



2021-22 COVID-19 PREVENTION STRATEGIES & COMMUNICATION

08/09/2021

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Staying Safe in Schools

Vaccination, screening testing, ventilation, handwashing, staying home when sick, contact tracing, and cleaning and disinfecting are all **important layers of prevention**

Covid-19 prevention strategies remain critical especially in areas of moderate-to-high community transmission. Monitoring transmission, occurrences, and outbreaks guides community level decisions.



Layers of Prevention in our Schools

- COVID-19 vaccinations: **Top priority**
- Stay home if you are sick, a close contact* and/or test positive for COVID-19
- Consistent and correct mask use
- Physical Distancing to best of ability according to activity
- COVID-19 screenings: routine COVID safety check (AKA Pool testing), Diagnostic Testing (Rapid antigen- BinaxNOW)
- iHealth (rapid antigen take home) test kits bi-weekly distribution to students, staff who opt-in to the state-sponsored program
- Hand hygiene
- Cleaning and disinfecting
- Contact tracing (to identify close contacts)

***Those who are fully vaccinated and asymptomatic are exempt from quarantine if identified as a close contact status**

Promote COVID-19 vaccination

- Population: 5 years old and older, staff and parents/guardians
- Key message: Trust the Facts. Get the Vax. The COVID-19 vaccine saves lives. It's the best way to protect yourself, your family, and our community.



Stay home if you are sick, a close contact and/or test positive for COVID-19

COVID-19 Symptoms to Monitor for:

- ✓ Fever (100.0° Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills (CDC has lowered the temperature from 100.4 to 100.0)
- ✓ Cough (*not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough*)
- ✓ Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath.
- ✓ New loss of taste or smell
- ✓ Sore throat
- ✓ Headache *when in combination with other symptoms*
- ✓ Muscle aches or body aches
- ✓ Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.
- ✓ Fatigue, *when in combination with other symptoms*
- ✓ Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies) *when in combination with other symptoms*

Face Mask Requirement in School buildings

- Face masks will be required for all students, teachers, staff and approved vendors/visitors – regardless of vaccination status- while indoors.

Exceptions include for medical/behavioral – with medical note

- Face masks will be required for travel on all SPS buses
- For a face mask to be a useful prevention strategy, the mask wearer must have consistent and correct mask use. When you wear a mask, you protect others as well as yourself. Masks work best when everyone wears one.
- Masks must completely cover the nose and mouth and fit snugly against the sides of face without gaps.



How to Properly Put on/Remove

Putting on face covering

- Use the hand sanitizer wipe to cleanse your hands or students maintain social distancing to utilize wall hand sanitizer.
- Allow to dry.
- Place face covering over your nose and mouth.
- Mask ties should be secured on crown of head (top tie) and base of neck (bottom tie).
- If face covering has loops, hook them appropriately around your ears.
- Secure it under your chin and try to fit it snugly against the sides of your face.
- Make sure you can breathe easily.

Removing the face covering

- Untie the strings behind your head or stretch the ear loops over your ears.
- Handle only by the ear loops or ties.
- Set the outside of the face covering down on a paper towel and make sure that the inside of the face covering is facing up so that when you go to reuse it, you can pick it up without touching the outside of the face covering.
- Be careful not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth when removing.
- Use the hand sanitizer wipe to cleanse your hands or utilize wall hand sanitizer.
- Allow to dry.



Reinforcing all students and staff must adhere to the mask/face covering requirement

- Any breach of safety procedures is a violation of the Springfield Public School prevention strategies
- Consequences for students/staff not following prevention strategies:
 - Schools will re-educate
 - Refer to counselor/administration
 - Then follow progressive discipline

Physical/Social Distancing

Students:

- In the classroom, social distancing will be done to the best of SPS ability up to three feet.
- When outdoors, individuals should distance as feasible.

Staff:

- When possible, maintain six feet of physical distance for the greatest protection. This includes staff lounge and staff cafeteria areas.
- Meetings: virtual
 - In the event an in-person meeting is necessary, adhere to six feet physical distance and masks must be worn.
- Unannounced observations & post conferences- maintain less than fifteen minutes & maintain six feet (Post conference can be held virtually)
- Learning walks- limit participants to 2-3, maintain less than fifteen minutes, maintain six feet, **and wear a mask.**

Considerations for Face Mask Removal with Physical Distancing in Mind

Mask breaks:

- Maximize physical distancing as much as possible when masks are removed.
- Utilize additional large open spaces and outside spaces as the times to conduct a mask break.
 - Outdoor space is encouraged and recommended to be used for mask breaks. When feasible maintain 6 feet.
 - If indoors- as feasible maintain 6 feet of physical distance. Consider staggering mask removal times when unable to have 6 feet of distance between individuals keeping the mask breaks short (5-10minutes)

Mealtimes:

- **While eating, to the best extent possible and as feasible maintain 3 feet of physical distance.**

Breakfast in classroom: Maximize physical distancing as much as possible. Consider staggering student meal consumption times to maintain 6 feet of distance.

