

Southern York County School District **2020-2021 Health and Safety FAQ (Updated 8/4/20)**

We know that there are many questions concerning how school will look this year. Please note that we will add questions and answers on a frequent basis, as more information becomes available. Answers will be updated if there are changes in the guidance from Governor Wolf's office and the PA State Department of Health.

Education

1. Will students be able to attend in-person classes for the 2020-2021 school year?

The [Southern York County School District Health and Safety Plan](#) for the 2020-2021 school year opening was approved at a Special Board Meeting on July 23. The District plans to implement a blended learning model, based on revised CDC and State guidelines. This blended "A/B Schedule" will allow half of our students to be scheduled for in-person learning at school while the other half will attend school virtually from home then rotating with a set weekly schedule.

Students will be assigned to a weekly A schedule or B schedule. Students on the A schedule will have classes in their school buildings on Mondays and Tuesdays and have virtual learning on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays. Students assigned to the B schedule will have in-person classes on Thursdays and Fridays and have virtual learning on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. One priority we had in developing this schedule is that families be kept together by assigning siblings to the same schedule. Due to the complexity of this schedule, we are unable to accommodate requests from families for an A or B schedule and we are not accepting requests for schedule changes this year.

Some families may opt to attend school virtually full time through the District's Digital Academy.

2. Will non-employees (i.e. volunteers) be permitted into school buildings?

Visitors will be limited to military recruiters and college representatives, as needed, and others deemed necessary and safe by the building principal. Volunteers will also be extremely limited during the 2020-2021 school year. Verbal screening (for COVID-19 symptoms and close contact with cases) for all visitors and volunteers on entry will be performed. If possible, potential visitors and volunteers will be informed before they travel to the school that they should expect to be screened for COVID-19 and will be unable to enter the school if they do not clear the screening process or if they decline screening. Visitors and volunteers who do not clear the screening process or who decline screening will not be able to enter.

In order to limit the number of non-employees in buildings and using facilities, we will have very limited use of facilities by outside groups and affiliated organizations.

3. How will social distancing be maintained?

Schedules will be as static as possible by having the same group of students with the same group of staff, where possible. Staff will develop and implement classroom procedures that encourage social distancing to the greatest extent possible such as, but not limited to turning desks the same direction, students only sitting on one side of the table, and seating that is arranged in a U shape. Students will be seated at desks so that a minimum of six feet is between students. This may be done by skipping seats or rearranging seats and rows to maintain social distancing. Acceptable seating will be marked or posted, and/or unacceptable seating will be taped off.

Our staff will develop and implement classroom procedures for social distancing. They will be in hallways during staggered class dismissal to ensure distancing is occurring. The number of individuals in a classroom or other spaces will be reduced.

4. I am not yet comfortable sending my child to school. Can I have them continue with virtual learning only this school year?

Full-time distance learning is available through our [Southern York Digital Academy](#) for those families uncomfortable with in-person instruction for the start of the school year.

5. Will my child be required to bring his/her own school supplies this year? Will we be given a list before the start of the school year?

The District will obtain additional resources and supplies to limit student sharing of materials such as art supplies, math manipulatives, science equipment, etc. when feasible. Supplies and equipment that are shared will be limited in their use and assigned to specific groups with additional cleaning and disinfecting between uses. When individual items are not available, assigned and controlled access to shared supplies with a hand sanitizing and disinfecting protocol. Student's belongings will be separated from others.

6. What will the attendance policy be for the District?

If your child is ill or unable to attend school, a note is required upon his/her return.

7. Will there be physical education classes and music classes?

Physical education and music classes will follow CDC social distancing guidelines and limit the sharing of equipment. For music classes, the District will follow Covid-19 Instrument Cleaning Policies. Teachers will provide students instruction on these cleaning policies prior to resuming instrumental music lessons or classes.

8. Will there be recess?

To facilitate social distancing, but allow our students the needed time to run and play, recess will be limited to one group of students at a time. Recess equipment (balls, jump ropes, etc...) will be utilized by a single class and disinfected daily. Access to playground structures may be restricted, but we will fill that need with other activities that maintain social distancing. We understand that students need to get up and move around so we will be making every effort to have movement time.

