



Covid-19

Return to In-Person Instruction (IPI) Plan 2021-2022



Pending Board Approval: January 18, 2022

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Introduction

South Dearborn Community School Corporation (SDCSC) believes that an in-person school setting is the best place for students to learn and grow academically, socially, emotionally, and physically. For the 2021-2022 school year, SDCSC plans on all students in grades kindergarten through twelve attending school in-person, five days per week.

As part of the requirement to receive federal COVID-19 stimulus money, a school corporation must present a Return to In-Person Instruction (IPI) Plan to the board for board approval. The plan must be submitted to the Indiana Department of Education by June 15, 2021.

Per Governor Holcomb's Executive Order 21-15 dated May 25, 2021, "as of July 1, 2021, local school boards and/or the relevant governing bodies of all public and private K-12 educational institutions will be responsible for implementing whatever measures and restrictions deemed necessary and prudent to address the impact and spread of COVID-19 for their buildings, facilities and ground to include transportation."

Based on Dearborn County Department of Health guidance, when there is a prolonged period of moderate to high community spread, the administration may consider continuing traditional school in grades K-12 or virtual instruction through our eLearning platform.

Just as the school system is flexible, parents will need to be flexible as well. As the COVID-19 is a rapidly changing pandemic, our protocols and procedures will need to change to meet the needs of our students.

Appendix A - Cleaning and Sanitizing Procedures

Routine cleaning and disinfecting are an important part of reducing the risk of exposure to COVID-19. Normal routine cleaning with soap and water alone can reduce risk of exposure and is a necessary step before you disinfect surfaces.

Daily Cleaning

All classroom, common area, and office surfaces (desks, tables, chairs, whiteboards, etc.) will first be cleaned with soap and water, then disinfected using an EPA-approved disinfectant. Parents can request a list of disinfectants by contacting Mr. Mark Morris or, Director of Transportation, Buildings, and Grounds at mark.morris@sdsc.k12.in.us.

School Clinic

School nurses will disinfect their general work after each student using a provided disinfectant wipe, when feasible. Custodians will clean and disinfect all office areas each evening. All office surfaces (desks, tables, chairs, etc.) will be cleaned using an EPA-approved disinfectant.

Water Fountains

Students may bring their own filled water bottle with a sealable lid to school. Students are encouraged to take their water bottle home daily for sanitation. Drinking fountains will also be available and will be sanitized routinely throughout the school day and evenings.

Appendix B - Health Protocols- Students and Staff

COVID-19 Symptoms and Student and Staff Requiring Exclusion from School

The following are COVID-19-related symptoms:

- A fever of 100.4° F or greater
- Sore throat
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever
- Loss of taste or smell

All staff will be trained to recognize COVID-19 related symptoms. Information on COVID-19 related symptoms will be shared and updated with students and parents.

Students and staff will be excluded from school if they test positive for COVID-19, have a fever of 100.4 or higher, or exhibit an abnormal or severe case of one or more of the other symptoms of COVID-19 if the symptoms are not otherwise explained and documented.

Students are not permitted at school if they exhibit any of these symptoms not otherwise explained and documented. Parents are required to notify the school immediately as outlined in Appendix C.

Staff are not permitted to report to school if they exhibit any of these symptoms not otherwise explained and documented. In addition, both students and staff are not permitted at school if a member of the household is COVID-19 positive.

If student/staff tests POSITIVE:

- Stay home for 5 days
- Return to school on Day 6 if asymptomatic or symptoms are resolving and must mask for Days 6-10 in school.
- Fever-free for 24 hours without medication and other symptoms are improving.
- Mask must be worn properly during days 6-10 or students may be required to finish quarantine at home.
- No extracurricular activities for 5 days of home quarantine. May resume Day 6 only if able to wear a mask at all times (unless performing strenuous, physical activities) for Days 6-10 or will be required to finish quarantine at home.

Return to School/Work After Exclusion

Once a student or employee is excluded from the school environment, they may return if they satisfy the following guidelines:

Untested

Persons who have not received a test proving or disproving the presence of COVID-19 but experience symptoms may return if the following conditions are met:

- The individual has not had a fever for at least 72 hours (three full days of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers); and
- Other symptoms have improved (for example, when cough or shortness of breath have improved); and
- The individual has not had a fever for at least twenty-four (24) hours; and
- A note from the provider stating the individual has an alternate diagnosis and the provider believes it's appropriate for the patient to return to school.

Tested Positive- Symptomatic

Persons who experienced symptoms and have tested positive for COVID-19 may return to school if the following conditions are met:

- The individual no longer has a fever (without the use of fever reducing medication); and
- Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved); and
- At least five (5) calendar days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

Tested Negative - Symptomatic

Persons who experienced symptoms and have tested negative for COVID-19 may return to school if the following conditions are met:

- The individual has not had a fever for at least 24 hours (one full day of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers); and
- Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved); or
- A note from the provider stating the individual has an alternate diagnosis and the provider believes it's appropriate for the patient to return to school.

Tested Positive- Asymptomatic

Persons who have not experienced symptoms but have tested positive for COVID-19 may return to school if the following conditions are met:

- At least five (5) calendar days have passed since the day of the test.
- If a person becomes symptomatic, they must follow the "Tested Positive - Symptomatic" protocol from the day they become symptomatic.

Student/Staff Close Contact within School

Persons who have been in close contact (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) of someone within the school setting (classroom, lunch room, common areas, etc.) with confirmed COVID-19, up to 48 hours prior to being symptomatic or prior to the test date for asymptomatic, are not excluded from school. In addition, students and/or staff members who believe they are a close contact should consider following quarantine protocols outside of school. Student/staff members will not be excluded from extracurricular activities.

