



Shenandoah Middle School

**Reopening Details
2020-2021 School Year**

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Shenandoah Middle School Reopening Plan Details

INTRODUCTION

The following plan has been approved for a reopening of school for in-person instruction 5 days a week beginning **September 8, 2020**. This plan includes an online option for students who are unable to return to the school building or whose parents do not feel comfortable sending their child(ren) to school during the Covid-19 pandemic. ***Please note, this document is fluid and will be updated as more information becomes available.***

MITIGATING SPREAD

Shenandoah School Corporation continues to monitor the spread of Covid-19, especially here in Henry County and surrounding areas. The health and safety of all students and staff continues to be our top priority. As the world has seen, this virus knows no boundaries. Therefore, we all play a critical role in minimizing the risk and impact of the virus on everyone. As a result, SSC will implement a variety of measures to keep everyone as safe as possible.

FACE COVERINGS

All students, teachers, staff members, and visitors will need to have a face covering with them at all times while on SSC campus. Adults will be required to wear masks and/or face shields. Students will be required to wear their face covering during the following times:

- on the school bus
- entering and exiting the building
- during hallway transitions
- in the health clinic
- when distancing is not possible
- Per SSC staff member's request

*Students who do not comply with wearing a face covering at required times and under SSC staff directive will have disciplinary actions from administration.

Will the school provide my child a mask?

We're asking students to plan to have two cloth masks as part of their back-to-school supplies. The SMS will have face coverings available in the office for students, but limited supplies.

I don't want to wear a mask.

We know that there are strong opinions about the use of masks. The Indiana State Department of Health cited a 40-60% reduction in COVID-19 transmission when masks are used by all, which is why we are requiring them for certain portions of the day. This is especially important since some carriers of COVID-19 may not have any symptoms. Children, despite being generally less affected by COVID-19, expose school staff and adults at home who may be more at risk.



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→ We highly recommend you have your child try on different masks to see which type is most comfortable, while still fitting properly. Face coverings must cover both the nose and mouth. Masks are most definitely NOT “one size fits all”. Trying these out ahead of time will help your child become more comfortable and ensure you have a mask that fits well.

SCREENING PROCEDURES

It is the expectation that only those students and staff members who are healthy come to school. Everyone is to self-check their temperature for Covid-19 symptoms before coming to school each day. **Parents, please assist your children with their self-check.** The following are symptoms impacting the consideration for exclusion from school:

- A fever of 100.4 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
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea
- Diarrhea

→ If your student has diagnosed allergies, asthma, or other chronic health conditions that would exhibit COVID-like symptoms, we encourage you to discuss this matter with your physician for any needed recommendations to return and attend school.

My child has allergies and always gets a runny nose in the fall, does this mean I need to keep him home?

In regard to the COVID symptoms mentioned prior, SMS will be monitoring all students to the best of our ability. Students who have pre-existing conditions with symptoms like those seen for COVID-19, should work with SMS administration and present a physician’s note prior to the start of school to add to the child’s file for the 2020-21 school year.



COVID RESPONSE PROTOCOLS

We are working closely with the Henry County Health Department to follow the guidelines set forth by the Indiana State Department of Health and the Indiana Department of Education. These protocols are fluid and could change as the school year progresses. Your flexibility and patience are appreciated as we move forward together.

What happens if my child has symptoms of COVID?

- ~~• If a student or staff member presents symptoms of COVID-19, the individual will be sent home and presumed to have COVID until a healthcare provider determines that the illness is caused by something else and provides a note to the school.~~
- ~~• Without a healthcare provider's note, the individual will need to stay home for 10 days and be fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medicine and be without nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea for 72 hours before returning to school.~~
- ~~• SMS students who present symptoms of COVID will be cared for in the front office, separate from the school clinic, until a parent can come pick him or her up.~~
- If a student or staff member presents symptoms of COVID-19, the individual will be sent home and presumed to have COVID until a healthcare provider determines that the illness is caused by something else and provides a note to the school **OR** the appropriate amount of time has passed.
- Without a healthcare provider's note or NEGATIVE COVID test, the individual will need to stay home for 72 hours and be fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medicine and be without nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea for 72 hours before returning to school.
- If the student or staff member is sent home, then gets a COVID test that comes back NEGATIVE, the student or staff member can return within 24 hours so long as he/she is fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medicine and is asymptomatic.
- SMS students who present symptoms of COVID will be cared for in the front office, separate from the school clinic, until a parent can come pick him or her up.
- We will be using the guidance set forth from the health department as a tool to help school administrators know the best course of action for each individual case.