9. Will there be field trips for the 2020-2021 school years?

Field trips and transitional activities will be eliminated to maintain social distancing and reduce exposure to the public.

Sports and Extracurricular Activities

1. What about sports events?

Sports and Extracurricular activities will adhere to [CDC Considerations for Youth Sports](#), Governor Wolf's [Guidance for all Sports to Operate During the COVID-19 Disaster Emergency to Ensure the Safety and Health of Employees, Athletes, and the Public](#), and [PDE Preliminary Guidance for Phased Reopening of Pre-K to 12 Schools](#) to the greatest extent possible.

2. Are spectators allowed to attend extracurricular activities?

Attendance at extracurricular activities will be limited to participants, coaches/staff, and essential district employees only (no spectators will be permitted).

Transportation and Operations

1. Will the District provide bus transportation? What will be different?

Yes, the District will provide bus transportation. Recommend limiting students on school buses and vans with the understanding that all students and drivers are required to wear a face covering while on the bus. Assigned seating will be implemented at all grade levels, keeping students from the same household together. Additional bus runs may be added, if needed, to support social distancing on buses. Weather permitting, windows will be opened to increase air circulation and ventilation.

2. How will school buses be sanitized?

Hand sanitizer will be available on all buses and vans. Interior of vehicles will be sprayed following all regulations and guidelines.

3. Since water fountains are high germ transfer areas, will bottled water be available for students?

We will limit the use of drinking fountains and promote the use of bottle fillers and safer alternatives for providing water, when possible. Students and staff are encouraged to bring water bottles or use disposable plastic bottles. All buildings have touchless water bottle fillers at various locations throughout the building.

4. How will you ensure the building is cleaned and ready to safely welcome staff and students?

We will ensure buildings are cleaned and ready for staff and students by utilizing our trained maintenance and custodial staff. These staff work in shifts to clean and disinfect our buildings each day while students are present and before they return the next day. Hard surfaces are both cleaned and disinfected by our staff.

Custodians perform *cleaning* tasks by removing germs, dirt and impurities from surfaces or objects by using detergent and water. An example of this practice includes using microfiber rags and good old-fashioned elbow grease to clean surfaces and other frequently touched areas. Another example includes utilizing motorized auto scrubbers to agitate and clean hard surface flooring.

Custodians perform *disinfecting* tasks by killing germs on surfaces or objects by using chemicals listed on the U.S. Department of Environmental Protection Agency, Disinfection List N: Disinfectants for use against SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19), which is promoted by the CDC to combat COVID-19. Frequently touched surfaces, including desktops, are disinfected by applying disinfectant and then wiping them dry after the dwell time. Motorized auto scrubbers are used to apply disinfectant to disinfect hard surface flooring.

For soft surfaces, such as carpeting, custodians will perform *sanitizing* tasks by lowering the number of germs on surfaces or objects to a safe level. An example includes extracting carpets utilizing appropriate chemicals, water and an extracting machine.

5. What protocols will be put in place to clean and disinfect throughout an individual school day?

Custodial staff during the day will routinely go throughout the building, cleaning and disinfecting restrooms and touch points, and responding to cleaning needs.

6. How often will desks be cleaned and disinfected?

Desks will be cleaned and disinfected daily and more frequently as specific needs arise.

Desks will be disinfected throughout the day when there is a need for a different student to use the desk. We have minimized the number of student class movements in all buildings to reduce the number of students using a desk. Also, because there are less students in each class, students in class one may use the even numbered desks and class two may use the odd numbered desks. All staff will be trained and work together to accomplish this.

7. How will restrooms be kept safe and low risk for spreading germs?

Restrooms will be cleaned periodically throughout the day and again after school so they are ready for the next day. Disinfectants that are specified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and recommended by the CDC will be used.

8. How will you procure adequate disinfection supplies for COVID-19?

We work with numerous local and national suppliers to fulfill the needs for disinfection supplies, as well as utilize several cooperative purchasing agreements. We stock an adequate supply on hand and continue to monitor inventory. We work with suppliers on a daily basis to understand lead times for when we need to purchase additional supplies. Wall mounted hand sanitizers throughout the buildings have also been installed that have the recommended alcohol content by CDC. Hand sanitizer will also be provided in classrooms that do not have sinks.

