

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan



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Introduction

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plans (ARP) Act was signed into law. In it, the U.S. Department of Education is providing an additional \$121.9 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER III Fund). This legislation will award grants to state educational agencies (SEAs) for providing local educational agencies (LEAs) with emergency relief funds to address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools across the nation.

South Carolina will receive \$2,112,051,487 in ESSER III funds from the Act, with 90 percent being awarded to school districts with amounts determined in proportion to the amount of Title I, Part A funds they received in summer 2020 from funds under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The remaining funds will be used for state-level activities to address issues caused by COVID-19.



This plan describes how the LEA or district will provide the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services for all schools, including those that have already returned to in-person instruction. This report template complies with all reporting requirements of the ARP Act (Public Law 117-2), the [ESSER III grant](#) terms, conditions, and assurances (CFDA Number 84.425U), and the interim final rule established by the U.S. Department of Education, [86 FR 21195](#).

Maintaining Health and Safety

Overview

A district's plan must include how it will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and LEA staff, and the extent to which it has adopted policies or practices and a description of any such policies or practices, on each of the CDC's safety recommendations including: universal and correct wearing of masks; modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding); hand washing and respiratory etiquette; cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation; contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the state, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments; diagnostic and screening testing; efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible; appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies or practices; and coordination with state and local health officials.

Description of maintaining health and safety

Florence School District Three will begin the 2021-22 school year with a five-day per week, face-to-face instructional model and will adhere to the following health protocols. Accordingly, the District will:

- limit non-essential visitors and activities.
- provide sanitizing stations throughout the building.
- provide opportunities for and promote frequent hand-washing and the use of hand sanitizer.
- utilize guidelines to minimize the number of students being sent to the office area and the health room/nurse's office.
- encourage each school to monitor student arrival and dismissal to discourage students from congregating in groups.
- encourage schools to incorporate virtual events such as parent/family meetings, assemblies, etc., where possible.
- follow all CDC and SCDHEC guidelines for mask wearing and social distancing.
- encourage use of technology conferencing for district and school staff meetings.
- monitor the spread of viruses or other contagious diseases, such as but not limited to, influenza and COVID-19

Prevention

The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. You can take steps to slow the spread.

- Maintain good social distance (about 6 feet). This is very important in preventing the spread of COVID-19.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Routinely clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face covering when around others.

Policies or Practices Regarding CDC Recommendations

Universal and correct wearing of masks

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable
Option to Opt-Out of Mask Covering Use

DHEC's recommendations regarding COVID-19 precautions, including wearing face masks, have not changed. Wearing face coverings and taking other precautions are important disease prevention methods that protect not only the person wearing the mask but also those around them from COVID-19. DHEC continues to follow federal CDC guidance, backed by multiple research studies, that masks are an effective and essential tool for protecting the health of all South Carolinians during this ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. CDC recommends schools continue to use the COVID-19 prevention strategies outlined in the current version of CDC's Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools for at least the remainder of the 2020-2021 academic school year. This includes the recommendation that everyone wear a mask in the school setting regardless of vaccination status.

Masks are a critical preventive measure and are most essential in times when social distancing is difficult. If masks cannot be used, make sure to take other measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread, including social distancing, frequent hand washing, and cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces. Proper wear of a cloth mask per CDC:

Wear your Face Covering Correctly:

- Wash your hands before putting on your face covering
- Put it over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin
- Try to fit it snugly against the sides of your face
- Make sure you can breathe easily

Use the Face Covering to Protect Others

- Wear a face covering to help protect others in case you're infected but don't have symptoms
- Keep the covering on your face the entire time you're in public
- Don't put the covering around your neck or up on your forehead
- Don't touch the face covering, and, if you do, wash your hands

Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

FSD3 will continue with modifying facilities with proper signage, the installation of floor decals and the promotion of social distancing. Extended and/or staggered traffic patterns and meal service will be implemented to support social distancing while ensuring adequate time for students to consume their meals. Transportation will comply with SCDHEC and CDC guidelines regarding capacity that are in effect during the 2021-22 school year.

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

FSD3 will provide adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors. Schools will systematically and frequently check and refill hand sanitizers. Schools will utilize age-appropriate activities that encourage sound personal hygiene practices and respiratory etiquette.

Teacher's Guide for Handwashing, Hand Sanitizer, Cough Etiquette: Review with Students at least Weekly
From the CDC:

Germs are everywhere! They can get onto hands and items we touch during daily activities and make you sick. Cleaning hands at key times with soap and water or hand sanitizer is one of the most important steps you can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to those around you.

Wash Your Hands Often to Stay Healthy

You can help yourself and your loved ones stay healthy by washing your hands often, especially during these key times when you are likely to get and spread germs:

- Before, during, and after preparing food
- Before eating food
- After using the toilet
- After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After touching garbage

Handwashing

1. Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.
2. Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Be sure to lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
3. Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. If you need a timer, hum the Happy Birthday song from beginning to end twice.
4. Rinse your hands well under clean, running water.
5. Dry your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.
6. Turn off faucets with your used paper towel and throw paper towels in the trash can.

CDC- Don't Underestimate - The Power of Handwashing in Fighting Germs <https://scdhec.gov/blogs/dont-underestimate-power-handwashing-fighting-germs>

Use Hand Sanitizer When You Can't Use Soap and Water

Washing hands with soap and water is the best way to get rid of germs in most situations. If soap and water are not readily available, you can use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. You can tell if the sanitizer contains at least 60% alcohol by looking at the product label.

Sanitizers can quickly reduce the number of germs on hands in many situations. However, sanitizers do not get rid of all types of germs; hand sanitizers may not be as effective when hands are visibly dirty or greasy and hand sanitizers might not remove harmful chemicals from hands like pesticides and heavy metals.

How to use hand sanitizer

- Apply the gel product to the palm of one hand (read the label to learn the correct amount).
- Rub your hands together.
- Rub the gel over all the surfaces of your hands and fingers until your hands are dry. This should take around 20 seconds.

Cough Etiquette:

Cover cough and sneezes with elbow or tissue. If using tissue, throw in trash. Wash hands.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

FSD3 disinfects high touch areas with an EPA-approved germicide throughout the district each day. An electrostatic sprayer is used at the end of the day to disinfect classrooms, restrooms, buses, and other common areas.

Classroom Disinfecting Plan:

FSD3 custodial staff will daily sanitize surfaces and objects that are touched often, such as desks, countertops, chairs, tables, handrails, doorknobs, light switches, computer keyboards, hands-on learning items, faucet handles, phones, and toys.

