

SDIRC SAFE

AT SCHOOL 2022



COVID-19 Prevention Response

School District of Indian River County

Dr. David K. Moore, Superintendent of Schools

Effective – 08.30.21 – 09.14.21

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Modifications to the SDIRC Safe at School 2022 Plan will be made as necessary and with the approval of the Superintendent.

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Prevention Response

The School District of Indian River County (SDIRC) is committed to establishing and maintaining physically and psychologically safe learning environments for all students and staff. The creation of structures and processes that support optimal working and learning environments enhances the physical and mental well-being of students and staff and maximizes educational outcomes. During the 2020-2021 academic year, the District implemented a variety of instructional models and specialized health and safety procedures to provide instructional flexibility and maximize student and staff health and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recently, our community has observed a steep increase in the level of community transmission of COVID-19 following an earlier decline in community transmission rates. With this, the District has identified a need to engage in prevention response measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and safely operate educational environments. During the fall of the 2021-2022 academic year, our District shifted from offering three different instructional models to two instructional models (i.e., brick-and-mortar and virtual), as the previous Executive Orders allowing for innovative remote learning models have since expired. Preventative health and safety measures proposed prior to the opening of schools have been revised in response to the present status of COVID-19 in our schools and community. The COVID-19 school and community transmission levels of COVID-19 will continue to be closely monitored and preventative health and safety measures will be adapted to support the ongoing health and safety of students and staff.

Preventative Health & Safety Measures

During the 2020-2021 academic year, the SDIRC implemented specialized preventative health and safety measures to mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19 in district and school settings. These modifications were made after careful review and consideration of guidelines set forth by the American Academy of Pediatrics and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, school health officials, local physicians and health professionals, COVID-19 data, and ongoing feedback from members of our school community. Similar prevention measures are being implemented during the Fall of 2021, with revisions to health and safety measures based upon school and community factors associated with COVID-19.

Face Coverings

- Beginning August 30, 2021, face coverings are required for Pre-K through 8th grade students and all staff during all indoor instruction and activities when physical distancing is not possible, including on school transportation, due to current school and community transmission levels of COVID-19. Parents have the right to opt-out their student(s) from wearing a face covering. This

revised opt-out process (effective 08/30/21) involves providing documentation from a medical provider (i.e., Florida licensed physician, physician assistant, psychiatrist, or psychologist) or identifying that a disabling condition documented through in a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Accommodation Plan impacts the wearing of a face covering. Students who received an exemption from wearing a face covering during the 2020-2021 school year, will automatically be granted an exemption for the current academic year. These requirements will be fully implemented on Monday August 30, 2021. The outlined requirements will expire September 15, 2021, unless extended prior to that date. Employees also have the opportunity to opt-out of face coverings by providing the appropriate medical documentation. Face coverings will continue to be highly recommended for students in grades 9-12, with a parent opt-out provision.

- Face coverings are to be worn by all visitors entering school and district campuses.
- Face coverings may be brought from home, must be school appropriate, and shall not interfere with the District's dress code policy.
- At the beginning of the fall semester, students and staff are taught expectations that negative commentary or treatment of any individual related to their choice to wear a face covering or not wear a face covering will not be tolerated.

Classroom Environments

- Classroom environments are arranged to maximize physical distancing.
- Students are encouraged to engage in effective handwashing routines throughout the day. Hand soap and paper towels will be provided at every sink.
- All schools are equipped with water bottle fill stations. Students and staff are encouraged to bring a refillable water bottle to school with them.
- Water fountains are not in use for a minimum of the first quarter of the fall semester.
- Schools have site-specific procedures for community restrooms and confined spaces to maximize physical distancing and proper hand washing.

Cafeteria & Mealtimes

- School-based custodial teams, in collaboration with school administration, implement cleaning schedules for the cafeteria and other spaces used for mealtimes.

