

## Florence 5 Covid-19 School Information

Florence School District 5 will be following recommendations from South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control (SCDHEC) and the South Carolina State Department of Education (SDE) to assure safety of students and staff within our buildings. Faced with the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Florence 5 staff has worked to develop safeguards to keep every student and staff member as safe as possible.

Creating a plan to meet the ever-changing nature of this pandemic was and remains a challenging task. The district took its responsibility to heart and surveyed our parents to ensure their concerns and suggestions were considered. While these surveys provided us with many suggestions, the district also learned that there is no single plan that would meet the needs of everyone impacted. Each student, family, and staff member are navigating this pandemic differently, and their priorities for what the upcoming school year should look like vary greatly.

As such, we have developed a plan that offers options for learning and promotes the health and safety of our students and staff. This plan was created following current SCDHEC and SDE guidelines.

We also anticipate that circumstances may continue to change as we navigate this forward. **We hope we will eventually be able to lift some of the restrictions for our face-to-face instruction if our situation improves. However, we must recognize that at any time new guidelines may be needed or that forces beyond the district's control may interrupt our school year.** Our district is continuing to plan for these situations should they occur.

Despite the changes to the landscape of our educational system, the Florence Five School District remains committed to our children, families, teachers, staff and community. We appreciate all of your support as we partner in educating the students of Florence 5.

### School Options

Florence 5 school start date will be September 8. We are pleased to announce that we will have two options for your child this year. We will have a regular five-day face-to-face option and a virtual option. The virtual option will have online instruction from teachers at your child's school as well as other materials that students will be given to complete. The learning management system we are using for our program is Schoology. With this option, students will have ongoing communication with their teachers. The district has recently obtained a grant to supply students in grades 5-12 with a laptop. We also have approximately 250 laptops available for student use in grades 4k-4. Students who choose virtual learning will be able to switch to face-to-face instruction after the completion of a nine-week term.

If you choose the regular five-day face-to-face model we are preparing the schools to be as safe as possible. We have made changes in the following areas: staff training, an additional nurse, transportation, food service procedures, and updated school protocols. Please read below the changes being made.

## **Notification**

In the event of a Covid-19 exposure to students participating in face-to-face instruction, parents of students in the classroom will be notified and those students will transition to virtual instruction for a 14-day period. During the virtual instruction period, students will have ongoing communication with their teacher. Attendance will be documented based on the student's participation in the online instruction provided.

## **Training**

Training for all staff members will be conducted. Staff will be trained in the proper safety protocols to be used including the use of screening questions, social distancing and appropriate methods for sanitizing in their work area. Substitutes will also be trained in protocols prior to the start of school.

Custodial staff will be trained on the proper use of disinfectants and equipment to sanitize buildings. Custodians will adhere to specific protocols and schedules for disinfecting and cleaning classrooms, bathrooms and other shared areas within the building.

Bus Drivers will be trained on appropriate social distancing on busses and how busses should be sanitized.

## **Additional Nurse**

A nurse will be hired using grant funds to allow each school to have a nurse for the 2020-21 school year.

## **Transportation**

Bus capacities, cleaning and operational procedures will be based on South Carolina Department of Education recommendations. Busses will be sanitized twice a day. There will be one student per seat, unless the students are from the same household. Busses will run at 50% capacity.

## **Food Service**

Breakfast and lunch will be served in classrooms for all students except 4k and 5k. Students in 4k and 5k will have meals in the cafeteria.

## **Participation and Services**

Students participating in online learning will have the option to participate in any school activities that are scheduled. The Continuum is scheduled to open on August 18. Special Education students will also have the opportunity to receive their speech, occupational therapy, and physical therapy as written in their IEP at the school.

## **Schools (These recommendations may change based on guidance from the SCDHEC and SDE)**

- Student movement will be minimized throughout the day. Hallway use will be restricted by the staggered release of classes.
- Signage will be posted at entrances of each school as recommended by SCDHEC
- Covid-19 screening questions will be used daily with staff and students.
- Temperatures of students and staff will be checked daily as they enter the building.
- Access Control Measures (Designated entrances and exits, one-way traffic in halls will be implemented.)
- Student activities where students share resources (crayons, pencils, books) will be minimized.
- Media Center - Books touched by students and not checked out will be placed in a designated area for 48 hours before returning to shelves. Books checked out will stay out of circulation 72 hours.
- Recess - Children will be socially distanced at recess and masks will not be required during this time.
- Students receiving special education services will be able to receive those services in their special services classroom.
- Students and staff will use hand sanitizer when arriving and exiting the classrooms.
- Students will be allowed to participate in music and physical education classes. Students must socially distance in these classes as much as possible and wear masks when this is not possible.
- A cleaning schedule will be used by custodians for cleaning of playground equipment, restrooms, high touch surfaces and other common areas throughout the day. Classrooms will be sanitized every day.
- Table and desks will be cleaned between classes.
- Faculty, staff, and students will wear face coverings/masks in all areas of the school except in specific situations where social distancing can be observed. For example, during PE, in the gym, when students have sufficient space to practice social distancing, masks would not be required. If your child does not have a mask, one will be provided for them.
- Visitors into the school will be screened using Covid-19 questions, receive a temperature check and must wear a mask.
- Food Deliveries into the school will not be allowed at this time.
- No field Trips will be allowed at the present time.
- Water Fountains will be turned off. Water will be made available to students.