9. Will additional training be provided to staff on the implementation of the Health and Safety Plan?

Yes, custodial and maintenance staff were trained on various COVID-19 details from Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to cleaning protocols from CDC.

All staff will be trained on the use of disinfectant so as a team, we may work together to keep areas clean throughout the buildings. For example, noncustodial staff will assist in disinfecting areas such as desktops.

10. How does the ventilation system work in a normal classroom?

Fresh outdoor air is now brought into the classroom 24/7 through the HVAC system. This system brings in air similar to opening a window, but has the added benefits of control and conditioning. Outdoor air will be increased, while considering environmental factors such as heat and humidity. Building mechanics check the systems to allow for optimal ventilation on a daily or more frequent basis.

11. Can teachers/staff open windows throughout the day?

Our HVAC system is bringing in outdoor air. Our HVAC system can't accurately control indoor environments with the windows being open (for temperature and humidity).

Cafeterias and Food Service

1. Will my child still have lunch in the cafeteria?

Students will either eat lunch in the classrooms or the cafeteria. Classrooms may be utilized as dining areas to avoid large gatherings. Some tables will be removed or staggered to prevent gathering and increase social distancing.

2. How will meals be served?

Staff will serve students all meal components and/or provide pre-packaged meal components to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Meal condiments will be limited and provided to students on the serving trays and/or disposable placemats. Students will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer and/or wash hands prior to consuming food or beverages. Established marked paths of travel and one-way traffic lanes will be created to reduce cross-traffic and minimize the chance for close contact.

3. How will the cafeterias be kept safe and low risk for spreading germs?

Cleaning in student dining areas (including classrooms) and cafeteria serving areas will be enhanced in an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Staff will clean and disinfect cafeteria tables before, during, and after lunch shifts. Cashless transaction opportunities for the cafeteria will be established. Shielding at checkout registers and food service stations will be installed.

Other Safety Protocols

1. What is the District's policy on students wearing masks?

Per the order from the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health on July 3, student and staff face coverings are required at all times (including the school bus) except when students and staff are:

- a. *Unable because of a medical condition;*
- b. *Eating or drinking when spaced at least 6 feet apart;*
- c. *Engaged in any activity at least 6 feet apart under the direction of an adult or teacher.*

Alternatives to face masks will be made available such as: clear face shields, plastic partitions, and other personal protective equipment. Face coverings will be provided to individuals who may not possess one.

2. Will students and staff be screened before entering buildings?

Parents / Guardians should complete a symptom screening at home before their child leaves the home that includes a fever, shortness of breath, headaches, body aches, fatigue, loss/altered sense of taste or smell, diarrhea, and runny nose/congestion. All district staff will perform a symptom screen on themselves prior to leaving for work and will stay home if symptoms are present. Individual symptom screening by district staff will not be required for student entrance to school. Students, coaches, and staff will undergo a COVID-19 health screening prior to any practice, event, or team meeting. Students and staff showing signs of illness are expected to stay home.

3. What if my student feels ill during the school day?

Students and staff will go to the nurse immediately if feeling ill or if they are displaying any symptoms. Any person showing signs of illness will be placed in an isolated check-up room until they are dismissed from school.

4. Will the community be notified of any confirmed COVID-19 cases?

Staff and families will be notified of any confirmed COVID-19 cases, while maintaining the confidentiality of the affected individual. Families will be notified via School Messenger email service if their child has possibly been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 to support monitoring for signs and symptoms. Documentation of possible cases and contacts will be maintained while awaiting results of COVID-19 testing.

5. When may students or staff return to school if they are being isolated or quarantined?

District staff and students may return to school after being isolated or quarantined under the guidelines of the Pennsylvania Department of Health. The District will adhere to the Pennsylvania Department of Education's "Public Health Guidance Regarding COVID-19 for Phased Reopening of Pre-K to 12 Schools" Follow this link for more information:

<https://bit.ly/2CBFnYd>.

Our promise is to make the upcoming school year the best we possibly can for our students and our entire Warrior family, regardless of the model that is in place.