Custodians:

1. Custodial staff will sanitize common workspaces, high traffic areas, and frequently touched surfaces multiple times per day.
2. Check rooms for soap, paper towels, and sanitizer
3. Empty all trash and sanitize trash receptacle
4. Vacuum if classrooms have carpet with vacuums
5. Sweep and mop hard surface floors with approved cleaners
6. High touch surfaces in bathrooms will be disinfected frequently during the day (sinks, soap dispensers, towel dispensers, door knobs, hand rails, and bathroom fixtures)
7. Wipe down and sanitize countertops and all flat surfaces

Staff:

1. Remove, file, or store as many items laying on all flat surfaces to help speed up the sanitizing procedure
2. Wipe down and sanitize countertops and desk throughout the day
3. Clean and sanitize sinks and wipe down faucets and knobs throughout the day
4. Wipe down and sanitize door knobs, pencils sharpeners, and towel dispensers throughout the day

Common Space Disinfecting Plan Main Office:

1. Remove, file, or store as many items laying on all flat surfaces to help speed up the sanitizing procedure
2. Wipe down and sanitize countertops and desk throughout the day
3. Clean and sanitize sinks and wipe down faucets and knobs throughout the day
4. Wipe down and sanitize common door knobs, cabinet knobs, pencil sharpeners, phones, towel dispensers, copy machines, printers, mail boxes, etc. throughout the day
5. In lounge areas, at the end of the day, put away all dishes and utensils, coffee pots, coffee mate products, etc.
6. Teacher work rooms should be cleaned and sanitized in the same manner.

Restrooms:

1. Staff should wash their hands after every use.
2. Custodial staff will clean and sanitize all office restrooms at the end of the day.
3. All restrooms shall be sanitized routinely throughout the day by the custodial staff. At the end of the day, custodial staff shall clean and sanitize all restrooms.

Locker Rooms:

1. Athletes will not be allowed to leave personal items in the lockers overnight. If personal items are left, the room is sprayed with disinfectant.

Outdoor Cleaning and Disinfecting Plan

- Outdoor areas, like playgrounds in schools and parks generally require normal routine cleaning, but do not require disinfection.
 - Do not spray disinfectant on outdoor playgrounds. It is not an efficient use of supplies and is not proven to reduce risk of COVID-19 to the public.
 - High touch surfaces made of plastic or metal, such as grab bars and railings should be cleaned routinely.
 - Cleaning and disinfection of wooden surfaces (play structures, benches, tables) or ground covers (mulch, sand)

is not recommended.

- Sidewalks and roads should not be disinfected.

Spread of COVID-19 from these surfaces is very low and disinfection is not effective.

Training Provided to Staff on Cleaning and Sanitation:

All FSD3 staff will receive the necessary training required by OSHA to clean and disinfect. See below:

1. Know the difference between cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing
Cleaning: Removes germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces or objects. Cleaning works by using soap (or detergent) and water to physically remove germs from surfaces. This process does not necessarily kill germs, but by removing them, it lowers their numbers and the risk of spreading infection.

Disinfecting: Kills germs on surfaces or objects. Disinfecting works by using chemicals to kill germs on surfaces or objects. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs, but by killing germs on a surface after cleaning, it can further lower the risk of spreading infection.

Sanitizing: Lowers the number of germs on surfaces or objects to a safe level, as judged by public health standards or requirements. This process works by either cleaning or disinfecting surfaces or objects to lower the risk of spreading infection.

2. Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that are touched often

Follow your school's standard procedures for routine cleaning and disinfecting. Typically, this means daily sanitizing surfaces and objects that are touched often, such as desks, countertops, chairs, tables, handrails, doorknobs, light switches, computer keyboards, hands-on learning items, faucet handles, phones, and toys. Some schools may also require daily disinfecting of these items. Standard procedures often call for disinfecting specific areas of the school, like bathrooms.

Immediately clean surfaces and objects that are visibly soiled. If surfaces or objects are soiled with body fluids or blood, use gloves and other standard precautions to avoid coming into contact with the fluid. Remove the spill, and then clean and disinfect the surface.

3. Simply do routine cleaning and disinfecting

It is important to match your cleaning and disinfecting activities to the types of germs you want to remove or kill. Most studies have shown that the flu virus can live and potentially infect a person for up to 48 hours after being deposited on a surface. However, it is not necessary to close schools to clean or disinfect every surface in the building to slow the spread of flu. Also, if students and staff are dismissed because the school cannot function normally (e.g., high absenteeism during a flu outbreak), it is not necessary to do extra cleaning and disinfecting. Flu viruses are relatively fragile, so standard cleaning and disinfecting practices are sufficient to remove or kill them. Special cleaning and disinfecting processes, including wiping down walls and ceilings, frequently using room air deodorizers, and fumigating, are not necessary or recommended. These processes can irritate eyes, noses, throats, and skin; aggravate asthma; and cause other serious side effects.

4. Clean and disinfect correctly

Surfaces should be cleaned using soap and water and then a disinfectant if necessary. Cleaning with soap and water reduces number of germs, dirt and impurities on the surface. Disinfecting kills germs on surfaces. This may require separate EPA approved products. Read the label to make sure it states that EPA has approved the product for effectiveness against influenza A virus.

Use disinfecting wipes on electronic items that are touched often, such as phones and computers. Pay close attention to the directions for using disinfecting wipes. It may be necessary to use more than one wipe to keep the surface wet for the stated length of contact time. Make sure that the electronics can withstand the use of liquids for cleaning and disinfecting.

How to clean and disinfect

- Wear disposable gloves to clean and disinfect. Precautions such as wearing gloves and making sure you have good ventilation during use of the product.
- Clean surfaces using soap and water, then use disinfectant if necessary. Follow the instructions on the label to ensure safe and effective use of the product. Many products recommend keeping surface wet for a period of time

(see product label).

- Practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces.

More frequent cleaning and disinfection may be required based on level of use.

- Surfaces and objects in common areas, such as copiers and point of sale keypads should be cleaned and disinfected before each use.
- High touch surfaces include: tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, sinks, etc.

5. Use products safely

Pay close attention to hazard warnings and directions on product labels. Cleaning products and disinfectants often call for the use of gloves or eye protection. For example, gloves should always be worn to protect your hands when working with bleach solutions.