- One-way entrances and exits to the cafeteria are utilized, as well as designated eating areas to assist with the control of traffic flow and management of the number of students in each school space.

School Transportation

- Hand sanitizer is available on each bus, and students will be encouraged to use it upon entry and exit.
- Face coverings are required on school transportation for grades Pre-K through 8 and highly recommended for grades 9-12, due to current community transmission levels of COVID-19. Beginning August 30, 2021 a revised opt-out process is being utilized for students in the Pre-K through 8th grades. Please see the section on “Face Coverings” on pages 3 of this document for further information.
- Physical distancing on school transportation is maximized to the greatest extent possible.

School Arrival & Dismissal

- Hand sanitizing stations are located at all single points of entry on school campuses.
- School site specific protocols are implemented for regular school arrival and dismissal times.
- Face coverings are to be used by all campus visitors.

Campus Gatherings and Transitions

- Schoolwide assemblies or recognition ceremonies will be delayed or conducted virtually for a minimum of the first 9 weeks of school.
- Block scheduling is being implemented and will minimize transitions.
- Increased supervision during campus transitions is being utilized.
- The congregation of students that violates physical distancing recommendations during campus transitions is limited.

Wellness Screenings

- Students shall be screened for possible COVID-19 symptoms at home by parents/guardians to ensure absence of symptoms.
- Staff observe for any students presenting symptoms of illness. Students who are observed or self-report not feeling well are sent for further screening by a school health professional. Further screening of identified students, including temperature checks, are conducted by a school health professional in a location that supports student privacy.
- Before entering a school or district building, all individuals should assess their own wellness with the following questions (Adapted from: CDC, 2021):
 - Do you have a new cough, nasal congestion, or runny nose?
 - Are you experiencing shortness of breath or difficulty breathing?
 - Are you having new muscle pain or body aches?
 - Do you have a headache (that is not normal for you)?
 - Do you have a fever or chills?
 - Have you had a fever in the last 24 hours?
 - Do you have a sore throat?
 - Are you experiencing a new loss of taste or smell?
 - Are you experiencing nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, or diarrhea?
 - Have you been exposed to anyone who has been tested positive for COVID-19 in the last two weeks?

Health Room Protocols

- Schools will provide two clinical spaces to meet the needs of students: a Main Health Room and a Nebulizer Room.

Main Health Room

- Visits to the Main Health Room are limited to essential visits only: first aid, general illness, and medication.
- Parents/guardians needing to drop off/pick up medications or physicians orders must make an appointment.
- Students presenting with fever or flu-like illness will be physically separated from other students visiting the Main Health Room.
- Due to the nature of the health room setting, physical distancing is maximized, when feasible, including distancing of cots/chairs. Additionally, portable barriers are utilized in cases in which a student is presenting with symptoms associated with fever or flu-like illness, when feasible.

- Sufficient inventory of Personal Protective Equipment (e.g., masks, face shields, and gloves) is maintained.
- Approved district disinfectant is used to sanitize the Health Room after every student visit. All disinfectants are locked up when not in use.
- All students and staff must wash their hands upon arrival and leaving the Health Room.
- “Communicable Disease Tracking Logs” are maintained by health assistants for students and staff and are shared with the Department of Health of Indian River County.
 - The “Communicable Disease Tracking Logs” will be utilized by the District to monitor the incidence of confirmed COVID-19 cases among students and staff.

Nebulizer Room

- The Nebulizer Room is a separate clinical space from the Main Health Room and is utilized for students needing to use a nebulizer while at school.
- Staff that assist in the Nebulizer Room must wear Personal Protective Equipment; be trained on when to use Personal Protective Equipment; and be trained on how to properly put on, remove, and dispose of Personal Protective Equipment.
- Individuals in the Nebulizer Room are limited to the student and staff member administering the nebulizer treatment.
- All students and staff must wash their hands upon arrival and departure from the Nebulizer Room.
- After a student has entered the Nebulizer Room, it must be wiped down and disinfected with district-approved disinfectant.
- The Nebulizer Room, and all items contained within the room should be easily wipeable with disinfectant.

