

# 2021-22 SCHOOL REOPENING PLAN



Seminole County  
Public Schools

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## 1.0 Summary of Reopening Work

During the 2020-21 school year, much insight has been gained into best practices for all areas of school operation for COVID. Dr. Griffin convened the Reopening Task Force to review all previous guidance to recommend any necessary changes and adjustments to the board for the June 2021 board meeting.

The team reviewed needs across the following areas: Physical and Emotional Health, School Operations, and Instruction. Data was reviewed to look at school and county COVID cases, transmission rates, hospitalization trends, vaccination rates and eligibility, mental health referral data, homeless and foster care data, attendance data, and survey data for instructional choices. Feedback was sought from a variety of stakeholders to include parents, teachers, community agencies, mental health professionals, and representatives from all local hospitals. The following recommendations are meant to guide school teams to balance the needs of students and staff across all three of the domains listed above and the team wishes to express their appreciation for all the stakeholders who contributed to this document.

This guidance and local data will be reviewed monthly during the 21-22 school year and updates to all recommendations will be made as needed. This information will be shared with the public through our communications department and at School Board Meetings.

## 2.0 Instructional Models for the 2021-22 School Year

SCPS has identified two instructional models for the 2021-2022 school year: Face-to-Face and Seminole County Virtual School. The Superintendent and School Board are committed to providing quality instruction while maintaining the health and safety of our students and staff.

Our SCPS *Student Progression Plan* outlines the instructional expectations for the progress of all students. All students will receive rigorous instruction that includes robust progress monitoring and will be provided tiered support if they are not making adequate progress.

### 2.1 Face-to-Face

Face-to-Face is traditional in-school learning. Families must adhere to the health and safety guidelines outlined in the approved Seminole County Public Schools 2021-2022 Reopening Plan while on campus, in school restaurants, at extracurricular activities, and on school buses. Transportation will be available to students residing more than two miles from their zoned/choice school.

### 2.2 Seminole County Virtual School (SCVS)

Seminole County Virtual School (SCVS) is a fully accredited K-12 public school created and supervised by SCPS. Seminole County Virtual School is a K-12 full-time virtual experience. Students remain at home and all courses are offered via computer by SCPS teachers who support students throughout the school week and hold optional sessions, called “live lessons.” Teachers must follow a prescribed curriculum and students take assessments

created to tightly align with state standards. At the elementary level, SCVS students are required to identify a learning coach (i.e., parent or adult caregiver) to support and monitor their progress in the course. SCVS students also take all required state assessments. Students can work at their own pace and on their own schedule, although pacing charts are provided so that parents and students complete enough work each week to ensure successful course completion. Teachers conference with students and parents at least once/month. SCVS students are allowed to participate in all sports and school activities at their zoned/choice school.

### 2.3 Specialized Supports for Unique Populations

Seminole County will provide the full array of services that are required by law, including in-person instruction, specialized instruction for students with IEPs, and those from vulnerable populations, such as students from low-income families, students of migrant workers, students who are homeless, students with disabilities, students in foster care and/or students who are English Language Learners. Guiding documents that outline these procedures can be found in the Comprehensive Evidence-Based Reading Plan (CERP), Exceptional Student Education Policies and Procedures (SP&P), and the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) procedural Handbook.

### 2.4 Social Emotional and Mental Health Supports

Seminole County Public Schools is dedicated to the physical and mental wellness of all students. Seminole County Public Schools provides mental health services through school psychologists, school social workers, and district mental health counselors.

The goal of SCPS's mental health plan is to expand on the multi-tiered system of support currently in place for mental and social-emotional health and improve the quality and accessibility of mental health services through direct services and/or referral to outside providers.

Student supports are provided through classroom SEL lessons, targeted skills groups, individual and group counseling supports, wellness clubs/activities, and referrals to community agencies.

Staff supports are provided by both the Student Support Services and Wellness Departments. These include activities and resources for self-care and mindfulness, and our Employee Assistance Program.

Parent education and resources are also provided on the website and have included training in Youth Mental Health First Aid and Mental Health Parent Forums.

### 2.5 Instructional Continuity

Consistency with learning platforms will provide instructional continuity in the event of a district-wide or individual student disruption of learning due to crisis. At each school level consistent use of Google Classroom (K-5) or eCampus/Canvas (6-12) will facilitate online access to classroom content. Resources that teachers can use flexibly in either Face-to-Face or online environments have been added to the frameworks. Slide decks to enhance

teacher lessons have been built for both elementary and secondary subject areas. In addition, Nearpod lesson banks are available for elementary PE, Art, and Music.

## 2.6 Schedules

The reopening task force recognizes the important role bell schedules play in structuring the educational environment for our students.

School Principals in coordination with Executive Directors will have the freedom to create bell schedules not limited to block scheduling. At elementary, the use of cohort groups, whenever feasible, is also recommended.

