
Health and Safety Protocols and Continuity of Instructional Services

June, 2022

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****Information in this document is subject to change based on the fluid nature of community health concerns and new information provided by the Texas Education Agency, and other State and Local Entities. Changes to the document will be indicated with a yellow box next to the body of the plan. ****

As it has always been, the health and safety of our staff and students is our highest priority. While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of the spread of COVID-19, this guidance document contains information on practices that minimize the likelihood of viral spread. These protocols and guidelines have been developed using current public health and governmental directives and will be modified as that information changes. As these changes may occur frequently, please make sure to access the most current version located on the district website. We will also continue to include a footnote identifying the date the document was updated. The prevention and mitigation practices outlined in the document are designed to significantly reduce the likelihood that a coronavirus outbreak occurs in the district.

Resources utilized in the development of this document:
[TEA – Public Health Guidance \(1/7/22\)](#)
[Texas Governor Executive Order \(GA-38\) \(7/29/2021\)](#)
[Center for Disease Control Operational Guidance \(5/27/22\)](#)

PREVENTION: PRACTICES TO PREVENT THE VIRUS FROM ENTERING THE BUILDING

SCREENING

1. TEACHERS AND STAFF – Teachers and Staff will self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming onto campus each day.
2. STUDENTS - Parents are expected to screen their children for COVID-19 symptoms each day prior to sending their child to school. The screening will include determining if the child is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 or has been in close contact with someone test-confirmed to have COVID-19 within the previous 14 days.
 - a. If a child has been in close contact with someone test-confirmed with COVID-19, the parent is encouraged to keep their child at home and contact the school.
 - b. Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school on campus if the child has COVID-19 symptoms. The child must remain off campus until they meet the criteria for re-entry as described in this document.
 - c. If confirmed with COVID-19, the child must remain off campus until they meet the criteria for re-entry as described in this document.
3. VISITORS – Visitors on campus must continue to sign in electronically through the campus Raptor system and attest they have not been diagnosed with COVID-19, do not have symptoms, nor have been in close contact with someone test-confirmed with COVID-19.
 - a. Individuals diagnosed with COVID-19 must adhere to the criteria in section INDIVIDUALS CONFIRMED WITH COVID-19 located in this document.
 - b. All visitors to school must comply with Board Policy, [GKC \(Local\)](#).

INDIVIDUALS WHO TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 or HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO SOMEONE WHO HAS COVID-19

SCUC ISD will continue to follow recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) related to individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 and/or have been exposed to someone who has COVID-19. Any individuals who are test-confirmed to have COVID-19 must isolate at home and cannot return to campus until the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met.

VACCINATED OR PREVIOUSLY POSITIVE INDIVIDUALS

COVID-19 vaccinations are not required for SCUC ISD staff, students and visitors. Due to the “breakthrough” cases related to the Omicron variant, the conditions for those who have been previously vaccinated have changed. Please refer to the chart shared below in this document for more information.

Updated Isolation and Quarantine Recommendations for COVID-19

If You Test Positive for COVID-19 (Isolate)	
Everyone, regardless of vaccination status.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay home for 5 days. • If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you can leave your home. • Continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days. <p><i>If you have a fever or symptoms have not improved, continue to stay home for up to 10 days, until your fever resolves, and symptoms improve.</i></p>
If You Were Exposed to Someone with COVID-19 (Quarantine)	
<p>If you:</p> <p>Have been boosted OR Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months OR Completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear a mask around others for 10 days. • Test on day 5, if possible. <p><i>If you develop symptoms, get a test and stay home.</i></p>
<p>If you:</p> <p>Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over 6 months ago and are not boosted OR Completed the primary series of J&J over 2 months ago and are not boosted OR Are unvaccinated</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay home for 5 days. After that continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days. • If you can't quarantine, you must wear a mask for 10 days. • Test on day 5 if possible. <p><i>If you develop symptoms, get a test and stay home</i></p>

IDENTIFYING POSSIBLE COVID-19 CASES

In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, consider the following question:

Have they recently begun experiencing any of the following in a way that is not normal for them?

- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting

The most common symptoms associated with the latest variant (Omicron) include, but aren't limited to:

- Cough
- Fatigue
- Congestion
- Runny Nose

Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school on campus if the child has COVID-19 symptoms or is test-confirmed with COVID-19, until the conditions for re-entry are met. See the [CDC recommendations](#) for more details, including the conditions for ending the exclusion period and returning to school.