Response to Potential Symptoms

Possible Symptoms of COVID-19

- Students or staff who present any of the following illness symptoms are sent home from the physical school setting:
 - Fever of 100.4 F or more
 - Chills
 - New cough, nasal congestion, or runny nose
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - New muscle or body aches, or fatigue

- Headache (if abnormal for you)
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain
 - Diarrhea
- Schools have a response procedure to be used for students or staff presenting illness symptoms while on district campuses.
 - If a student or staff member presents with possible symptoms of COVID-19, the health assistant follows Department of Health requirements for reporting.
 - Follow-up actions are implemented according to protocols outlined in Florida Department of Health Rule No. 64DER21-12: Protocols for Controlling COVID-19 in School Settings, made effective August 8, 2021, in response to Executive Order Number 21-175.
 - Custodians disinfect and sanitize all potentially affected areas related to each identified case.

Athletics & Extracurricular Activities

- Athletics and extracurricular activities are implementing their typical schedules and procedures.
- During indoor extracurricular activities, physical distancing is maximized for a minimum of the first 9 weeks.
- Fall Open Houses will be held virtually due to the current transmission of COVID-19 in our schools and community.

Confirmed COVID-19 Procedures

Notifications Related to Confirmed COVID-19 Case

- The Florida Department of Health in Indian River County notifies the District's designee if a student or employee has been identified as COVID-19 positive.
- Case procedures for students related to a confirmed COVID-19 case have been modified to align with Florida Department of Health Rule No. 64DER21-12: Protocols for Controlling COVID-19 in School Settings.

Employee COVID-19 Protocol

Employee Responsibilities & Actions

- If an employee has COVID-19-related symptoms of illness, they should refer to the Department of Human Resources website for designated reporting and return to work procedures.

Student COVID-19 Protocol

Parent Responsibilities & Actions

- If a student has COVID-19-related symptoms of illness, their parent/guardian should have their child self-isolate and follow-up with their physician.
- To support the health and safety of all school community members, parents/guardians are asked to notify the school's principal if their child has a COVID-19 test pending or if their child has tested positive for COVID-19 through a test administered by a healthcare provider or home administered test.
- If a student is tested for COVID-19, they remain home until they receive a COVID-19 test result.
 - While at home, the student should continue their instruction by completing the contingency classwork provided by the student's teacher(s).
- If the student tests negative for COVID-19 through a test administered by a healthcare provider, the parent/guardian notifies the school's principal of the result. The student will be able to return to school the day following the notification.
- A student who is asymptomatic for COVID-19 and lives in a household with an individual with a confirmed COVID-19 case should self-quarantine as directed by their healthcare provider and Department of Health.
- If the student receives a positive COVID-19 test result, the parent/guardian notifies the school's principal of the result. The student remains home until:
 - The student receives a negative diagnostic COVID-19 test from a healthcare provider and is asymptomatic; or
 - Ten days have passed since the onset of symptoms or positive test result, and the student has had no fever for 24 hours, and the student's other symptoms are improving; or
 - The student receives written permission to return to school from a medical doctor licensed under chapter 458, an osteopathic physician licensed under chapter 459, or an advanced registered nurse practitioner licensed under chapter 464.
- The school's principal provides any documentation submitted by the parent/guardian to the school's health assistant.
 - If the student is well enough to continue instruction, the student should continue completion of contingency classwork provided by the student's teacher(s).

- For days that a student is not well enough to complete contingency work while out, they will be provided with additional time to complete the missed assignments when returning to school, and as aligned to the Code of Student Conduct.