Do not mix cleaners and disinfectants unless the labels indicate it is safe to do so. Combining certain products (such as chlorine bleach and ammonia cleaners) can result in serious injury or death.

Ensure that custodial staff, teachers, and others who use cleaners and disinfectants read and understand all instruction labels and understand safe and appropriate use. This might require that instructional materials and training be provided in other languages.

6. Handle waste properly

Follow your school's standard procedures for handling waste, which may include wearing gloves. Place no-touch waste baskets where they are easy to use. Throw disposable items used to clean surfaces and items in the trash immediately after use. Avoid touching used tissues and other waste when emptying waste baskets. Wash your hands with soap and water after emptying waste baskets and touching used tissues and similar waste.

Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

FSD3 actively engages in contact tracing and transparent reporting to the public of COVID-19 cases and staff quarantines within the district.

FSD3 will continue to provide guidance to parents/students, employees, and contractors on screening protocols for the daily pre-screening process, a process which all parties should complete prior to entering the campus/building. Each school will continue to provide current health information to staff, students, and families about the signs and symptoms of COVID-19, when they should stay home, and when they can return to school. FSD3 will continue to follow the 2020-21 plan for assisting students and staff who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms during the school day.

Each school will establish a dedicated space for symptomatic individuals that will not be used for other purposes. Students who present COVID-19 symptoms will immediately be isolated to the designated space. The symptomatic person will be required to wear a cloth face covering while waiting to leave the facility.

Students who display COVID-19 symptoms or who have received a SCDHEC confirmed positive COVID-19 test result will be asked to quarantine for the SCDHEC recommended period of time.

Contact Tracing in Combination with Isolation and Quarantine

- CDC defines a close contact as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes). An infected person can spread the virus starting from 48 hours before they have any symptoms (or, for asymptomatic patients, 48 hours before the specimen was collected), until they meet criteria for discontinuing home isolation.

- In the K–12 schools, the DHEC close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) if the exposed student(s) wore

mask(s) during the exposure time. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.

- Maximally vaccinated people and people verified (positive PCR or antigen test) to have been infected with COVID-19 in the previous 90 days who were in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 but do not have COVID-19 symptoms do not need to quarantine unless they develop symptoms. However, they must wear a mask at school until 10 days after exposure. Individuals may voluntarily choose to provide documentation of their vaccination status to eliminate the need for quarantine. Maximally vaccinated people are recommended to get tested 5 days after exposure, even if they do not have symptoms, and they must wear a mask at school until 10 days after exposure even with a negative test.
- Cluster of cases in a classroom or cohort (per CDC): If 3 or more COVID-19 cases are identified within a classroom or other cohort of students (e.g., sports team or extracurricular group) within 14 days of each other, consideration should be given to excluding all students and staff, who have not voluntarily provided evidence of vaccination, in the classroom (or cohort of students) for 14 days after contact with the last identified COVID-19 case. This definition is subject to change as more is learned about the Omicron variant and its patterns of transmission.
- Consideration for a school or grade level temporarily going to virtual learning:
 - -There is currently no data to provide an evidence base for a decision to go to virtual learning at a specific threshold of school cases. However, recognizing school district leadership could potentially benefit from expert recommendations, DHEC medical epidemiologists have developed potential thresholds for consideration, based on their professional judgement.
 - Consideration may be given by a school district for a school (or grade level) to temporarily go virtual in the following scenarios:
 - School is unable to maintain operations with current staffing as determined by the school district,
 - 30% or higher rate of absenteeism in the school or grade level due to COVID-19 (including students in isolation and in quarantine),
 - 5–10% or higher of the student body is in isolation simultaneously after testing positive (or being assumed positive based on symptoms when not tested), or
 - When discussed with and recommended by local medical and public health professionals based on the local healthcare system's capacity.
 - If a school (or grade level) temporarily goes to virtual learning for one of the above scenarios, it is recommended that they remain virtual for 7 to 10 days then re-evaluate the situation.
 - Details of individual cases of COVID-19 do not need to be reported to DHEC unless detected by school affiliated testing, and details of individuals in quarantine do not need to be reported. However, clusters or outbreaks should still be reported to the regional DHEC office. In addition, as of September 2021, schools began reporting to DHEC aggregate totals of cases and contacts in students and in staff once weekly via a portal established by DHEC where a link is emailed to the school's point of contact. This data, using standard DHEC data suppression rules to protect privacy when necessary, has been made available to the public online.

Quarantining and Close Contacts

- Those with COVID-19 who recovered: If a student or staff member is a lab confirmed case of COVID-19 by PCR (nose or throat swab), they do not need to quarantine again after close contact to someone with COVID-19 in the first three (3) months after illness onset but will for any close contact that happens after that three (3) month period.
- The person must provide either a note from a healthcare provider that they had the positive lab result in the past three (3) months or provide a paper or electronic copy of the results (SARS-CoV-2 RNA – Detected or Positive)
- A positive antibody results (SARS-CoV-2 IgG or IgM) or any other lab test is not sufficient to meet these criteria to defer quarantine. They must quarantine according to the current guidelines.

From CDC:

Anyone who has been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19. This includes people who previously had COVID-19 and people who have taken a serologic (antibody) test and have antibodies to the virus.

What counts as close contact?

- You were within 3 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for at least 15 cumulative minutes
- You provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19
- You had direct physical contact with the person (touched, hugged, or kissed them)
- You shared eating or drinking utensils
- They sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you

From SCDHEC:

A person infected with COVID-19 is considered contagious starting 48 hours prior to the onset of their symptoms or two (2) days before the specimen for the test was collected if they had no symptoms.

Any close contacts to a case of COVID-19 during the time they are considered contagious will be required to quarantine at home for 10 days after their last contact with the case.

Cases in classroom

If a student or staff member tests positive, they could have been contagious with the virus up to 48 hours before their symptoms began or before their test specimen was collected (for those with no symptoms).

