



## South Middleton School District Health and Safety Plan

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The South Middleton School District's Health and Safety plan has been created using resources developed by Federal, State, and Local health agencies. The District acknowledges that there are no current strategies that will eliminate the risks associated with COVID-19. This plan aims to minimize risk, while allowing our students and staff to resume school activities in a safe manner.

It is recommended that the Board authorize the Administration to temporarily suspend or modify relevant Board policies as needed to align with the Health and Safety Plan. Administrative regulations written to complement this plan shall be used to guide decision making and execution of the plan.

***This plan shall be monitored routinely and will be revised based on changing public health conditions.***

### **2021-2022 Opening Plan**

The opening plan for the 2021-2022 school year will consist of full in-person learning, grades K-12, Monday through Friday. Our anticipated start date is for all students is Wednesday, August 25, 2021.

### **Pandemic Team**

The District assembled a Health and Safety Task Force to assist in the development of a Health and Safety Plan. This Task Force includes a variety of District staff and local health officials. The Team will be responsible for facilitating the local planning process, monitoring implementation of the Health and Safety Plan, and continued monitoring of local health data to assess implications on school operations. Also, the Task Force will propose potential adjustments to the Health and Safety Plan throughout the school year, as needed.

The Team is comprised of the following individuals:

Individual(s)	Stakeholder Group Represented	Pandemic Roles and Responsibilities
Matthew Strine, Ed.D.	Superintendent	Plan Development & Response Team
Melanie Shaver-Durham	Director of Curriculum	Plan Development & Response Team
Alex Smith	Director of Student Services	Plan Development & Response Team
Nicole Weber	Director of Business and Operations	Plan Development & Response Team
Zachary Gump	Supervisor of Facilities & Safety	Plan Development & Response Team
Rachel Boyle	Athletic Director	Plan Development & Response Team
Nick Milone	Food Services Director, Chartwells	Plan Development & Response Team
Joel Hain	High School Principal	Plan Development & Response Team
Mark Correll	Assistant High School Principal	Plan Development & Response Team
Jessica White	Supervisor of Special Education	Plan Development & Response Team
Jesse White, Ed.D.	Middle School Principal	Plan Development & Response Team
David Bitner	Assistant Middle School Principal	Plan Development & Response Team
Trisha Reed	Elementary School Principal	Plan Development & Response Team

David Boley	Elementary School Principal	Plan Development & Response Team
Dr. Chad Jumper	District Physician	Plan Development & Response Team
Gareth Pahowka, Esquire	District Solicitor, Stock and Leader	Plan Development
Paula Michalik	Professional Staff (Teacher), SMEA President	Plan Development
David Yinger	Professional Staff (Teacher), SMEA Representative	Plan Development

### **Cleaning, Face Coverings, and Ventilation**

The District's Facilities Department, comprised of maintenance and custodial staff, is responsible for cleaning and maintenance of all school owned facilities. The District maintains a regular cleaning schedule that is followed by each custodian. The Facilities Department takes great pride in the training protocols and cleaning methods utilized by the custodial staff.

The District will continue to utilize resources, including the Centers for Disease Control and PA Department of Health, for guidance on cleaning strategies and cleaning frequency. The frequency of cleaning and disinfecting will be determined by the severity of COVID-19 in the South Middleton School District community. The District has acquired additional equipment to aid in the process of disinfecting buildings and school vehicles.

The following actions will be implemented to address these categories:

#### **A. Cleaning**

- The District has initiated steps to prevent and mitigate the spread of Covid-19 in our facilities. The custodial staff shall implement daily disinfection protocols based on CDC Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Schools to reduce the risk of transmission.
- The custodial staff will pay particular attention to high touch-point areas such as desktops, doorknobs, countertops, restrooms, and computer hardware.
- Cleaning will occur on a routine schedule and daytime custodians will promptly respond to requests for replenishment of depleted items such as handwashing and hand sanitizing products.
- A cleaning checklist will be utilized to ensure proper cleaning by second shift custodial staff.
- The department will continue to follow the recommendations as prescribed by the Center for Disease Control for cleaning and sanitization.