As with any illness, students may not return to school if they have a fever of 100.0 or above. Students may return after being fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medication.

Any individual who is determined (or believed) to be symptomatic for COVID-19 while on campus or a district facility will be separated until the person can be picked-up or exit the facility and cannot return to campus until the school system screens the individual to determine the conditions for campus re-entry have been met:

1. In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, such individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to the campus until the individual has completed the re-entry criteria listed above.
2. If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the above stay at home period, the individual must either
 - (a) obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis, though for health privacy reasons the note does not need to indicate what the alternative diagnosis is, or
 - (b) obtain an acute infection test (at a SCUC Campus Site, physician's office, [approved testing location](#), or other site) that comes back negative for COVID-19.

TESTING

Current SCUC ISD staff and students are eligible to schedule testing for the COVID-19 virus through our campus nursing staff. ([Campus Testing Sites](#))

CLOSE CONTACT

RECOMMENDED STAY-AT-HOME PERIOD FOR INDIVIDUALS EXPOSED TO SOMEONE WHO IS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

This document refers to "close contact" or "exposed" to an individual who is test-confirmed to have COVID-19. The definition of close contact/exposed is evolving with our understanding of COVID-19, and individual scenarios should be determined by an appropriate public health agency. In general, close contact is defined as:

1. being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or
2. being within 6 feet for a total of approximately 15 minutes throughout the course of a day with an individual who is test-confirmed to have COVID-19; however, additional factors like case/contact masking, ventilation, vaccination status and case symptomology may affect this determination.

HOUSEHOLD-BASED

School systems may choose to require household-based close contact students to stay at home during stay-at-home period if they are in an area with high or rising COVID case rates. This applies specifically to students who are close contacts because an individual who lives in the same household is COVID-19 positive.

ON CAMPUS

When notified of a COVID-19 positive case on campus, SCUC ISD staff will continue contact tracing and will notify the parents of students and staff who were determined to be in close contact with the COVID-19 positive individual. Although individuals identified as close contact can no longer be required to quarantine, SCUC ISD recommends the stay-at-home periods, described previously in this document for those individuals who are identified as close contacts based on [CDC guidance](#).

RESPOND: PRACTICES TO RESPOND TO A TEST-CONFIRMED CASE

1. Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, all families and staff will be notified if their child or staff member themselves were present while a COVID-19 test-confirmed individual was on campus or in a district facility during the school/work day.
2. If an individual who has been in a district facility is test-confirmed to have COVID-19, the district will notify the [local health department](#), in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, including confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act ([ADA](#)) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
3. Areas heavily used by the positive individual will be deep cleaned using an electrostatic sprayer as a part of the nightly custodial routine.

MITIGATE: PRACTICES TO MITIGATE THE LIKELIHOOD OF COVID-19 SPREAD INSIDE THE SCHOOL

HEALTH AND HYGIENE PRACTICES: GENERAL

1. Schools will have hand sanitizer at each entrance and in every classroom.
2. Students, teachers, staff, and campus visitors will be encouraged to
 - a. Sanitize and/or wash hands frequently.
 - b. Students will be instructed on good handwashing techniques.
 - c. Students will be instructed on proper cough and sneeze etiquette.
3. Signage will be posted in all restrooms.
4. High touch surfaces campus wide will receive daily disinfection.
5. Children may bring from home and use district approved disinfectant wipes and personal hand sanitizer in ways that are safe and developmentally appropriate.
6. All cleaning supplies will be stored safely, including storing harmful products where children cannot access them, and ensuring that harmful cleaning products are not used near children.

Students and staff are encouraged to bring their own water bottles and will be able to refill them at our water fountains.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Social distancing is an effective way to prevent potential infection. SCUC ISD employees, students, parents, and visitors are encouraged to follow recommended safe distancing practices whenever possible.

HEALTH AND HYGIENE PRACTICES: FACE COVERINGS/MASKS

1. **The district does strongly recommend mask wearing in all district facilities and on district property when indoors and six feet of distance cannot be maintained, however masks remain optional.**
2. For individuals identified as being in close contact with test-confirmed COVID-19 individuals and who choose to not quarantine, SCUC ISD strongly recommends these close contacts wear a mask throughout the infectious period. All masks must be school appropriate and in accordance with the district dress code policy.
3. For the purposes of this document, masks include non-medical and medical grade disposable face masks and cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth). Full-face shields may be used in place of a mask to protect eyes, nose, and mouth whenever a mask is not feasible or whenever the educational context may benefit from the ability to see an individual's full face.