What should I do if my child is diagnosed with COVID?

Please notify the school office immediately if your child has tested positive for COVID-19. There will be an ISDH mandated at home quarantine period for all positive cases and extending 10 days after the positive test. The Henry County Health Department will assist our school in contact tracing and follow all guidelines for containment.

*Students and or staff who have been in close contact with someone who has a positive test, will be contacted and required to quarantine for 14 days, as symptoms may not appear right away.



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Will school close if someone has COVID?

Decisions on whether part of a school or the entire school will need to close will be made in consultation with the HCHD as part of the contract tracing and case investigation. These decisions will depend on how the students were cohorted and the movements of the ill individual. According to the CDC, schools *may* need to close for two to five days, but the case investigation will ultimately determine the most appropriate actions.

→ This information will continue to be reassessed and updated as we learn more. Please know that your child's safety and the health and wellbeing of all of us at SMS is our top priority. We have numerous "hybrid" models with enhanced online learning components drafted and ready for consideration should we be forced to revisit a school closure.

COVID TRAINING

All staff will be provided training on safety protocols related to the prevention and transmission of COVID and the proper hygiene protocols necessary for prevention. At SMS this includes more directed lessons on good health hygiene as well as more scheduled times for frequent hand washing.

SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS AND GUESTS

SSC will restrict volunteers and guests at each building to by appointment only. All visitors must wear a mask while on campus.

Do parents/guardians have to make an appointment every time they want to enter SMS?

Appointments will be necessary for parents wanting to meet in-person with SMS staff or administration. However, if you need to sign in your child after the morning tardy bell, drop-off an item your child needs for school but forgot at home, pick-up your child for an appointment before the dismissal bell, etc. a call-ahead notice is appreciated, but an appointment is not necessary. The SMS office will be implementing new procedures and protocols for those parents entering for "everyday business". We appreciate your patience and flexibility.



FACILITY MODIFICATIONS

SMS, with the guidance from the Henry County Health Department, is making necessary changes to the building to aid in the practicing of social and physical distancing to the greatest extent possible. This includes our transition periods, lunch, and classrooms.

PROTECTIVE BARRIERS

Plexiglass will be added to high-traffic areas, such as the SMS front office, to provide an added layer of protection for those working and reflects that best guidance regarding healthy interaction.

SIGNAGE

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention created infographics on the symptoms of COVID-19, social distancing, and how to properly wash your hands. SMS will display in building entrances, hallways, restrooms, and the cafeteria.

WATER BOTTLE FILLING STATIONS

All traditional water fountains will be turned off, and water bottle filling stations will be installed in the building. Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle to use for hydration throughout the day. Please make sure bottles are clear. Students will be able to purchase drinks from our vending machines throughout the day.

HAND SANITIZER STATIONS

In addition to the free-standing hand sanitation bottles used within each classroom, SSC has purchased 200 hand sanitation stations to be installed around the buildings in high traffic areas and where building administrators recommend.

CLASSROOMS

- SMS students will still transition to different classes throughout the day.
- SMS is suspending the use of communal student tables, and all students will be assigned an individual desk and chair.
- In order to space student desks as much as possible, auxiliary furniture is being removed to allow for more floor space to be utilized.
- We will practice social distancing when possible. Due to the size of our student body and our facilities, it will not be possible at all times. In classrooms, student seating may be arranged to all face in the same direction, when possible, and will be spaced as far apart as possible.
- Items that are more difficult to sanitize, like pillows and plush toys, are being removed.
- All classrooms will have a designated sanitation station.
- Small group instruction with the teacher may require masks to be worn when distancing is not possible.
- Classroom teachers will have discretion on when students need to have face covers on or off within the classroom setting.



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STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

- Students are expected to wear a face covering on the bus. If a student does not have a face covering while riding the bus, the bus driver will provide one. If a student continually does not have a face covering, notification to the family will be made.
- Drivers will monitor students (as safely as possible) to ensure all students are wearing a face covering while riding the bus.
- Considerations will be made for students with sensory issues that would prevent them from wearing a face covering or face shield.

SEATING ON THE BUS

All SSC students who ride the bus will have an assigned seat. Families will be seated together whenever possible. Students will not be permitted to ride home on other buses to which they are not assigned. At this time, students will not be allowed to ride home a different bus that is not assigned to the student.