- Prevention - Routinely using these precautions will help avoid the need to quarantine all classroom contacts of persons with COVID-19:
 - It is essential that staff ensure maximum distancing between students and other staff while in the classroom and throughout the day to limit the possibility of transmission.
 - Encourage the use of masks among students and staff able to use them.
 - Anyone known to be a close contact (defined as being within three (3) feet for fifteen (15) cumulative minutes or more) to a COVID-19 case while contagious must be excluded from school and complete a quarantine period. This exclusion requirement applies even if masks were worn if social distancing was not maintained.
 - For any classrooms where social distancing could not be maintained (classes with young children who do not have assigned seating throughout the day), all children and staff must be considered close contacts and complete a quarantine period
 - Students and teachers in a classroom with a known COVID-19 case in which social distancing was reliably maintained should remain together in the same cohort to the extent that is possible. They should receive screening for fever and symptoms each morning until 10 days after last contact with the case. Note: anyone determined to be a “close contact” must be excluded and complete a quarantine period.
 - Any of these students or teachers who are monitored and found to have symptoms of COVID-19 should be sent home and excluded and will be required to get tested or complete the required isolation period to return to school.
 - If 3 or more COVID-19 cases are identified within a classroom or other cohort of students (e.g. sports team or extracurricular group) within fourteen (14) days of each other, consideration should be given to excluding all students and staff in the classroom (or cohort of students) for ten (10) days after contact with the last identified COVID-19 case.
 - The classroom will need to be closed for cleaning and disinfection before use again.

Quarantine

Some students or staff may have been told they were a close contact to a case of COVID-19 and have to complete a quarantine period. This means they will be required to stay home so they do not risk exposing others to COVID-19 if they become sick. For students or staff identified as close contacts, DHEC staff will work with schools to provide information on when the quarantine period for these individuals will end.

- The standard quarantine period remains ten (10) days after last contact with the person while they were contagious with COVID-19, but options for shortening that time period are discussed below
 - 1. Household contact: If the child or staff member lives in the same household as a known case, their quarantine

period begins on the date their household member has been cleared from their isolation period.

- 2. Other close contact: If a child or staff member has been told they are a close contact to a known case of COVID-19, their quarantine period begins the day they had their last close contact with the case. If they have an additional close contact during their quarantine period (such as another household member gets sick), they must begin another quarantine period.
- 3. Quarantine period: The standard quarantine period after close contact with someone contagious with COVID-19 is ten (10) days. CDC has provided two (2) options for shortening that time period that schools may choose to apply as long as all conditions listed below are met. Which criteria to apply to allow for return is at the discretion of the school district.
 - 1. Quarantine can end after Day 10 without testing and if no symptoms were reported during daily symptom monitoring.
 - 2. Quarantine can end after Day 5 if a viral PCR test is negative AND if no symptoms were reported during daily symptom monitoring.
 - a. The viral test must be collected no sooner than Day 5 to be used to shorten quarantine, but quarantine cannot be discontinued earlier than completion of day ten.
 - b. Viral tests include those collected by a swab of the nose or throat (only PCR tests will be accepted when using this option). Blood tests for antibodies may not be used to shorten quarantine.

These conditions must also be met to end quarantine early (Note: Any student or staff member who develops symptoms must be immediately excluded and should be tested or complete the ten (10) day isolation period.):

1. No symptoms of COVID-19 occurred during the an individual's quarantine; AND
2. These individuals should receive daily monitoring for symptoms until Day 10 after last exposure to the COVID-19 case; AND

They must continue to closely follow the preventive actions the schools have in place to prevent spread of the virus (correct and consistent use of face coverings, social distancing, hand hygiene, etc.) through quarantine Day 10. No student or staff may participate in any activities that do not allow for these preventive actions. This includes athletes returning to practice who must remain masked and have no close contact until after day 10. Athletes can cannot participate in any sport or conditioning until day 10.

3. Those returning before completion of the 14 day period should have daily monitoring for symptoms until 14 days have passed since their last contact. Because these individuals are higher risk for becoming contagious with COVID-19 based on having a known exposure to case, the following criteria should be used to exclude and recommend testing.

a. Any of the following symptoms:

- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Cough • Loss of taste or smell
- Fever of at least 100.4

Or any two or more of the following symptoms:

- Headache
- Fatigue
- Sore Throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Muscle pain or body aches
- Nausea/Vomiting
- Diarrhea

Other household member in quarantine: If the child or staff member lives in the same household as someone in quarantine, they will not need to quarantine themselves. If the household member in quarantine is later determined to have COVID-19, the child or staff member may be recommended for quarantine if they were in close contact during that person's infectious period.

Those with COVID-19 who recovered and remain asymptomatic: If a student or staff member is a lab confirmed

case of COVID-19 by antigen or PCR (nose or throat swab or saliva test), they do not need to quarantine again after close contact to someone with COVID-19 in the first three (3) months after recovering but will for any close contact that happens after that three (3) month period.

-The person must provide either a note from a healthcare provider that they had the positive lab result (via antigen or PCR test) in the past three (3) months or provide a paper or electronic copy of the results (SARS-CoV-2 RNA – Detected or Positive)

- Positive antibody results (SARS-CoV-2 IgG or IgM) or any other lab test is not sufficient to meet these criteria to defer quarantine. They must quarantine according to the current guidelines.

Those with COVID-19 who recovered and become symptomatic: If a child or staff member is a lab confirmed case of COVID-19 by antigen or PCR (nose or throat swab or saliva test) within the past three (3) months and they develop new symptoms of COVID-19 (i.e. new or worsening cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, or loss of taste or smell) at any time, then they should be isolated under recommended precautions before and during evaluation. If an alternative etiology cannot be readily identified by a healthcare provider, then retesting for SARS-CoV-2 is likely warranted.

If reinfection with COVID-19 is confirmed or remains suspected, they should remain under the recommended SARS-CoV-2 isolation period until they meet the criteria for discontinuation of precautions—for most, this would be 10 days after symptom onset and after resolution of fever for at least 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medications, and with improvement of other symptoms

Quarantine after COVID-19 Vaccination: If a fully vaccinated person (vaccine and booster) has close contact to a confirmed COVID-19 case they will not be required to quarantine if they meet all of the following criteria:

- Are fully vaccinated with booster
- Have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure - Persons who do not meet the above criteria should continue to follow current quarantine guidance after exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. Vaccinated persons should continue to follow current guidance to protect themselves and others, including wearing a mask, staying at least 6 feet away from others, avoiding crowds, avoiding poorly ventilated spaces, covering coughs and sneezes, and washing hands often.

A. Guidelines for Treating Staff/Students with COVID-19 Symptoms or Positive Test COVID-19 Symptoms:

Guidance for Staff/Students with symptoms at school:

1. Students and staff should be moved safely, respectfully, as well as in accordance with any applicable privacy laws or regulations, to the isolation room for evaluation.
2. Parents are notified to pick up student(s).
3. Students should be supervised by a staff member who maintains at least six feet distance and uses appropriate PPE.
4. Advise parents to call their primary healthcare provider or Health Department for further guidance and if testing is needed. Advise them to report test results to the school.
5. Close off areas used by a sick person and do not use area until cleaned and disinfected with approved cleaner. 24 hours is recommended if possible.
6. School nurses and other healthcare providers should use Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions when caring for sick people.

