

SDIRC SAFE

AT SCHOOL 2022



COVID-19 Prevention Response

School District of Indian River County

Dr. David K. Moore, Superintendent of Schools

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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. 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.

During the 2021-2022 academic year, the District has observed significant variations in the levels of school and community transmission of COVID-19. With this, the District identified a need to engage in varied levels of prevention response measures to proactively and appropriately address the changes in the transmission levels of COVID-19 and to safely operate educational environments. In response to changing conditions in schools and the community, the District developed a tiered approach to the types of COVID-19 mitigation measures implemented. With this tiered approach to mitigation, school and community transmission levels of COVID-19 are closely monitored, and preventative health and safety measures are adapted to support the ongoing health and safety of students and staff at specific schools.

Preventative Health & Safety Measures


As previously mentioned during the 2021-2022 academic year, a tiered mitigation approach is being used for the implementation of COVID-19 specialized health and safety measures. This modified approach was developed 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. Additionally, the tiered mitigation approach utilized by the District has been adapted to align with requirements outlined in sections 381.00319 and 112.0441, Florida Statutes.

Tiered Mitigation Strategies

The District's tiered mitigation approach is based upon first identifying the combined percentage of students and staff who are COVID-19 positive at a particular school within a particular time period. Combined percentages correspond to specific levels of mitigation strategies. A lower tier of

mitigation strategies is initiated the day after the school case percentage meets the indicated criteria for the lower tier for a duration of ten (10) consecutive school days. Movement to a lower tier occurs by stepping down one tiered level at a time. A higher tier of mitigation strategies is initiated the day after the school case percentage meets the indicated criteria for a higher tier for two (2) consecutive days. All case percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.

School Case Criteria (Combined % of Students & Staff with Active COVID-19 Cases)	Tiered Mitigation Strategies
≥5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face coverings strongly recommended indoors and when using school transportation • Maximize physical distancing on school transportation to the greatest extent possible • School site specific protocols implemented for school arrival and dismissal times • Conduct wellness checks upon entry to school • Handwashing/sanitizer and respiratory etiquette • Maximize social distancing • Maximize fresh air return in ventilation systems • Nightly electrostatic misting of classroom spaces • One-way hallways and entrances/exits to cafeterias, when possible • Modifications to lunch schedules and procedures • Closure of water fountains • Use of virtual platform for school wide student assemblies • Modified health and safety protocols for athletics • Remain home with symptoms of illness, when sick, or when awaiting a COVID-19 test result
3% - 4%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face coverings strongly recommended indoors and when using school transportation • Maximize physical distancing on school transportation to the greatest extent possible • School site specific protocols implemented for school arrival and dismissal times • Conduct wellness checks upon entry to school • Handwashing/sanitizer and respiratory etiquette • Maximize physical distancing • Maximize fresh air return in ventilation systems • Electrostatic misting of classroom spaces three times a week • One-way hallways and entrances/exits to cafeterias, when possible • Modifications to lunch schedules and procedures • Closure of water fountains • Use of virtual platform for school wide student assemblies • Remain home with symptoms of illness, when sick, or when awaiting a COVID-19 test result
1% - 2%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face coverings recommended indoors and while using school transportation • Handwashing/sanitizer and respiratory etiquette • Maximize fresh air return in ventilation systems • Electrostatic misting of classroom spaces twice a week • Remain home with symptoms of illness, when sick, or when awaiting a COVID-19 test result
<1%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handwashing/sanitizer and respiratory etiquette • Maximize fresh air return in ventilation systems • Electrostatic misting of classrooms once a week • Remain home with symptoms of illness, when sick, or when awaiting a COVID-19 test result

 Lower Tier
 

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” are 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 requirements outlined in section 1002.20, Florida Statutes.
 - Custodians disinfect and sanitize all potentially affected areas related to each identified case.

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.

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 a healthcare provider.
- 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 classwork provided by the student's teacher(s).
- If the student tests negative for COVID-19 through a test administered by a healthcare provider or home administered test, 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/or the Department of Health.
- If the student receives a positive COVID-19 test result, the parent/guardian notifies the school's principal of the result. In alignment with the Department of Health's Emergency Rule 64D-3.049, enacted January 4, 2022, below are the criteria for returning to school after being identified as COVID-19 positive.
 - The student may return to school with a **negative** diagnostic COVID-19 test (PCR, rapid, diagnostic antigen test, or home test) if it has been at least one day after the positive test and the student is asymptomatic. Parent must bring to school health room a negative test result or note stating that the student tested negative with a home test **OR**
 - The student may return with a physician's note (M.D., D.O., or advanced registered nurse practitioner) stating that he/she is cleared to return **OR**
 - The student may return after 10 days of isolation if they have had no fever for 24 hours and other symptoms are improving (return on day 11).
- 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 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 or home administered test, 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:

- With a **negative** diagnostic COVID-19 test (PCR, rapid, diagnostic antigen test, or home test) if it has been at least one day after the positive test and the student is asymptomatic. Parent must bring to school health room a negative test result or note stating that the student tested negative with a home test **OR**
- With a physician's note (M.D., D.O., or advanced registered nurse practitioner) stating that he/she is cleared to return **OR**
- After 10 days of isolation if the student has had no fever for 24 hours and other symptoms are improving (return on day 11).

Continuity of Educational Services

Continued Instruction While at Home Due to COVID-19

- If a student is home with COVID-19 or their parent has selected that their child self-isolate due to close contact with an individual who is COVID-19 positive, they may continue their instruction using the District's Canvas platform and/or contingency work assigned by his/her teacher(s).
- Parents and students may contact their teacher(s) by phone, email, or their Focus account with any questions regarding their assignments while out.

Instructional Advocates

- An added layer of support to ensure that students are receiving the needed instructional support while at home due to COVID-19, is the identification of instructional advocates at each school. A school's instructional advocate should be contacted if there are concerns about a student's assignments, accessing the Canvas platform or other assigned work, and needed supports while at home.

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 COVID-19 pandemic. 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