#### **B. Face Coverings**

- On August 16, 2021, the SMSD Board of Directors acted to revise the 21-22 Health and Safety Plan by implementing an indoor mask mandate for all students and staff (K-12). This indoor mask mandate goes into effect at 12:00am on Friday, August 20, 2021 district wide. The following summarizes how the district administration intends to implement the revisions directed by the Board.

- i. Acceptable Masks: Masks/face coverings that cover the nose and mouth.
  - ii. Masks are to be worn indoors and on school provided transportation, such as school buses and vans.
  - iii. Masks are not required outdoors.
  - iv. Mask breaks will be provided at the discretion of teachers. The guidelines of mask breaks are: (a) time frame of no more than 10 minutes, (b) staggered within the classroom (i.e., one half of classroom at a time), and (c) ensure 6ft of separation during mask breaks. Exclusion of Close Contact: If both the case and the close contact were wearing masks during the exposure, no quarantine is necessary for the close contact if the close contact was not within 3ft.
- Implications of mask wearing and close contacts: If both the case and the close contact were wearing masks during the exposure, no quarantine is necessary for the close contact if the close contact was not within 3ft. This applies to students only in the indoor classroom setting.
  - The SMSD Board of Directors will continue to review the need for a mask mandate.

### **C. Ventilation**

- Standard Operating Procedures for air circulation/filtration will be maintained by the District.

## **Social Distancing and Other Safety Protocols**

The District will utilize the following guiding principles to maximize safety:

- Visitors and volunteers will be able to access school facilities at the discretion of the building-level principal. Volunteers must follow building-specific volunteer procedures.
- Where physically possible, practice social distancing between all students, staff, and visitors. Class sizes and bus occupancy will return to pre-pandemic operating procedures.
- Seating charts will be maintained and enforced within the classroom, cafeteria, bus, and to the extent feasible, other areas in which students routinely gather. This is to ensure accuracy and reliability in the event close contact tracing is required based on guidelines set forth by the CDC and the PA Department of Health.
- Provide hygiene education and best practices for both students and staff.
  - Sanitizing stations will be available for all students, staff, and visitors upon entrance to district facilities.
  - Students and staff shall wash hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing one's nose, coughing, or sneezing.
  - The District will maintain proper level of soap and hand sanitizer to support proper hygiene practices.
- Post CDC and PA Department of Health signage in all high traffic areas that promote everyday protective measures, and how to stop the spread of germs.
- The District will consider any guidance issued from the CDC or PA Department of Health pertaining to youth sports and physical education classes.
- Encourage video conferencing in lieu of in-person meetings when feasible (i.e., Parent-Teacher Conference, IEP Meetings, etc.).
- The District will also collaborate with local medical providers to facilitate COVID-19 vaccinations for those eligible in the South Middleton community.
- Other considerations provided by Federal, State, and Local agencies.

## Monitoring Student and Staff Health

Staff training will be provided to enhance the monitoring of student and staff health. Additionally, the District will implement protocols to provide appropriate safeguards for illness management. This will include procedures for the prompt removal of symptomatic individuals and a standard set of requirements for individuals to return to school.