When to return to school:

- Advise sick staff members and children not to return until they have met criteria for return
- Students or staff excluded for these symptoms should not return until they have either tested negative for COVID-19 or a medical evaluation determines that their symptoms were more likely due to another cause (e.g. sore throat due to strep throat). In this later case, the individual can return when they meet criteria for that condition.
- Students or staff that require testing for COVID-19 will require a negative PCR test (mouth or nose swab) or similar rapid test that directly detects the virus or must complete the current isolation criteria for COVID-19 to return to school.

- Current isolation criteria for COVID-19:
 - Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 and person with symptoms of COVID-19 (see list above) who do not get tested, should isolate until:
 - Ten (10) days have passed since symptoms started – and
 - Three (3) days (72 hours) have passed since last fever without taking medicine to reduce fever – and
 - Overall improvement in symptoms
 - Those who test positive by a PCR test but do not have symptoms will be required to stay out of school until ten (10) days after the specimen was collected.

The criteria above should be used to determine eligibility to return to school, Negative PCR test results are not required after meeting these criteria.

Arrival Procedure for Reporting to Work:

1. Stay at home and call a supervisor if you have a fever (of 100.4 or higher) or answer yes to any of the questions above (see # 2).
2. Staff will answer the morning COVID survey prior to reporting to work.
3. Social distancing of 3-6 feet is to be observed when entering the building.
4. Bring your personal cloth face covering to use. One will be provided to staff who cannot provide their own.

Staff Guidelines Throughout the Workday:

1. Masks must be worn while moving through the building if social distancing of 3-6 feet cannot be observed.
2. Avoid touching face at all times.
3. Wash hands thoroughly and often with soap and water for 20 seconds.
4. If your job requires the use of gloves, wash hands after removing gloves.
5. Before and after eating, wash hands thoroughly with soap and water.
6. Do not eat in groups if you are not three feet apart.
7. Disinfect lunch area before and after eating.
8. Reapply masks after lunch.
9. Staff will wipe down commonly touched items used throughout your workday.
10. Remember to use proper hand hygiene before and after removing cloth face covering.
11. Custodians will implement Enhanced Safety Protocols for cleaning and disinfecting surfaces in common areas at the end of each day and a minimum of two additional times during the school day.

B. Student Enhanced Health Guidelines

The District will implement the following Enhanced Health Protocols to provide for the safety of students:

1. DO NOT come to school if you feel sick or have a fever of 100.4 or higher.
2. DO NOT ENTER the school if:
 - In the past 10 calendar days you have knowingly been around anyone with COVID-19 without a mask, within six feet and for more than ten minutes.
 - In the past 10 calendar days, if anyone in your house has experienced COVID-19 symptoms.
3. If riding a school bus, all students must wear a mask covering while on the bus.
4. All students must practice social distancing of 3-6 feet as recommended by the CDC entering the building, in the classroom, in the hallways, and/or if a line is needed to pick up lunch.
5. Students are encouraged to wear their own personal face covering. All teachers are required to wear face covering/personal face masks.
6. Custodians will disinfect frequently used surfaces throughout each day such as common workspaces, counters, door handles, bathrooms, bathroom fixtures, soap dispensers, handrails, telephones, and common areas.

Arrival Procedure for Reporting to School:

1. Social distancing of 3-6 feet and face coverings are to be observed while waiting to enter the building.
2. Students will use hand sanitizer upon entrance to school.
3. Students will have their temperature checked once they arrive at school.

Guidelines to Observe Throughout the School Day:

1. Face covering must be worn while moving through the building unless the student has completed the DHEC opt out form for mask wearing.
2. Avoid touching face at all times.
3. Cover your cough by using your elbow or in a tissue then immediately wash hands.
4. Wash hands thoroughly and often with soap and water for 20 seconds.
5. Use hand sanitizer or wash hands before and after eating.
6. You must social distance of at least 3-6 feet while eating lunch.
7. Bathroom breaks will be staggered. Students must wash hands after using the toilet.
8. No hanging out in groups in parking lots, hallways, lunch areas.
9. School dismissal will be staggered to follow social distancing guidelines as students exit the building

Sick Policy:

If your child has fever of 100.4 or higher, or has experienced COVID-19 symptoms, due to COVID-19, parents must have a reliable back up to pick up a child who becomes ill at school. Students can return if they have been fever-free for three days without fever reducing medicine unless there is a positive COVID-19 test. Please let the school know if anyone in your family has been in contact with someone who has a confirmed case of the coronavirus.

Guidance for Parents:

Please have the conversation with your child about:

- Social distancing (stay 3-6 feet apart)
- Proper hand hygiene
- Importance of NOT touching their face
- To resist touching the personal belongings of others

Enhanced Disinfecting Protocols

Safety Supplies:

Prior to the return of school, the district will provide the following supplies:

- Hand sanitizer
- Infrared thermometers
- Masks for all staff and students
- EPA and CDC approved disinfectant

Diagnostic and screening testing

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

In order to make decisions to provide a safe work environment for you and your co-workers, each employee will self-certify, each morning prior to the start of each workday. The data will be kept internal to Florence School District Three, is confidential, and will be used solely to determine your readiness to return onsite.

Procedure for Reporting to Work:

1. Stay at home and call a supervisor if you have a fever (of 100.4 or higher) or answer yes to any of the symptoms: Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing; Cough; Loss of taste or smell; Fever of at least 100.4
Or any two or more of the following symptoms: Headache; Fatigue; Sore Throat; Congestion or runny nose; Muscle pain or body aches; Nausea/Vomiting; Diarrhea
2. Staff will complete screening prior to arrival using Qualtrics.
3. Social distancing of six feet is to be observed when entering the building.
4. Bring your personal cloth face covering to use. One will be provided to staff who cannot provide their own.

Student Policies:

Students will not be able to attend if they answer "yes" to any of the following questions:

- Have you been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19?

- Are you experiencing a cough, shortness of breath or sore throat?
- Have you had a fever in the last 48 hours?
- Have you experienced new loss of taste or smell?
- Have you experienced vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours?

Please update the building administrator and your child's principal if you answer "yes" to any of the above questions.

