



# Sunflower County Consolidated School District

Dr. Miskia Davis, Superintendent

School Health Services

## *Return to School Guidance 2021-2022*

*July 2021*

SCCSD believes that students, staff, parents, and whole communities benefit from in-person learning. Thus, SCCSD is planning for a 100% in-person learning for the 2021-2022 school term. Safe return to SCCSD is our priority. As such, SCCSD will adopt the following Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) recommendations and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) strategies to provide students and staff a safe environment for optimal learning opportunities.

### **VACCINATIONS**

SCCSD supports all eligible students, faculty, and staff **12 years and older** receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

SCCSD will offer convenient on-campus COVID-19 vaccinations through MSDH and trusted community health providers. SCCSD will provide the vaccines with parental consent and regardless of socioeconomic status.

Advantages to fully vaccinated students, teachers, & staff include:

- Decreased COVID-19 transmission risk and illness severity if infected
- No mask-wearing while indoors
- No required quarantine or testing is required if exposed to COVID-19 unless the individual develops symptoms
- Return to extracurricular activities (i.e., sports) without frequent COVID-19 testing

### **MASK USE**

SCCSD will require all individuals to correctly and consistently wear masks in our facilities **unless** they voluntarily show documentation that they have been FULLY vaccinated. The same mask requirement will be practiced when in crowded outdoor settings. SCCSD will not mandate that staff or students show their vaccination status but will accept voluntary proof of vaccination.

### **SOCIAL DISTANCING**

SCCSD will require at least three (3) feet of physical distancing between students and staff to lower the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

### **CONTACT TRACING & QUARANTINING**

SCCSD will continue vigilant contact tracing to identify all individuals who are in **close contact** with COVID-19 within the school setting or extracurricular activities through the use of class schedules and attendance reports.

- Students and staff who are not fully vaccinated and come in close contact with an infected person will quarantine at home for 10 days if they do not have symptoms or 14 days if having symptoms.
- Fully vaccinated students and staff in close contact with an infected person **DO NOT** have to quarantine or get tested unless they develop symptoms.



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- Students or staff who tested positive for COVID-19 within the past three (3) months **DO NOT** have to quarantine or get tested unless they develop symptoms.
- Students or staff **DO NOT** have to quarantine if they come into direct or indirect contact with someone who has tested positive if they were wearing a mask

### **POSITIVE COVID-19 CASES & ISOLATION**

- Students or staff who **test positive** for COVID-19 will be excluded from the school setting and isolate for a full 10 days **regardless of vaccination status**
- Students and staff may return to school at the end of their full 10-day isolation unless they develop persistent fever or new symptoms. If the student or staff experiences persistent fever or new symptoms, they will require a medical evaluation and release from their healthcare provider.

### **QUARANTINE & ISOLATION EMPLOYEE LEAVE**

The legal requirement for COVID-19 leave pay ended March 31, 2021. As a result, any SCCSD staff requiring days off work for quarantining or isolating due to COVID-19 will have to use accrued sick or personal leave.

### **COVID-19 TESTING/SCREENINGS**

SCCSD will partner with MSDH and offer voluntary screening testing of **asymptomatic, unvaccinated** students and staff as follows:

- **Parental consent is required for student testing and screenings**
- Weekly screenings of students participating in school-sponsored extracurricular activities of any type, including sports
- Weekly screenings of asymptomatic teachers and employees
- Unvaccinated and unmasked students or staff who are in close contact with an infected person will not require quarantine if they receive on-campus testing every two days and remain symptom-free.
- **The test is a rapid antigen test with results in 15 minutes. It is non-invasive and requires inserting a swab a short way into the front part of the nose (NO DEEP INSERTION IS NECESSARY).**

### **OTHER SAFETY MEASURES:**

- All students, teachers, and staff who have symptoms of any infectious illness, regardless of vaccination status, should stay home from school AND be evaluated by their healthcare provider.
- SCCSD schools will continue practicing and promoting good hand hygiene with frequent handwashing and the use of 70% alcohol-based hand sanitizers
- Because of the current rise in the Delta variant COVID-19 infections, SCCSD will continue the use of barriers in front offices, limit visitors, and provide temperature checks to lower the risk of transmission.