Student/Staff Close Contact/Same Household

Persons who have been in close contact (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) of someone with confirmed COVID-19, up to 48 hours prior to being symptomatic or prior to the test date for asymptomatic, may return to school if the following conditions are met:

- At least five (5) calendar days have passed since the last day of close contact; or
- If a person becomes symptomatic, they must follow the “Tested Positive - Symptomatic” protocol from the day they become symptomatic.

All members of the same household are considered close contacts when any member of the same household is confirmed COVID-19 positive. In addition, during times of moderate or high community spread (as determined by the ISDH COVID-19 dashboard) school administration may exclude students from school when a member of the same household is symptomatic and awaiting COVID-19 test results.

Student COVID-19 Symptoms Screening

All parents are required to self-screen students for COVID-19 symptoms each day prior to school. Students exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 without being otherwise explained and documented are prohibited from coming to school. If they do come to school, they will be sent home immediately. Parents will be responsible for immediate student pick up when a child has been excluded due COVID-19 symptoms.

Staff COVID-19 Symptoms Screening

All staff members are required to self-screen each day prior to school. Staff members exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 without being otherwise explained and documented are prohibited from coming to school.

Medical Inquiries

Federal law typically limits the type of medical inquiries that can be made, but given the nature of the pandemic, more leeway has been given to schools in this circumstance to make additional medical inquiries of students than would otherwise be allowed.

- If a parent tells the school that a student is ill, the school will ask the parent whether the student is exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19.
- If a staff member calls in sick or appears ill, the school will inquire as to whether the staff member is experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms.
- If a student or staff member is obviously ill, the school will make additional inquiries and may exclude the student or staff member from school.

Even without symptoms, if a student or staff member has recently had contact with a person with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19, had someone in their home being tested for COVID-19, or has recently traveled from somewhere considered to be a “hot spot” by the CDC, the school may exclude the student or staff member from the school building and recommend that they self-quarantine.

Clinic Space COVID-19 Symptomatic

Each school has a designated space separate from the nurse's clinic where students or employees who are feeling ill are evaluated or awaiting pick up. An administrator or office staff member will supervise students in the waiting area. Only essential staff assigned to the room may enter. A record will be kept of all persons who entered the room and the room will be disinfected several times throughout the day. Strict social distancing is required. Students who are ill will be walked out of the building to their parents. Parents will be responsible for immediate student pick-up when a child has been excluded due to COVID-19 symptoms.

Clinic Space Non-COVID-19 Related

Students who do not display symptoms of COVID-19 will be seen and treated in the nurse's clinic. These would include students who are injured during the school day or students with special health care needs such as those with chronic health conditions (i.e. - diabetes or seizures), those requiring medical treatments (i.e. - suctioning, tube feeding, or nebulizers), and those with individual health plans.

Immunizations

Immunization requirements will remain. The school will work with the local health departments and health systems to provide assistance.

Preventative Measures and Masks

The priority for preventing the spread of disease in the school setting is to insist that sick employees and students stay home. Additionally, students should remain home if someone in the household has COVID-19 symptoms or is being tested for COVID-19. **The use of masks or other PPE for staff and students is optional. This includes all school provided transportation. SDCSC will not have a universal mask requirement and will discontinue the masking matrix from earlier this fall.**

Handwashing and avoiding touching your face, eyes, nose, or mouth are also important steps a person can take to avoid becoming sick or spreading germs to others. Students are required to wash their hands often and if soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol. The school will provide ample hand sanitizer throughout the building. The school will reinforce healthy habits regarding handwashing during key times and regularly scheduled breaks. Some of these key times include:

- Start of the school day
- Before eating
- After using the restroom
- After blowing nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After using shared equipment

Students may bring their own filled water bottle with a sealable lid or up to two (2) purchased bottles of water to school. Students are encouraged to take water bottle home daily for sanitation. Bottle filler stations are located throughout each of our buildings for student and staff use. Drinking fountains will also be available for use and will be sanitized routinely throughout the day and evenings. School visitors and volunteers may be limited based on the discretion of school administration and guidance from the Dearborn County Health Department.

Appendix C - Attendance Guidelines - Students

The biggest impact parents can have on preventing the spread of COVID-19 in the school and to limit exposure to others is to keep their child home when exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms. This cannot be overstated.

Student attendance policies have been adjusted to allow for extended absences for any student who is COVID-19 positive or has been in contact with someone in the household who is Covid-19 positive. In addition to the existing excused absences, the following excused absences will be used:

- COVID-19 Positive
- COVID-19 Contact

If your child is sick for any reason, please call the school. The school will ask whether the student is exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19. If a student is obviously ill, the school will make additional inquiries and may exclude the student from school.

Even without symptoms, if a student has recently had contact with a person with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19, has someone in their home being tested for COVID-19, or has recently traveled from somewhere considered to be a “hot spot” by the CDC, the school may exclude the student from the school building and recommend that they self-quarantine.

Please see Appendix B - Health Protocols - Students and Staff for more information on exclusion from school and return to school protocols.

Other attendance issues will be addressed through the South Dearborn Community School Corporation attendance policy found in the student handbook. COVID-19 related absences may be outside of the scope of the attendance policy in the student handbook.

Appendix D – Letter from Dearborn County Health Official



Dearborn Co. Health Department

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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July 19, 2021

To: Eric Lows, Superintendent
6109 Squire Pl,
Aurora, IN 47001.

I have reviewed the Covid-19 Return to In-Person Instruction (IPI) Plan and find it acceptable. The plan meets all the current state and county health requirement, and has the approval of the Dearborn County Health Officer.

Thank you for continued cooperation and willingness to work with us in this ongoing situation.

Sincerely,

Stephen C. Eliason, M.D.
Medical Director
Dearborn County Health Department