Students must be screened for fever when entering the school building:

- Temperatures will be taken with no-touch thermometer each day upon arrival.
- Normal temperature does not exceed 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Students with temperatures of 100.4° F or higher are to be placed in the schools identified quarantine area (not the health room) and a parent is to be notified that the student needs to be picked up immediately.
- Any student who exhibits COVID-19 symptoms, who answers yes to any of the screening questions or who is running a fever, should leave the campus immediately and seek medical care or COVID-19 testing or both.

According to the CDC, depending on your healthcare provider's advice and availability of testing. You can be with others after you have been three days with no fever, symptoms have improved and it has been 10 days since symptoms first appeared. Please remember the importance of safety first.

- At least three (3) feet of distance between each person should be maintained to the greatest extent possible.
- Arrange desks to maximally increase the space between them.
- Make desks face in the same direction (rather than facing each other). Remove non-essential furniture to maximize the distance between students.
- Avoid in-person assemblies or other congregate events. These may be done virtually with cohorts of students in classrooms if technology is available.
- Avoid students congregating in common use areas.
- Restrict hallway use through staggered release of classes.
- Stagger arrival and dismissal times.
- Limit people present to only students and essential faculty and staff.

Cohorting: keeping people together in a small group and having each group stay together throughout an entire day. Cohorting can be used to limit the number of students, teachers, and staff who come in contact with each other, especially when it is challenging to maintain physical distancing, such as among young children, and particularly in areas of moderate-to-high transmission levels. The use of cohorting can limit the spread of COVID-19 between cohorts but should not replace other prevention measures within each group. Cohorting people who are fully vaccinated and people who are not fully vaccinated into separate cohorts is not recommended.

Masks are required by federal order on school buses and other forms of public transportation in the United States. Open windows to improve ventilation when it does not create a safety hazard.

Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

FSD3 has partnered with McLeod and MUSC to ensure all staff members who want to receive the vaccine have received the vaccine. We held a joint vaccination drive with other districts and worked with doctor's offices in the area to help with vaccines. The district will continue its partnerships for the 2021-22 school year and encourage all employees to be vaccinated. In instances where employees are not vaccinated, masks will be encouraged. FSD3 will provide updated information as received for opportunities for vaccinations and boosters in the area.

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and practices

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

As appropriate, students' IEP Teams will determine accommodations and/or modifications necessary with respect to health and safety policies and practices for students with disabilities who have individual situations and unique needs where adaptations and alternatives should be considered.

Teachers or other staff members involved in the student's educational program are required to implement the accommodations and/or modifications and/or BIP as appropriate based on their role in the student's program.

Each teacher or staff member responsible for direct or indirect instruction of students with disabilities, review student's accommodations, acknowledge that they have received a copy of the student's accommodations, modifications, and/or BIP (as applicable). Sign that they understand the specific instructions for the accommodations, modifications, and/or BIP. Acknowledge understanding their responsibility to implement accommodations, modifications, and/or BIP as indicated in the student's IEP.

Coordination with state and local health officials

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

FSD3 nurses will continue to attend weekly virtual meetings with DHEC in order to get the latest information on COVID-19 and all requirements. Nurses and Chief Operations Officer will continue to work closely in coordination with state and local health officials to ensure the safety of all. Also we will continue to work with doctor's office, MUSC and McLeod in order to get staff vaccinated.

Continuity of Services

Overview

Districts must describe how the LEA will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health and other needs, which may include student health and food services.

District Response on Continuity of Services

Returning to in-person instruction is one of FSD3's highest priorities. This priority goes hand-in-hand with supporting the health and safety of our students, staff and the families they return to each day. Schools not only provide the education that our children need to succeed, but schools also provide for social-emotional growth and support, and nutritious meals.

Continuity of services will be provided in Florence 3 by maintaining safety protocols and recommendations by the CDC. The district will offer two models: Face-to-Face or Virtual.

Elementary (7:30-2:00 pm) students will follow the Family Model to achieve a small family unit within one classroom all day to provide an additional layer of safety. Classroom organization will include appropriate distancing according to the CDC guidelines, with elimination of face-to-face student seats and other precautions.

Middle (8:10-3:20 pm) /High (8:30-3:30 pm) students will follow a Traditional Model with student movement being reduced to the maximum extent possible; changes of class will be staggered to reduce the number of students moving through the halls together.

Curriculum and Instruction:

Spring and fall 2021 data will be used as baseline measures to determine academic gaps in reading and math. This information will be used to identify learning loss and skill identification to employ additional interventions in reading and math including, but not limited to, tutorials before and after school, as well as reading and math interventions during the school day. Literacy and math academic growth and progress for students in K-2 will be assessed using the Universal Screener, EasyCBM in fall, winter, and spring. Literacy and math academic growth and progress for students in K-9 will be assessed via NWEA MAP assessments in fall, winter, and spring. In grades 3-8, TE21 benchmark assessments will be administered in core content areas. Students in Tier 2 and 3 will receive strategic interventions to meet the individual needs of students. Progress monitoring will take place at minimum every two weeks.

In grades 9-12, schools will utilize state-provided strand data, as well as the state data review, to provide professional development for teachers who teach courses for which the state requires an end-of-course assessment (EOC). TE21 common-assessment and benchmark data will be utilized to monitor growth and progress in EOC courses throughout the year. Schools will provide ongoing support for academically at-risk students who have demonstrated learning loss, as a result of the pandemic, through small-group instruction, interventions, credit recovery, and tutoring. All high schools will continue to strive to increase the number of students who are deemed college- or career-ready and to increase the number of students who are on-time graduates. In addition, schools will continue to develop and implement strategies to improve all state report card measures.

-Curriculum aligned to grade-level content standards, full provision of FAPE, full provision of learning supports for students who qualify for Multi Language Learning (MLL), and full provision of learning supports for students who qualify for Talented and Gifted (TAG).

- Consistent delivery of aligned grade level content with an instructional focus on the core content of English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies with the arts integrated.

- Teachers will continue to utilize district pacing guides and the instructional framework for all areas.

- High Leverage Practices used daily to improve instruction in all content areas.

-Teachers will receive ongoing support and training in Professional Learning Communities and resources to support cohesive, effective daily instruction.

-Prioritized instruction will focus on depth of understanding using the South Carolina Priority Standards for ELA and

Math.

- Teachers will conduct small group instruction and in-class interventions daily.
- Each class will begin with a Morning Meeting that includes social emotional learning supports.

