



SCSC FALL 2021 Return to School Guidance

(Updated 9/17/21)

General Guidance

- All students, with the exception of those attending Owl Tech, will attend in-person every school day and schools will be at full capacity, as in a typical school year.
- When indoors, staff, students and visitors must follow the board approved masking requirements of the school.
- Social distancing will be practiced when possible, but it will not be possible in many cases.
- The COVID vaccine is not required, but is available for students and staff ages 12 and older.
- Students and staff with proof of vaccination will NOT need to quarantine, if they are identified as a direct contact, as long as they remain symptom free. Additionally, students and staff with proof of a positive Covid test within the previous 3 months will NOT need to quarantine as long as they remain symptom free.
- Unvaccinated students and staff who are direct contacts will be required to quarantine for 10 days, per ISDH guidelines.
- Individuals who are identified as a close contact and required to quarantine may return to school/work on the 8th day, IF they remain asymptomatic and provide a negative PCR or Antigen test conducted between days 5-7 from the last day of exposure and taken in a clinical setting (i.e. No home tests will be accepted).
- School staff who are required to quarantine will need to use sick days to cover their time away from work.
- Athletics, Clubs and all other Extra-curricular activities will operate in person and with spectators. When indoors, spectators, coaches, staff and non-participating athletes must follow the board approved masking requirements of the school.
- Visitors will be welcomed into buildings; however, they must follow the mask requirements of the school.
- We will host in-person back to school events/open houses.
- Field trips will return, as possible based on venue/location.
- Water fountains will be open.
- Due to the ever changing nature of the pandemic, please refer to the ISDH for further guidance. Masks will be available upon request.

Attendance

- We've reviewed our overall attendance policies for staff and students, and have eliminated any attendance recognitions that could encourage attending school when not feeling well.
- No consequences will be assigned if students are absent due to illness or mandatory quarantine.
- Levels of absenteeism among student and staff populations will be monitored daily.
- Parents should continue to follow their school attendance reporting procedures if their child will be absent.

Back to School Events

- We're planning to meet in-person for back to school events such as Freshman/New Student Orientation and Open Houses. Your school will provide additional information as back to school time nears.

Calendar/Schedule

You can find the 2021-2022 school calendar [here](#).

Students will have (2) scheduled eLearning from home days. eLearning days provide our educators time for academic planning and professional development, ensuring that our teachers remain highly skilled and able to provide the best classroom experiences for students. eLearning days also provide students with flexibility and ownership over their studies.

The 2021-2022 district eLearning days will be:

- October 11, 2021
- October 12, 2021

Classroom Practices

- Classrooms and learning environments, such as band, choir and gymnasiums, will be scheduled at full capacity as in a typical school year.
- Students may share school or art supplies and will be asked to sanitize hands before and after shared supply use.
- Student seating may be arranged to have all students face in the same direction, when possible.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in classrooms and students will have the opportunity to clean hands as they enter/exit classrooms and handwashing will be encouraged when appropriate.

Cleaning

- We will continue to use enhanced cleaning practices and provide extra hand washing materials and cleaning supplies.
- **Proper handwashing techniques** and other health and safety procedures like respiratory etiquette will be taught and reinforced. Hand sanitizer will be available when hand washing is not possible.

- In addition to our regular facility cleaning, we'll continue to disinfect more often in common areas like hallways, cafeterias, water fountains, bathrooms, playgrounds and buses, as well as high-touch surfaces like door handles and desks.
- We will continue to meet the Indiana State Department of Health's recommended environmental steps to reduce indoor COVID transmission through humidity, air-conditioning, air filters, etc.

COVID-19/Illness

- Anyone experiencing any symptoms of illness may be excluded from school buildings and events.
- If your child is ill (or quarantined at home), teachers will provide missed school work per our normal procedures.
- Parents need to be attentive to the daily health of their children and should ensure their child is symptom free and safe to attend school each day. School staff should also ensure they are symptom free before coming to school/work.
- Seymour Community Schools will observe the 100-degree temperature as the fever threshold for illness. Please contact the school nurse with concerns or questions about your student's current health symptoms.
- Parents should continue to follow their school attendance reporting procedures if their child will be absent.
- Daily health screening guidance for parents from [ISDH. Spanish version.](#)
- Schools will not conduct COVID-19 tests.

Suspected COVID

Suspected COVID symptoms include:

- Fever of 100+ degrees
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Cough- especially new, uncontrolled
- Shortness of breath
- Diarrhea
- Nausea
- Abdominal pain
- Vomiting
- Headache- particularly new, severe, with fever
- New loss taste, smell
- If a student or staff member exhibits a potential COVID-19 symptom (other than a fever or loss of taste/smell), they must evaluate whether or not the symptom is typical based on their medical history and use good judgement regarding school attendance.
- If the individual exhibits a (1) fever, (2) loss of taste/smell, (3) a potential COVID-19 symptom that is not typical for their medical history, or (4) more than one potential symptom, they may not attend school until one of the following have been met:

1. Documentation of a negative COVID test + fever free for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medicine) + symptoms significantly improved/resolved + not identified as a direct contact exposure

(OR)

2. Isolate at home for a minimum of 10 days from the first day symptoms first appeared + fever free for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medicine) + symptoms significantly improved/resolved + not identified as a direct contact exposure

The Jackson County Health Department and/or Indiana State Department of Health may require additional documentation or impose additional medical restrictions on a case-by-case basis.