BUS SANITATION

All buses have been deep cleaned and disinfected in preparation for students' return to school. Buses will be disinfected after morning and afternoon routes. High touch areas in the bus will be cleaned throughout the day.

Can my child ride home with a friend?

In order to help with potential contact tracing for COVID-19, students will be assigned a seat on the bus. Therefore, students will not be able to ride buses they are not assigned to at this time.

Will my children be able to ride the bus to daycare in the afternoon if they ride a different bus from our house to school in the morning?

Yes, as long as bus transportation is established and students have assigned seats on both morning and afternoon buses.

CAR DROP-OFF / PICK-UP

Students should remain in their vehicles and not enter the school building until 7:30am. All SMS building doors will be locked until this time. To help ensure social distancing, we cannot allow students in the hallways prior to this time. Again, students will be required to have a face covering on when entering the building.

FOOD SERVICES

- All students will wash their hands prior to breakfast and lunch.
- SMS students will continue to receive a hot or cold breakfast/lunch in the cafeteria.
- Floor decals will be added in the cafeteria to help students distance as much as possible.
- Students may eat lunch in the cafeteria, gym, or other large group spaces to allow for social distancing.



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- Food and beverage items, including condiments and utensils will be served by cafeteria staff to reduce high-touch points.
- Touch keypads will no longer be used for lunch IDs.
- Cafeteria staff will be required to wear face covering at all times.
- All cafeteria tables and serving lines will be cleaned between lunch periods.
- SMS will have split lunches to allow more social distancing.

Will students still have to eat in their classrooms for lunch?

At this time, we are planning to use the cafeteria and large group areas in or near the cafeteria for students to social distance while enjoying their meal.

Physical Education

SMS will still be providing a Physical Education course for the Fall semester. Students will not be able to access lockers rooms during this time, so students will not change clothes for this class. Students will have a mix of in-class instruction and outside activities.

Will kids be able to play with sports equipment?

While we will have sports equipment available for students to use during physical education, high contact games such as basketball and tag football will not be allowed. For example, students may still be allowed to play “HORSE” or “KnockOut”, but not basketball which requires players to closely guard one another. Equipment will be cleaned daily or after each use.

→ If parents do not feel comfortable with their child taking Physical Education, please contact SMS administration and we would be happy to arrange an alternative activity for your child.

FIELD TRIPS

At this time all field trips scheduled for the ***Fall semester*** have been canceled until deemed safe to return to these off-campus activities. SMS is exploring more virtual field trip options as well as increase outdoor activities and projects as a temporary replacement during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Will 8th grade students go to Washington D.C.?

At this time, we are still planning this field trip for our students. More specifics will be released as we return to school.

NURSE

- There will be a separate area created to support school clinics—one for regular care and an isolated area for anyone who presents signs or symptoms of illness.



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- You can also expect to see changes in how we administer stocked medicines, the suspension of nebulizer treatments, and new criteria for staying home from school/returning to school, based on CDC guidelines.
- Please reach out to the school nurse if you have specific concerns regarding your child's medical care.

I usually bring in medication each week for my child. How will this work now?

Parents will no longer be allowed to bring medications into clinics. If you need to provide medication for your child, a nurse will meet you in a designated area to handle this.

ONLINE LEARNING

Online learning with **limited** class offers will be available for students with at-risk health issues, those who have immediate family members with health issues, or those children whose parents are concerned about them returning to campus and desire this full-time online option.

- SMS teachers will record daily classroom lessons for students to view from home. All assignments will be turned in virtually.
- To manage staffing and scheduling, students must commit to in-person or online learning for an established period of time and will not be permitted to move back and forth during this commitment.
- Shenandoah Middle students who do not attend school in person will be enrolled in online learning facilitated by SMS teachers via Canvas, our Learning Management System.
- Students will receive both virtual instruction (class meetings, small group, and one-on-one) and pre-recorded lessons that focus on essential standards in each core subject area (reading, writing, and math). In addition, readings, practice exercises, and other activities may be given.

If my child attends school in-person but then is sent home for COVID symptoms, what will she do for school for those days she's out?

The SMS office will make contact with the parent to determine the best course of action for virtual instruction while s/he is not able to attend in-person. This will most likely be a case by case situation, as we will not be able to pre-determine if your child will feel well enough for structured instruction or if recorded lessons that could be completed at a later date would be more appropriate. Regardless, the teachers and administration will work with the parents to form an individual learning plan for the child.