Social Emotional Learning

Students will take part in district wide social emotional screening the first month of school to identify baseline data and students' social emotional learning proficiency as well as SEL needs.

.Students will then enter into Tiers 1-3 SEL. Students in Tier 2 and 3 will receive strategic interventions to meet the individual SEL of students. Progress monitoring will take place at minimum every two weeks.

- School Counselors and Social Emotional Counselors will work with school teams to deliver a system for integrating social emotional learning daily during Morning Meeting (Ripple Effect videos/Check In and Check out System).
- School wide PBIS/Leader in Me
- Schools maintain a strong relationship with students and stakeholders with open lines of communication
- Implement quarterly surveys using Panorama
- Follow and implement the MTSS Guidelines
- Daily Check IN- Check Out evidence based strategy (Social Emotional Counselors & School Counselors)
- Provide Tier I Intervention Tools (Panorama Play Book)
- Discuss and target interventions and supports for students and staff
- Support students identified as being behind academically and at risk students with other factors
- Progress monitoring at least every 2 weeks

Attendance

- Attendance will be taken daily
 - Schools will re-engage with students who are absent for 2 or more consecutive days. Providing supports to overcome barriers and support student learning.
- Staff will review the PowerSchool at Risk report weekly to determine needed interventions
Home visits used as appropriate, to engage families to improve attendance.
Students will be placed in Tiers 2 -3 for attendance and use evidenced based strategies as attendance interventions and progress monitor.

Grading Practices

FSD3 will follow the S.C. Uniform Grading Policy and established grading protocols.

Professional Development

Educators will receive ongoing professional learning related to the pedagogy and strategies to promote student learning, social-emotional wellness, and success. New instructional personnel will be provided the opportunity to attend New Teacher Academy. Professional development support for the implementation of instructional standards and priorities and updated curriculum maps will be customized for educators based on their grade-level assignments and/or specific content areas such as special education,

After-school Activities

- Will follow all the guidelines and recommendations from the CDC.

Athletics and Extra-curricular Activities:

- Follow the South Carolina High School League phased re-entry plan for athletics.
- Implement locker room sanitation guidelines.
- Follow all district Enhanced Health and Safety Protocols for extra-curricular activities.

Virtual Academy

FSD3's Virtual Academy is a remote learning opportunity that will allow students in second through Grade 12 to engage in high-quality learning experiences through use of FSD3's instructional resources, including curriculum and assessments, and meaningfully connect with teachers and peers. The virtual learning program is a highly structured and equally rigorous learning environment designed to mirror the learning and growth experienced by students in face to face learning. Students with IEP's and 504 plans will be provided accommodations as written in the IEP. Virtual Academy enrollment will not exceed 5% of the district's total enrollment.

To be eligible for Virtual Academy, students must meet the following criteria:

- Parents must sign the agreement adhering to all of the commitments required for virtual learning.
- Students must be in good standing with virtual learning.
- Good standing criteria: Attendance- no truancy intervention plan or attendance plan; Performance- must have all passing grades and meet progress requirements on benchmarks and standardized testing and teacher recommendation; Conduct- no probation contract (add exceptions such as medically fragile)
- Students will follow a remote learning schedule that will be posted and easy to follow.

- Students will complete independent (asynchronous) assignments that are an extension of synchronous instruction/learning.
- Virtual Academy Administrator will host classroom community meetings. The meetings will serve as an opportunity to check in with students and provide social emotional support.

-The district provides Chromebooks/laptops and Pads to students for use at home. Students who do not have home internet service can check out Wi-Fi hotspots (Verizon and FTC) for home use. FSD3 uses Google Classroom as its Learning Management System to deliver academic instruction.

-Students will follow a remote learning schedule that will be posted and easy to follow.

-Students will complete independent (asynchronous) assignments that are an extension of synchronous instruction/learning.

Virtual Academy Administrator will host classroom community meetings. The meetings will serve as an opportunity to check in with students and provide social emotional support.

Specialized Instruction & Support

-Supplemental support will be provided through scheduled sessions (ESOL, Special Education, Services, and Interventions).

Meal Services

Child Nutrition Staff

-Food service staff will check temperatures and complete employee health screening/district protocol upon arrival at the workplace. Staff who develop symptoms during the workday will follow district protocol for staff illness. Food service will highly promote healthy hygiene practices such as the use of face coverings, frequent handwashing, covering coughs and sneezes and the proper use of gloves. Food service will provide staff with adequate hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, towels, tissues, PPE, etc., for staff handling meals.

Meal Service Environment

-Food service will identify and implement meal service methods that will enable all students to have access to program meals while complying with physical distancing guidelines, and will enable contact tracing to occur if an individual receives a positive diagnosis. To achieve this goal, methods during a single meal service period may need to include:

Meal Service Methods

- Serving meals in classrooms or cafeterias.
- Serving meals in other designated areas in the building
- Providing "Grab and Go" meals in the cafeteria, from the bus or hallways
- Providing to-go meals to cover next day needs if applicable.

Logistics

- Staggering lunch by class to enable social distancing limiting the amount of contact between students
- Eliminating self-serve food items
- Serving meals individually boxed or bagged with all necessary utensils, napkins 7 condiments to minimize handling of meals
- Serving cupped items with a lid
- Eliminating sharing of foods
- Ensuring adequate sanitation occurs between the use of tables, desks and/or other surfaces
- Installing decals in areas to direct customers to practice social distancing in serving lines
- Working closely with other school staff who may be involved in the service of meals to ensure proper communication of what is needed to provide safe meals when necessary
- Limiting outside food brought into the building
- Installing sneeze guards on serving counters
- Serving students who are at a higher risk separately from other students
- Planning meals that meet meal pattern requirements for each age/grade level served
- Ensuring advance availability of planned menus published

All student enrolled in the school/district may participate in the breakfast and lunch program at no charge to them.

To preserve the integrity of the program, food service will work closely with other school staff to ensure accuracy of counting and claiming of meals picked up either through the point of sale (POS) system already in place in the cafeteria or using mobile POS systems or manual lists at each cart, kiosks or classroom.

Bus Capacity - Regulations during COVID-19

Social Distancing and Capacity

The number of students on the bus should be a maximum of 67% of standard capacity or more if the district

approves.

As feasible, consider increasing the number of buses in use to decrease the number of seats with double occupancy. Consider use of assigned seats which remain consistent, in order to facilitate the spreading out of students as much as possible and the seating of household members together as necessary. Alternately, may consider an adult monitor on the bus to ensure appropriate seating is occurring. As possible, load the bus back-to-front.

