan on the bus, or other code of conduct violations, will result in the removal of bus riding privileges.

Food Services

Sodexo works with the division's Food Service Supervisor to ensure all Federal and State Free/Reduced Meal requirements are met and that eligible students are able to participate.

Breakfast and lunch provided during 2021-2022 school year will continue to be free for all students (regardless of family income) under the extended waivers granted by the USDA. Note: in order to receive the free breakfast and/or lunch, the student must be given a complete meal as per USDA requirements.

A la carte food items will be available for purchase. Parents will be encouraged to add funds to their student's meal account via [MYSCHOOLBUCKS.com](https://myschoolbucks.com) to reduce touch points by reducing the need for staff to handle cash.

Each school site and location is unique in its building size and capacity; therefore, food service programs at each school may differ. The plan will entail the following:

- All staff will wear face coverings and gloves to mitigate the possible spread of COVID-19.
- All students will go through the cafeteria line as per social distancing guidelines.
- Food plans for students with allergies and/or diet restrictions can be maintained.



- During activities when increased exhalation occurs such as singing, shouting, band practice, sports, or exercise. These activities should be moved outdoors or to large, well-ventilated spaces whenever possible; and
- In community settings outside of the classroom.
- In general, people do not need to wear masks when outdoors (e.g., participating in outdoor play, recess, and physical education activities). CDC recommends people who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people. Fully vaccinated people might choose to wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings if they or someone in their household is immunocompromised. Universal masking is recommended during indoor physical education or recess.
- Recess and physical education activities will be modified or structured to promote proper physical distancing to the greatest extent possible. Students should use hand sanitizer prior to, and after, playing on any climbing structure and/or apparatus. Students should wash their hands with soap and water prior to returning to the learning environment.

Sanitation Measures for Rooms and Surfaces

- Classrooms:
 - Disinfectants will be distributed to classrooms. Teachers will disinfect their own chair, desk, keyboard, phone, and other personal supplies.
 - Custodians will sanitize daily.
 - Teachers and students are responsible for sanitizing their own supplies and area at the end of each block or period of instruction.
- Offices:



- Disinfectants will be distributed to offices. Staff should disinfect their own chair, desk, keyboard, phone, etc.
- Custodians will sanitize daily.
- Cafeterias:
 - Cafeteria tables and seats will be sanitized by cafeteria aides in elementary schools, and custodians in secondary schools, between uses of each student group. Common dispensers (napkin, straw, water, and condiment) will be removed.
 - Kitchens and Serving Areas: All food preparation, serving surfaces, and utensils will be sanitized by cafeteria staff between servings of student groups. Storage areas will be sanitized daily.
 - Vending Machines will be sanitized frequently.
- Bathrooms:
 - High-touch surface areas will be sanitized as often as needed depending on use (urinals, toilets, and sinks, flush handles, stall door handles, sink water handles, and soap dispensers).
- Clinics:
 - Nurses will clean with a hospital-grade disinfectant after someone exits the space.
 - Custodians will use the same disinfectant and, if needed, electrostatic machines with disinfectants in clinics.
- Locker rooms and weight rooms:
 - Custodians will use a combination of disinfectant and electrostatic machines with disinfectants after physical conditioning, practice, or competition is completed.
- Bus and vehicles:
 - Buses and vehicles will be cleaned with disinfectant after morning,



mid-day, and afternoon trips are completed.

- Buses will be electrostatically cleaned as appropriate per safety protocols.
- Identified classrooms, offices, and school buses:
 - Custodians will disinfect identified areas with electrostatic machines when circumstances warrant as directed by the Director of Health Services, the Director of Maintenance, Executive Director of Operations, or the Director of Transportation.

NOTE: The application of sanitizers and cleaners will be done in accordance with regulations and directions for use. Only commercially-made products will be used and distributed.

Air Ventilation and Water Systems

- SCPS, in conjunction with the county utilities department, tests to ensure that water quality standards are acceptable on a weekly basis.
- Air ventilation systems checks and filter replacements are regularly conducted in accordance with CDC guidelines.
- Clinics are outfitted with HEPA air purifiers.
- Bipolar Ionization has been added to the HVAC system in each SCPS building.

Human Resources

SCPS employees:

- Must wear a face mask indoors as recommended by the CDC. Other personal protective equipment (PPE), such as gloves or face shields, may be required depending on the duties being performed. If appropriate PPE is not available to employees, they are to immediately notify their supervisor.



Program (EAP) offers free counseling sessions and other services to all SCPS employees and their immediate family. To access EAP information, click the following link: [The Standard EAP](#).

Virtual Instruction

Some families have chosen for students to remain virtual learners during the 2021-22 school year. Spotsylvania County Public Schools will continue to support the learning of these students through Virtual Virginia.

[Virtual Virginia](#) enables SCPS to meet the diverse learning needs of our students and allows us to offer our students a set schedule with robust opportunities. Facilitated by the Virginia Department of Education, Virtual Virginia offers engaging, NCAA-approved, learning experiences in a virtual format. The highly-qualified teachers employed by Virtual Virginia are specially trained and equipped to engage all online learners. It is important to note that students who take classes through Virtual Virginia remain SCPS students. Families will continue to access information through StudentVue and ParentVue. Please contact your school for assistance at any time.

Parents/students wishing to return to face-to-face instruction from a virtual model may be accommodated. However, please note that students who return to in-person learning cannot rejoin Virtual Virginia once the decision is made. Additionally, transportation to and from school may not be immediately available following a return to in-person learning.



Section 504

Students with impairments under Section 504 who choose to receive instruction virtually will receive accommodations across all educational experiences at SCPS. Components and supports are as follows:

- Instruction
 - 504 teams meet to determine individualized plan for students
 - Accommodations will be provided virtually
- Teacher and Parent Support
 - Training for caregivers
 - When necessary, virtual meetings will be used to convene special education procedural meetings

Gifted Services

Students identified as gifted learners, who receive their services virtually, will work asynchronously with SCPS gifted resource teachers (K-8) and gifted coordinators (9-12). More information will be sent to families by each school's gifted resource teacher or gifted coordinator.

English Learner (EL) Services

English learners enrolled in the virtual instruction who receive English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) services will receive English language development support virtually from an SCPS ESOL teacher. English Learner services will be coordinated with families and are based on students' English proficiency level and individual student need.