Principal Responsibilities & Actions

If parent/guardian has informed the principal of a student who has COVID-19 related symptoms or pending COVID-19 test OR has received a positive COVID-19 test, the principal should:

- Complete and submit the a “Student Notification Form” to:
 - Victoria Burney at victoria.burney@indianriverschools.org for reporting COVID-19 related symptoms or a pending COVID-19 test **OR** reporting a positive COVID-19 test.
 - For all student notifications, please only write “STUDENT NOTIFICATION FORM” in the subject line with no additional information. No other individuals should be copied on the email.
 - A district lead from the COVID-19 Response Team will be assigned for each case that is identified. The assigned district lead will facilitate any appropriate follow-up actions.
- Notify the school’s health assistant. The health assistant will complete the “Communicable Disease Tracking Log,” that is maintained in the health assistant’s office.
- The school’s health assistant also notifies Victoria Burney, District Health Services Coordinator, at victoria.burney@indianriverschools.org as soon as the notification is received.
- If the student tests negative for COVID-19 through a test administered by a healthcare professional, the parent/guardian notifies the school’s principal of the result. The principal provides this information to the school’s health assistant. The student will be able to return to school the day following the notification of the result.
- If the student receives a positive COVID-19 test result either from a test administered by a healthcare professional or a home-administered test, the parent/guardian notifies the school’s principal of the result. The principal follows the above “STUDENT NOTIFICATION” procedure. Upon the student’s return to school, the school’s principal provides any documentation submitted by the parent/guardian to the school’s health assistant. The school’s principal notifies the student’s assigned teacher(s) that the student will be returning.

Key Considerations in Communication Following a Confirmed COVID-19 Case

- Communicate with affected staff and students about next steps.
- Encourage staff and students to self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19.
- Encourage affected staff and students to avoid gathering or socializing anywhere.
- Maintain expectations of non-discrimination.
- Maintain confidentiality of the student/staff member as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act.

Students who have tested positive for COVID-19 may return to campus when:

- The student receives a negative diagnostic COVID-19 test and is asymptomatic; OR
- It has been at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared, and they have been fever-free for 24 hours without using fever-reducing medication, and symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved; OR
- The student receives written permission to return to school from a medical doctor licensed under chapter 458, an osteopathic physician licensed under chapter 459, or an advanced registered nurse practitioner licensed under chapter 464.

Supports for Students & Staff

During the 2021-2022 academic year, it is imperative that students continue to be closely monitored for their responses to stressors associated with the pandemic our nation is experiencing. Individuals will vary in their ability to cope with identified stressors based upon a variety of factors, including their experiences with COVID-19, pre-existing vulnerabilities, social supports, and additional individual stressors that are present. Given this, our district will be closely monitoring student and staff well-being and will provide the level of support as needed. It is vital that parents and families work in collaboration with the District to identify those in need of support. The information and resources below are provided to assist our school community in accessing supports and resources during this time period.

SDIRC Mental Health Supports for Students



772-564-6199

mentalhealth@indianriverschools.org



Please contact us with questions about your child's mental health or well-being.

SDIRC Mental Health Supports for Employees



1-800-272-3626

www.resourcesforliving.com



Please access resources provided through our SDIRC Employee Assistance Program for supports related to mental health and well-being.

Links to Additional Resources

[National Association of School Psychologists COVID-19 Resource Center](#)

[CDC Coping with Stress Resource](#)

[National PTA COVID-19 Resources](#)

[American Psychological Association COVID-19 Resources](#)

Social Media & Website Communications

The School District of Indian River County provides ongoing updates about our school community via our district website, social media platforms, Dr. Moore's Facebook Live sessions, and School Messenger phone calls, text messages, and Focus notifications. For specific questions about health and safety procedures at your child's school, please contact your child's designated school site.



Visit our district website for updates and resources at www.indianriverschools.org



Follow us on Twitter @ircschools for updates



Connect with our school community by following us on Facebook @SchoolDistrictofIRC



Watch Dr. Moore's Facebook Live sessions on the SDIRC YouTube Channel



Listen for School Messenger Text Messages & Phone Calls



Look on our Focus App for notifications