



2021-22 COVID-19 PREVENTION STRATEGIES & COMMUNICATION

08/09/2021

Updated 9/20/21, 11/4/21, 11/30/21, 1/6/22.2/8/22, 4/4/22



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Layers of Prevention in our Schools

- COVID-19 vaccinations: **Top priority**
- Stay home if you are sick, a close contact* and/or test positive for COVID-19
- Physical Distancing to best of ability according to activity
- COVID-19 screenings: routine COVID safety check (AKA Pool testing), Diagnostic Testing (Rapid antigen-BinaxNOW)
- iHealth (rapid antigen take home) test kits bi-weekly distribution to students, staff who opt-in to the state-sponsored program
- Hand hygiene
- Cleaning and disinfecting
- Mask use is optional in schools and on buses with exceptions (see slide 12 for exceptions)

Promote COVID-19 vaccination

- Population: 5 years old and older, staff and parents/guardians
- Key message: Trust the Facts. Get the Vax. The COVID-19 vaccine saves lives. It's the best way to protect yourself, your family, and our community.



Stay home if you are sick, a close contact and/or test positive for COVID-19

COVID-19 Symptoms to Monitor for:

- ✓ Fever (100.0° Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills (CDC has lowered the temperature from 100.4 to 100.0)
- ✓ Cough (*not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough*)
- ✓ Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath.
- ✓ New loss of taste or smell
- ✓ Sore throat
- ✓ Headache *when in combination with other symptoms*
- ✓ Muscle aches or body aches
- ✓ Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.
- ✓ Fatigue, *when in combination with other symptoms*
- ✓ Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies) *when in combination with other symptoms*

Physical/Social Distancing

Students:

- In the classroom, social distancing will be done to the best of SPS ability up to three feet.

Staff:

- When possible, maintain six feet of physical distance for the greatest protection. This includes staff lounge and staff cafeteria areas.
- Meetings: May be virtual or in-person
 - In the event an in-person meeting is necessary, adhere to six feet physical distance as much as feasible

SPS Schools and Buildings:

- Now open to the public

COVID-19 Testing in schools

Reminder:

Parental/guardian consent is required for all test types

- Pool Testing
- Symptomatic Testing
- iHealth rapid antigen take-home test kit distribution bi-weekly to students/staff who opt into the state's program

COVID-19 Rapid At-Home Antigen Testing for Students and Staff

These tests are in addition to the state-sponsored program and are made available for/students staff who are at home isolating and experiencing COVID-19 symptoms; or for use by students/staff on day five of quarantine as an asymptomatic close contact.

These tests are available while supplies last and are not to be used *in* school or as surveillance.

Test kit distribution: By the school principal/nurse/other designee outside of the school building.

HR Requirements for STAFF submittal of COVID-19 Rapid At-Home Antigen Test Results

At this time, SPS will accept results of a rapid antigen at home test as proof of positive result for COVID due to the current challenges with obtaining a PCR test. Staff must complete the Covid-19 leave pay form, which includes attestation that you have tested positive, and provide a picture of your rapid antigen home test result. Please email a copy of your completed Covid-19 Leave pay form and a picture of your rapid antigen home test results to Human Resources at hrffcra@springfieldpublicschools.com

Testing Positive

Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 must isolate for at least five days. A return to school is allowed anytime between day six and ten, with no fever for 24 hours and showing an improvement in symptoms. Masks are mandatory for day six through 10.

Staff Reporting Process When Symptomatic, Designated as Positive, or Designated as a Non School-Based Close Contact

As an employee you will be responsible for completing the following process:

If you become COVID-19 positive, report immediately to your principal/supervisor

1. Submit a copy of the COVID-19 test result to principal/supervisor along with a contact phone number
2. Submit a self-report positive COVID-19 form to hrffcra@springfieldpublicschools.com

A human resource representative will follow up with next steps

If you are symptomatic (meeting COVID-19 criteria), report immediately to your principal/supervisor

1. Submit a self-report COVID-19 symptom form to hrffcra@springfieldpublicschools.com

A human resource representative will follow up with next steps

If you are designated a close contact in the community, report immediately to your principal/supervisor

1. Submit a self-report Designated a COVID-19 Close Contact Outside of School form to

hrffcra@springfieldpublicschools.com

A human resource representative will follow up with next steps and available for guidance.

If you have questions on how to obtain the required documentation requested, please email

hrffcra@springfieldpublicschools.com


Hand Hygiene & Cleaning/ Disinfecting

- Maintain strong hand hygiene: Students and staff are required to exercise hand hygiene (handwashing or sanitizing) that should be preformed upon arrival to school, before eating, before putting on and taking off masks, and before dismissal.
 - Utilize hand sanitizing stations at each entry point.
- Handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds is the best practice. However, hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol should be substituted when handwashing is not available.
- Routine cleaning and disinfecting practices maintained

Exceptions to not wearing a mask

- Anytime anyone visits the school nurses' office, mask use is mandatory.
- Anytime someone is returning to school on day 6 following a 5-day quarantine with a negative COVID test, mask use is mandatory on days six through 10. **Please note: Those who are fully vaccinated and asymptomatic are exempt from quarantine if identified as a close contact status**
- Anytime someone is returning to school on day 6 following a positive COVID result, with no fever for 24 hours and showing an improvement in symptoms, mask use is mandatory on days six through 10.





Reinforcing all students and staff must adhere to the mask/face covering requirement

- Any breach of safety procedures is a violation of the Springfield Public School prevention strategies
- Consequences for students/staff not following prevention strategies:
 - Schools will re-educate
 - Refer to counselor/administration
 - Then follow progressive discipline



Cultivating a culture of respect

Springfield Public Schools expects that a person's private decision about whether to wear a mask or not, will be respected. Anyone proven to be taunting, bullying, or otherwise showing a negative reaction to a person's masking decision will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.



**DECISIONS ON PREVENTION STRATEGIES WILL
REMAIN FLUID AS MORE INFORMATION AND
DATA BECOME AVAILABLE**



THANK YOU