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Online Course Offers for SMS students:

All students will take English/Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. In addition, students will be required to take the following:

6th Grade – MindPlay/Ascend Lab and Physical Education

7th Grade – MindPlay/Ascend Lab and Technology Education

8th Grade – Preparing for College Careers and Family Consumer Science

If you have any questions regarding the course description and options, please email dwyatt@shenandoah.k12.in.us

ADDITIONAL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will Back to School Events Still be Happening?

Our annual Back to School Night has been canceled. All after school activities have been canceled at this time. We are planning an event for incoming 6th grade students to explore the building. More information on these events will be coming at a later date.

Will there be any middle school extra-curricular activities?

At this time, the SMS will still have extra-curricular activities. Online only students cannot participate.

What Can We Encourage Parents to Do Now for a Smooth Start to School?

Encourage parents to talk with, reassure and support their children about these changes, and the importance of social distancing and wearing masks.

- Allow their child to ask questions and answer them to the best of their ability.
- Explain the why behind wearing a mask and have their child practice wearing their mask.
- Encourage following recommended guidelines regarding masks and social distancing this summer to help prevent a future surge in cases that might impact the start of school.
- Help students get back into a normal schedule at least a week before school begins, such as reinstating bedtime and wake up routines.
- Be sure that all immunizations are up to date, including newly required immunizations for students entering Kindergarten.
- Stay in close communication with the school should health situations or return plans change.



What Other Changes Can I Expect?

We'll be reviewing our overall attendance policies for staff and students, as well as eliminating any attendance recognitions that could encourage attending school when not feeling well.

More information on the specific attendance policy changes will be coming at a later date.

The pandemic shifts rapidly, and we don't know what the rest of the school year may bring. Other changes could certainly be implemented, and we will be in close communication with staff and families as future decisions are made.

ADDED INFORMATION PER INDIANA DEPT. OF HEALTH

Goal: To provide a system that local and school officials can use to understand the level of community spread and how it is changing on the county level, so they can make decisions. Schools have asked for guidance based on the metrics.

*Scoring does not trigger a state requirement of any action, but provides local information and recommendations

An updated system for understanding the trend in community spread at the county level that will be based on three metrics each week:

- Number of new cases in the past week per 100,000 residents
- Percent positivity as determined by the number of positive tests divided by the total number of tests administered
- The change in percent positivity from the previous week

The metrics: Each metric will be assigned a score of 0 to 3.

The average of the three scores will be the county's total score for the week.

New cases per 100,000 residents	Percent positivity	Change in percent positivity
Less than 10 new cases = 0	Less than 5% = 0	Decrease of .5% or greater = 0
10-99 new cases = 1	5-9.9% = 1	Decrease <.5% to 0 = 1
100-199 new cases = 2	10-14.9% = 2	Increase of .1% to .4% = 2
200 or more new cases = 3	15% or greater = 3	Increase of .5% or more = 3

The metrics: Average scores will place a county into one of 4 colors:

Blue: 0 — .9

Yellow: 1 — 1.9

Orange: 2 — 2.5

Red: Greater than 2.5



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SSC administrative team will meet every Wednesday to analyze data released by the IDOH. A recommendation will be submitted to the superintendent for the following week.

The recommendations:

Each color category comes with recommendations for local and school officials to consider based on what the metrics show regarding community spread

Blue: Minimal community spread	Yellow: Moderate community spread	Orange: Moderate to high community spread	Red: High community spread
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools operate all grades in person but limit activities where social distancing is not feasible • Extra-curricular activities to follow local and state guidelines, including distancing and masks, and limit spectators. • Outreach to encourage public to continue with precautions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools continue all grades in person but increase vigilance in distancing, hand hygiene and masks • No assemblies or activities if social distancing is not feasible • Postpone or cancel extra-curricular activities as warranted, consider allowing only parents or close family to attend athletic and other events • Work with local health department to determine if increased precautions and public outreach should begin to halt the spread 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade schools continue in-person; strong recommendation for hybrid learning for middle and high school students • No assemblies or large group activities • Strong recommendation to limit extra-curricular activities and have competitors and participants only, with no in-person attendees • Discussion with parents about limiting social events outside of school • County education leaders work with local health department to consider implementing aggressive prevention efforts in schools and communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade schools remain in-person or consider hybrid learning; middle and high school consider virtual learning • No assemblies or large group activities • Extracurricular activities cancelled • Discourage social events • County education leaders work with local health department to consider implementing aggressive prevention efforts in schools and communities