- Parents/guardians shall conduct a screening for COVID-19 symptoms at home each morning before the school day; screening tool for parents: Symptoms of Coronavirus
- No students with COVID-19 symptoms will be sent on a bus or brought to school.
- All district and contracted staff shall conduct a screening for COVID-19 symptoms at home each morning prior to leaving for work and will stay home if ill. If staff are experiencing any COVID-19 related symptoms, they should contact their building administrator.
- Students and staff will be continually educated on the symptoms of COVID-19.
- Students and staff will go/be sent directly to the designated isolation room if feeling symptomatic.
- The District will isolate any students, staff and/or visitors who the district has reasonable belief is exhibiting COVID related symptoms to the triage room, contact the building nurse for medical review and determine if person should be sent home
- Doctor's note is required for student/staff to return to school if sent home.
- If confirmed case, stay home for 10 days from onset of symptoms AND must be fever free for 72 hours, without the use of fever reducing medication prior to returning to school grounds.
- The areas used by person suspected of having COVID-19 will be disinfected per CDC guidelines.
- Notify staff and families of confirmed case, while ensuring confidentiality.
- Implement appropriate Department of Health protocols for employees that become exposed to suspected or confirmed case – to include contact tracing.
- Visitors will be unable to enter District property if they refuse or fail to abide by the health and safety plan.
- Students and staff that are suspected cases, but not confirmed, may return to school if one of the following has been met:
  - A health care provider provides a doctor's note indicating that the staff/student has tested negative for COVID-19; or
  - A health care provider provides a doctor's note indicating that the staff/student is safe to return to school or a minimum of 10-days have elapsed since symptom onset and at least 3-days have passed since resolution of a fever without the use of fever-reducing medications for 24 hours.
- For individuals identified as close contacts of a confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case, the District will implement quarantine procedures consistent with the most up-to-date guidance from the PA Department of Health.
  - Those with COVID-19 vaccinations may not need to quarantine.

### **Other Considerations for Students and Staff**

It is imperative that the District remain responsive to the physical, social, and emotional wellbeing of our students and staff. Therefore, the District will provide all appropriate supports and/or services to students and staff to sustain a safe and supportive learning atmosphere that promotes.

As a result, the District will continue to deliver a continuum of supports to promote the social/emotional and behavioral wellbeing of students. Schoolwide positive behavior support will be offered to all students through universally provided screenings and lessons on concepts such as positive coping strategies, anti-bullying, resiliency, emotional regulation, self-awareness, and suicide prevention. Resources that (a) offer strategies to maintain positive emotional health and (b) foster community connectivity will continue to be offered on the District's website. Furthermore, targeted supports tailored to the unique needs of each student will be explored in the event universal strategies are not effective.

In addition to supports available within the school setting, the District will also collaborate with parents/guardians to coordinate community-based mental health and behaviors services, if interested, through our K-12 Student Assistance Program (SAP). SAP teams regularly conference and coordinate services regardless of instructional delivery model (e.g., in-person, hybrid, or remote) necessitated by conditions of the pandemic.

In terms of addressing students with educational needs as a result of physical, cognitive, social, emotional, or behavioral disabilities, the District will ensure educators and school leaders remain aware of their obligations under federal and state disability laws to implement individualized an approach consistent with the student's individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 Service Agreement.

### **Community Partnerships**

The South Middleton School District will continue to coordinate with community partners for ongoing guidance and support on COVID-19 related matters. Specifically, the District will consider guidance and recommendations related to health considerations and mitigation strategies offered by the Centers of Disease Control and PA Department of Health. The District will also collaborate with local medical providers to organize opportunities for stakeholders to receive COVID-19 vaccinations.

## Health and Safety Plan Communications

The following chart illustrates key communication to and from stakeholder groups.

Topic	Audience	Lead Person and Position	Session Format	Materials, Resources, and or Supports Needed
Routine Updates for Families	Students & Families	Superintendent Building Principals	E-mail, phone call, website	Routine Updates for Families
Routine Updates for Staff	District Staff	Superintendent Building Principals	Email or phone call	Routine Updates for Staff
Health and Safety Communications	Pandemic Team	Health and Safety Team	Various methods	Health and Safety Communications



## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **South Middleton School District** reviewed and approved the School Opening Health and Safety Plan on **08/16/2021**.

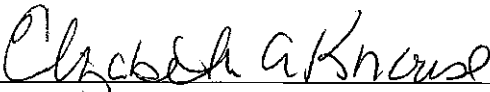
The plan was approved by a vote of:

  8   Yes

  1   No

Affirmed on: **08/16/2021**

By:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature\* of Board President)

ELIZABETH A. KNOWSE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Name of Board President)

\*Electronic signatures on this document are acceptable using one of the two methods detailed below.

**Option A:** The use of actual signatures is encouraged whenever possible. This method requires that the document be printed, signed, scanned, and then submitted.

**Option B:** If printing and scanning are not possible, add an electronic signature using the resident Microsoft Office product signature option, which is free to everyone, no installation or purchase needed.