STUDENT-TEACHER GROUPINGS

Where feasible without disrupting the educational experience, we will encourage students to practice social distancing.

1. In classroom spaces that allow it, student desks will be placed three feet apart when possible.
2. When appropriate physical education classes will be held outside.
3. Campus plans for entry, exit and transition may be modified to reduce large group gatherings requiring close proximity.

MEALTIME

1. Meals will be served through a traditional cafeteria style process. Students will go through the serving line to receive their meals.
2. Campuses may devise lunch schedules and formats, including utilization of outside areas, to allow appropriate spacing for students.
3. Signage and staff will reinforce physical spacing and traffic patterns in the cafeteria.
4. Hand sanitizer stations will be available at the entrance/exits of the cafeteria.

TRANSPORTATION

1. There is no current limit on the number of students who may ride a bus.
2. Families are encouraged to consider their own transportation for drop off and pick up of students.
3. Hand sanitizer will be available as students enter a bus.
4. When possible, buses will operate with the windows down to increase the circulation of outside air.
5. High touch surfaces of the buses will be disinfected daily.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

SCUC ISD will follow all extra-curricular and athletic guidelines set by the Universal Interscholastic League (UIL). Currently there are not restrictions for participation and attendance at events.

CONTINUITY OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES DUE TO COVID-RELATED ABSENCES

METHODS OF INSTRUCTIONAL DELIVERY

1. Our K-12 learning management system, Schoology, provides students access to school work online. Assignments, Homework and Assessments are posted in this platform.
2. Technology, including Chromebooks, iPads and hotspots are checked out to a student if needed.
3. Paper copies of student work made available upon parent request
4. Email of student work upon parent request

GRADING GUIDELINES

1. SCUC ISD 2021-2022 Grading Guidelines - Make- Up Work for Absences shall be followed.
 - i. Students are required to make up assignments, homework, and assessments due to absences. Students are allowed two school days for every day of class missed.
 - ii. See links to Grading Guidelines:
 1. PK - 6th grade = <https://www.scuc.txed.net/Page/34106>
 2. JR High & High School = <https://www.scuc.txed.net/Page/34106>

PARENT FAQ

Q: Will all students, visitors and staff be required to wear masks/face coverings at school?

A: No, masks are optional but strongly recommended when inside the building and six feet of distance cannot be maintained. Visitors will be required to attest before entering the building that they are not COVID-19 positive, are not exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, and have not been in close contact with individuals identified as COVID-19 positive

Q: Will my child be required to have a COVID-19 vaccination to attend school?

A: No, COVID-19 vaccination is not required for students to attend school.

Q: How can my child get water to drink at school?

A: Water fountains will be open for use, but students are encouraged to bring their own bottle of water to school. Students will have the opportunity to refill their own bottles at the fountains.

Q: When will a classroom receive deep cleaning?

A: Areas heavily used by a test-confirmed positive individual will receive deep cleaning during the daily custodial routine. Deep cleaning includes the disinfection of the area with an electrostatic disinfectant applicator.

Q: May my child bring his/her own liquid hand sanitizer and/or cleaning supplies?

A: Students may bring their own hand sanitizer and district approved disinfectant wipes for their own use. Students will be allowed to clean their own spaces before and after they are used, in ways that are safe and developmentally appropriate.

Q: May I have lunch at school with my child?

A: Yes, visitors at lunch are welcome and will be seated in a designated area. This may be restricted or limited if positive case counts are high. Visitors must check in through the Raptor system at the main entrance and attest they are not COVID-19 positive, are not exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, and have not been in close contact with individual identified as having COVID-19.

Q: What happens if a student or teacher in my child's class gets sick?

A: Test confirmed individuals must isolate/quarantine as described in the Health and Safety Protocols.

Q: Can parents drop off food for students during lunch? (McDonald's, pizza, etc.)

A: Parents will be able to drop off lunches after school begins for the day.

Q: Will students be able to bring backpacks to school?

A: Yes, currently there is no restriction against bringing backpacks to school.

Q: Will the school provide a mask if a student arrives at school without one or a mask is lost, broken, etc.?

A: Students and staff who choose to wear a mask will need to provide their own. Disposable masks may be available upon request while quantities last, in the event a student need one.

Q: What if we have student who have severe asthma that may be triggered by (or that are allergic to) the disinfecting sprays being used in classrooms?

A: If this is determined, the district will provide a different cleaning option for those classrooms.