## 3.0 Health and Safety Protocols

### 3.1 Face Coverings for Students and Staff

The task force recommends the following guidance for face coverings in educational settings:

The wearing of masks for the 2021-22 school year is voluntary for students and staff. Adults that have not been vaccinated are encouraged to wear a mask.

Some staff may be required to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to include face coverings when working with symptomatic staff/students or when working with medically fragile student populations that are not eligible for vaccines.

Staff members seeking individual accommodation needs for health concerns should work with the ADA Coordinator. Students and families seeking individual accommodation needs due to health should work with the Section 504 or IEP team at their assigned school, in coordination with the School Board Nurse.

### 3.2 Social Distancing

Social Distancing in classroom and campus educational settings is one prevention strategy to utilize, as feasible, with other key mitigation strategies to implement healthy campuses.

There are currently no recommendations or requirements for social distancing for vaccinated individuals. As campus sites have a combination of both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals, it is recommended to utilize 3 feet of distancing as feasible while indoors on campus. However, plastic/physical barriers are no longer recommended for use in the classroom or on campus.

Signage will be utilized to remind individuals, especially in larger congregate areas, to use as much physical distancing as feasible.

Best practice instructional techniques are recommended to continue (small groups, labs, intervention, etc.). It is critical that instructors in all areas maintain accurate seating charts and attendance records for the purpose of any necessary contact tracing.

### 3.3 Screening for Illness

SCPS will employ an observational screening protocol for screening of illness of staff and students. The district and schools will communicate information to parents and employees about the symptoms of COVID-19 and ask them to self-screen before coming to school. Students and employees exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 without being otherwise explained, are prohibited from coming to school, and if they do come to school, they should be sent home immediately.

According to current Florida Department of Health guidance, symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Employees and students will be trained to recognize the following COVID-19-related symptoms:

- Fever (100 degrees or greater) or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

*This list does not include all possible symptoms. Seminole County Health Department will continue to update the list as they learn more about COVID-19.*

In addition, the district/school may take the temperature of students and employees in situations where there is reason to believe that the person may be ill. Touch-free thermometers will be utilized and will be provided for use in clinics and any other school/district area where a team has determined a specific need.

### 3.4 Clinic Spaces and Isolation Procedures

Each school will have a designated clinic staff member and back up staff trained in best practice procedures for isolating students who present with symptoms related to COVID-19. These best practice procedures include providing student with a surgical mask, socially distancing the student away from other persons, donning of mask by clinic staff working with symptomatic student, and keeping the student separate from others until parent/guardian can pick up. Parent/guardian should enter the building to sign student out and leave immediately.

### 3.5 Isolation from School and Protocols to Return to School After Home Isolation

Students and employees should be isolated from school if they test positive for COVID-19. Determinations about the need for home isolation and the length of the isolation period will be made in collaboration with families, the school-based administrator, the health services team, and the Seminole County Health Department. Once a student or employee is isolated from the school environment, they may return if they satisfy the recommendations of the Seminole County Health Department. The district and the

Seminole County Health Department will continue to collaborate to refine and implement COVID-19 protocols to assess risk and respond to school-specific matters based on all relevant factors and current information.

Current guidelines require that an individual who tests positive for COVID-19 be isolated for 10 days. If the individual is asymptomatic, they are isolated for 10 days from the date of the positive test. If they are symptomatic, they are isolated for 10 days from symptom onset.

### 3.6 Confirmed Case of COVID-19 on School Property

When there is confirmation that a person infected with COVID-19 was on SCPS property, the department or school COVID-19 point of contact will complete/update the “Illness Report Log” for submittal to the Seminole County Health Department immediately and copy the ADA Compliance Administrator, Ryan Dufraim or designee, and Health Services Coordinator, Julie Bocock or designee.

It is the responsibility of the Seminole County Health Department to contact the person confirmed with COVID-19, inform direct contacts of their possible exposure, and provide instructions to those involved with the confirmed case, including siblings and other household members, regarding self-quarantine and exclusions. The individual who tested positive will not be identified in communications to the school community at large but will be identified to the Seminole County Health Department for contact tracing.

However, school administration may decide to alert impacted students and families of a potential exposure on campus pending investigation by the Department of Health.

Contact tracing involves the identification of close contacts with the positive COVID individual. Close contacts are currently defined as anyone who is within 6 feet of the positive individual for 15 minutes or more within 48 hours of positive test or symptom onset.

Close contacts are considered directly exposed and must quarantine for 10 days from last contact with positive individual. If an individual has completed their COVID vaccination series or has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, they may be exempt from quarantine.

As soon as the district/school becomes aware of a student or employee who has been exposed to or has been diagnosed with COVID-19, the custodial staff will be informed, so that impacted building or bus areas, furnishings, and equipment are thoroughly disinfected.