Lunch: served in classrooms, if students can not maintain 3 feet in classroom or classes can not be covered, cafeteria and outdoor space could be utilized.

Cafeteria: have seating assignments and/or charts . (for contact tracing)

- Hand washing facilities or hand sanitizer must be available for taking mask on and off.

Singing & wind instruments:

- Singing and wind instruments can be used inside with appropriate PPE.
- PPE:
For singing, a singer's mask and accompanying storage box for each student. For wind instruments, a type-specific instrumentalist's mask and bell cover for each student.

NOTE: All students must social distance at least 3 feet and, when feasible, a six-foot distance is preferred.

Additional Considerations:

- **Outdoor activities:** No masks are required, students and staff should distance as feasible.
- **Fire & lockdown drills:** proceed following normal procedures.

- **Physical Education classes/ Gym:** Weather permitting held outdoors. When indoors, maintain physical distance as much as possible. Guidance will be provided by Senior Administrator of Performance and Evaluation.

- **Bathrooms:** maintain three feet as much as possible
- **Entering schools:** multiple entry/exit points are recommended where possible. (Mask required)
- **Visitor(s):** Limit. Approved visitors only
- **Hallways:** maintain three feet as much as possible

Hand Hygiene & Cleaning/ Disinfecting

- Maintain strong hand hygiene: Students and staff are required to exercise hand hygiene (handwashing or sanitizing) that should be preformed upon arrival to school, before eating, before putting on and taking off masks, and before dismissal.
 - Utilize hand sanitizing stations at each entry point.
- Handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds is the best practice. However, hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol should be substituted when handwashing is not available.
- Routine cleaning and disinfecting practices maintained

COVID-19 Testing in schools

Reminder:

Parental/guardian consent is required for all test types

- Pool Testing
- Symptomatic Testing
- iHealth rapid antigen take-home test kit distribution bi-weekly to students/staff who opt into the state's program

COVID-19 Rapid At-Home Antigen Testing for Students and Staff

These tests are in addition to the state-sponsored program and are made available for/students staff who are at home isolating and experiencing COVID-19 symptoms; or for use by students/staff on day five of quarantine as an asymptomatic close contact.

These tests are available while supplies last and are not to be used *in* school or as surveillance.

Test kit distribution: By the school principal/nurse/other designee outside of the school building.

HR Requirements for STAFF submittal of COVID-19 Rapid At-Home Antigen Test Results

At this time, SPS will accept results of a rapid antigen at home test as proof of positive result for COVID due to the current challenges with obtaining a PCR test. Staff must complete the Covid-19 leave pay form, which includes attestation that you have tested positive, and provide a picture of your rapid antigen home test result. Please email a copy of your completed Covid-19 Leave pay form and a picture of your rapid antigen home test results to Human Resources at hrffcra@springfieldpublicschools.com

Testing Positive

Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 must isolate for at least five days. A return to school is allowed anytime between day six and ten with proof of a negative COVID-19 test. Anyone who tested positive for COVID-19 may return to school on day 11 with or without proof of a negative COVID-19 test. This applies to both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals.

Staff Reporting Process When Symptomatic, Designated as Positive, or Designated as a Non School-Based Close Contact

As an employee you will be responsible for completing the following process:

If you become COVID-19 positive, report immediately to your principal/supervisor

1. Submit a copy of the COVID-19 test result to principal/supervisor along with a contact phone number
2. Submit a self-report positive COVID-19 form to hrffcra@springfieldpublicschools.com

A human resource representative will follow up with next steps

If you are symptomatic (meeting COVID-19 criteria), report immediately to your principal/supervisor

1. Submit a self-report COVID-19 symptom form to hrffcra@springfieldpublicschools.com

A human resource representative will follow up with next steps

If you are designated a close contact in the community, report immediately to your principal/supervisor

1. Submit a self-report Designated a COVID-19 Close Contact Outside of School form to

hrffcra@springfieldpublicschools.com

A human resource representative will follow up with next steps and available for guidance.

If you have questions on how to obtain the required documentation requested, please email

hrffcra@springfieldpublicschools.com



**DECISIONS ON PREVENTION STRATEGIES WILL
REMAIN FLUID AS MORE INFORMATION AND
DATA BECOME AVAILABLE**



THANK YOU