Confirmed COVID

- If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID, they will not be able to return to school until all of the following conditions are met (1) out of school for at least 10 days, (2) all symptoms are gone, (3) fever-free (without fever-reducing medicine) for 24 hours.

Household Member

- If a household member is referred for COVID-19 testing, all students living under the same roof should remain home from school until the findings of the COVID-19 test.
- If a household member tests positive for COVID-19, all students living under the same roof will remain home from school for the 10 day quarantine period.

Contact Tracing/Quarantines

- Contact tracing will be determined through consultation with a medical provider.
- Direct contacts are defined as an exposure within 3-6 feet to a COVID positive individual for 15 minutes or more.
- Students and staff with proof of vaccination will NOT need to quarantine if they are identified as a direct contact, as long as they remain symptom free. Additionally, students and staff with proof of a positive Covid test within the previous 3 months will NOT need to quarantine as long as they remain symptom free.
- Unvaccinated students and staff who are direct COVID contacts will be required to quarantine for 10 days, per ISDH guidelines.
- Individuals who are identified as a close contact and required to quarantine may return to school/work on the 8th day, IF they remain asymptomatic and provide a negative PCR or Antigen test conducted between days 5-7 from the last day of exposure and taken in a clinical setting (i.e. No home tests will be accepted).
- School staff who are required to quarantine will need to use sick days to cover their time away from work.
- Districts, like Seymour Community Schools, that have a board approved mask policy, no longer need to quarantine healthy, direct COVID contacts from classrooms or buses. Quarantines may still be required for direct contact that occurs outside the classroom (lunch, athletics, home, etc.) or for those who are experiencing symptoms of illness.

Extracurricular Activities

- Athletics, Clubs and all other Extra-curricular activities will operate in person and with full capacity spectators. Additional restrictions may be imposed through guidance from the IHSAA, the Indiana State School Music Association, other governing bodies and the local health department.
- When indoors, spectators, coaches, staff and non-participating athletes must follow the board approved masking requirements of the school.

Field Trips

- Field trips will return, as possible, depending on venue/location guidelines.

Immunizations

- Scheduled immunizations are required every year and students must have required immunizations, unless they have an exemption on file.
- Please note that students entering kindergarten, 6th and 12th grades require new immunizations and all grades now require a two-vaccine immunization series for Hepatitis A.
- The COVID vaccine is not required, but is available for students and staff ages 12 and older.

Masks

- Indoor masking requirements will be subject to the ISDH Color Advisory level, for Jackson County, as follows:

Blue Advisory Level: Masks Optional

Yellow Advisory Level: Masks Recommended

Orange Advisory Level: Masks Required

Red Advisory Level: Masks Required

- Due to the ever changing nature of the pandemic, please refer to the CDC and/or the ISDH for further guidance. Masks will be available upon request.

Nurse/School Clinic

- Parents should contact the school nurse with questions about illness symptoms, specific concerns regarding a child's medical care or to inform staff of a chronic medical condition such as, seasonal allergies, strep throat or frequent ear infections.
- When students report to the school clinic for an apparent illness, they will be asked to wear a mask. Masks will be provided, if they do not have one with them.

Restrooms

- Restrooms will be cleaned and disinfected frequently throughout the day.
- Students will be asked to use proper handwashing techniques and will wash their hands after recess and before lunch.

- Restrooms will contain signage to promote proper washing techniques.

Social Distancing

- Social distancing will be practiced when possible. Due to the size of our facilities and student body, and our decision to return to full capacity for the 2021-2022 school year, it will not be possible in many cases.
- In classrooms, student seating may be arranged to all face in the same direction, where possible, and will be spaced as far apart as possible.

Transportation

- Routes are currently being updated for the 2021-2022 school year and route information will be available during the week before school starts.
- Expect buses to be running late on the first few days of school due to new routes and parent pictures. Students will not be in trouble if they're late to school from an arriving bus.
- **Per federal order**, masks are required on buses for students and drivers. Masks will be available upon request.

Visitors / Volunteers

- We plan to welcome visitors and volunteers back into our buildings this school year; however, visitors will still not be allowed to eat lunch in our cafeterias.
- Visitors will be welcomed into buildings; however, they must follow the mask requirements of the school.

*** Please note that this plan represents a response to the current local conditions, with regards to COVID 19. If conditions were to worsen, certain aspects may be altered at the request of state and local authorities.*

***This plan is designed to meet criteria for the Return to In-Person Instruction Plan, as required by the US Department of Education as a part of ESSER III funding.*