### 3.7 Reporting Protocols

Each campus is responsible for designating an administrator as the COVID Safety Manager (CSM) to act as the key contact for cases in collaboration with Department of Health and School Board Nurse. Training will be provided to all staff acting in this role.

Cases will be reported to the Department of Health as outlined in 3.6 and will be published on the district website and updated weekly.

## 4.0 School Operations

### 4.1 Campus Visitors

Campus visitors and volunteers are an important asset to the school community. It is recommended to allow visitors and volunteers to return to campus sites for the 21-22 school year.

- Visitors must adhere to all school health protocols in place at the time of the visit.
- To the extent practicable, deliveries should be scheduled during student non-attendance times, or minimized during the school day, whenever feasible.
- Food and drink can be brought on campus. It is recommended that individual servings be utilized.

### 4.2 Campus Events

#### 4.2.1 Indoor Events

- Social distancing should be encouraged during indoor events, when possible, for spectators and participants.
- A capacity of 50% is recommended for indoor events.
- Entry to concerts, plays, and other events should have cashless transaction options such as: credit/debit card readers or online prepaid tickets.
- Hand sanitizer stands should be placed at the entry/exit of all venues and concession stands for spectator use.
- Large concerts, plays, and other events can be streamed or recorded for fans to watch remotely.

#### 4.2.2 Outdoor Events

- Capacity will follow state and local guidance.
- Seminole County athletics will adhere to the Florida High School Athletic Association guidelines.
- Hand sanitizer stands will be placed at the entry/exit of all venues and concession stands for spectator use.
- Entry to games, matches, tournaments, and other sporting events will have cashless transaction options such as: credit/debit card readers or online prepaid tickets.

### 4.3 Red Apple Dining (RAD)

All students have the eligibility to receive free and reduced breakfast and lunch according to federal guidelines.

#### 4.3.1 Team Member Safety Protocols

- Promote continued regular handwashing, as well as cleaning and disinfection of tables and dining equipment.
- Schedule frequent cleaning and disinfection of high contact areas.

### 4.3.2 Elementary Campuses

- To the extent feasible, all students will eat in the dining room seated with their classroom cohort group.
- Sanitizer will be available for all guests entering the dining room in multiple locations to allow for distancing.
- Tables, seats, and contact points will be cleaned and sanitized between service with assistance from custodians.
- Traditional menu simplification for students will include:
  - Packaged choices available (PBJ, Salad meal, etc.) and
  - Increased availability of “grab and go” options.

### 4.3.3 Secondary Campuses

- To the extent feasible, all students will eat in the dining room. Schools are encouraged to utilize outside/courtyard spaces for additional dining space.
- Sanitizer will be available for all guests entering dining room in multiple locations to allow for greater distancing.
- Wrapped cutlery and packaged condiments will be provided for guests. RAD will adjust packaging to allow for more closed container options.
- Tables, seats, and contact points will be cleaned and disinfected between service with assistance from custodians.

## 4.4 Transportation

The SCPS Transportation Department will follow the guidelines below for its transportation vehicles:

- The safe and correct use and storage of cleaning and disinfection products will be ensured.
- The touch point surfaces (e.g., seats, belt buckles, doors, windows) will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the vehicles prior to morning routes and before afternoon routes.
- Doors and windows will be kept open, when weather permits, for cleaning and disinfection between routes to allow for enhanced ventilation in vehicles.
- Trained employees will deep clean buses each night. The buses will be misted with disinfectant to include the AC vents.
- If a student becomes sick during the day, he/she will not use group transportation to return home.
- If a driver becomes sick during the day, he/she must not return to drive students.
- Increased education for drivers on cleaning and disinfection procedures and COVID-19 symptoms will be provided.
- Touchless hand sanitizer dispensers will be provided for students to use as they enter the bus.

## 4.5 Cleaning and Disinfection

The CDC and OSHA provide guidance on cleaning and disinfection of schools and buildings. The district will support schools by providing:

- Training on disinfection methods and quality control expectations for custodial employees.
- Central ordering system for disinfection products and PPE.
  - Provide direction to schools and district departments on ordering cleaning and safety products for each site.
- Hand-held, hospital grade misting machines to assist in volume and output potential of *High Touch Surface* disinfection.
- After-hours operations shall include *High Touch Surface* disinfection with hand-held, hospital grade mister as part of the normal custodial effort.
- Custodians to assist with cleaning and disinfecting all common areas.
- Ensure that all disinfectants are stored in a proper location.
- Supply soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, paper towels, and tissue.
  - Facilities will provide schools with directions on how to order supplies through the warehouse.
- Establish a schedule for routine cleaning and disinfection of school facilities (e.g., tables, desks, chairs, door handles, light switches, railings, faucet/toilet handles, drinking fountains, playground equipment, gym equipment, cafeteria tables/carts/trays, countertops).
- Encourage students and staff to bring water from home to limit amount of use at water fountains that are not fill stations.