Mask use is required on school buses and other public transportation per federal CDC.

Per the CDC:

“CDC’s Mask Order requires the wearing of masks by travelers to prevent the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. The requirement to wear a mask also applies to passengers and drivers on school buses, including on buses operated by public and private school systems, subject to the exclusions and exemptions in CDC’s Order.

Cleaning and Disinfection

Each bus shall be cleaned then disinfected using electrostatic handheld sprayer and EPA- approved disinfectant (e.g., BioTab7 disinfectant) twice per day after completion of morning and afternoon routes.

If a sprayer is unavailable, the disinfectant may be applied manually to seats, seat belts, portions of windows that students may touch, handrails, and driver’s seat and controls.

Frequently wipe down with disinfectant frequently touched surfaces, including those in the entrance touched by passengers, such as handrails, and those touched by the driver. Disinfect with a product that is EPA-approved for use against the virus that causes COVID-19, diluted bleach solution, or alcohol solution with at least 70% alcohol. Follow the manufacturer’s instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products (e.g., concentration, application method, contact time, and personal protective equipment). Ensure adequate supplies to support frequent cleaning and disinfection practices.

Ventilation

Increase air exchange on the bus and the input of outside air via available mechanisms, including opening the roof vents and some windows as weather allows.

For buses with air conditioning, increasing circulation of outside air should still be performed to the extent possible, since the air conditioning on these buses only recirculates interior air.

Recognize that frequent openings of the door will also increase air exchange.

Personal Prevention Practices

Drivers and students must wear face coverings consistent with the South Carolina Department of Education Face Covering Guidelines for K-12 Public Schools.

Periodic Review

Overview

Districts are required to review and, as appropriate, revise their Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan at least every six months through September 30, 2023, including seeking public input and taking such input into account in determining whether to revise the plan and, if revisions are determined necessary, on the revisions it makes to its plan.

If a district developed a plan prior to enactment of the ARP Act that was made publicly available and was developed with public comment, but does not address each of the required aspects of safety established in the ARP Act, the district must, as part of the required periodic review, revise its plan consistent with the ARP Act requirements no later than six months after it last reviewed its plan.

District Response on Ensuring Periodic Updates to Its Plan

Two-Way Communication Plan

Florence School District 3 will provide staff, students, and families with comprehensive and proactive information about our school reopening plan and ongoing modifications to the plan as needed during this pandemic. We strive for clear communication channels that equip all stakeholders with the necessary information to organize their professional and personal lives with the utmost care and caution. To that end, we have created a variety of educational options for families that meet our high bar for academic excellence and safety.

In April 2021, the district announced the student learning model for the 2021 August reopening of school. If there are positive or negative changes in the spread of COVID-19, the district will try to give updates before changing the schedule to a less restrictive or more restrictive model. ** Unless closure is announced by a higher governing body. Below is a timeline for key events in preparation for the start of school:

District Communication of School Reopening:

- The official Florence School District 3 Reopening Plan will be housed on the district website www.florence3.k12.sc.us
- Links to the plan will be shared via social media: Facebook
- Phone messages and messages will be posted from Superintendent.

District will communicate and monitor data from Department of Health and Environmental Controls Disease Metrics for Florence County daily.

Communication Expectations:

The district will set clear delineations for communicating with parents as specified below:

District will:

- Communicate 2021 School Reopening Plan.
- Announce if level of virus spread forces a change to a less restrictive or more restrictive student learning model two weeks ahead of any change in schedule to give families time to adjust.
- Handle media requests through the Public Information Office.
- Establish procedures for notifying staff and parents of possible COVID-19 exposure conducive with HIPAA.
- The district will not be able to confirm the identity of a student or staff member who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- The district will notify individuals who have been in direct contact with a person who has tested positive.
- Direct contact is defined as contact less than six feet, more than ten minutes, without a mask, in the last 48 hours.

School will:

- Communicate school-specific information, schedule, procedures, and deadlines related to the school reopening plan.
- Set dates for school activities.
- Communicate grade-level, intervention, resource and gifted and talented schedules for Traditional, Hybrid, and eLearning models.
- Communicate directly with families on safety and health issues related to COVID-19.

Parent Responsibilities to Monitor Health of Student(s) and Notify the School

Attendance is important and we want children to be in school every day that they are healthy. However, this year the greater good for school attendance is to keep children showing any symptoms of COVID-19 home until they are well. To keep all staff and classmates healthy, it is imperative that parents monitor the symptoms and temperatures of their children before sending them to school and implement the following steps:

1. Take the temperature of any child demonstrating shortness of breath, loss of taste, sore throat, muscle aches, chills, new or worsening cough, or runny nose.
2. Keep child at home one or more days to monitor symptoms.
3. If you decide to have a COVID-19 test, notify the school nurse of the results so that the school can implement the Enhanced Health and Safety Protocols in the classroom(s) where your child attended. *All information will remain confidential between the school and family. No other families will be given the health information of your child.

School Procedures to Notify Parents of a Positive COVID-19 Case

When the school becomes aware of a positive COVID-19 case, the following steps will occur:

- School nurse will notify DHEC.
- School administration will notify district office.
- School will implement Enhanced Health Procedures in Category 5 for elementary classrooms operating in the Hybrid “Family” Model.
- School will implement Enhanced Safety Protocols for disinfecting classrooms where the individual attended.
- School administration will send a letter to parents notifying that there is a positive case in the classroom.

* The plan will be sent to parents, students, and employees via our messaging systems.

* The plan will be shared at the June 17, 2021, FSD3 School Board meeting. An opportunity for public comment will be available during the meeting.

FSD3's plan is available on the district website at

http://www.florence3.k12.sc.us/departments/curriculum_and_instruction/covid-19_updates. The direct link to the plan is

http://www.florence3.k12.sc.us/UserFiles/Servers/Server_91151/File/Documents/Board%20of%20Trustees/FSD3%20Re-Entry%20Plan%202020.pdf

Public Input

Overview

The ARP Act requires that school districts make their Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan available to the public online and that the plans be in an understandable and uniform format; to the extent practicable, are written in a language that parents can understand or, if not practicable, orally translated; and upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability, provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent.

Before making its plan publicly available, school districts must seek public comment on the plan and develop the plan after taking into account public comment.

District Response on Public Input in Development of Its Plan

FSD3 developed a plan, with public input in the summer of 2020. This plan was made publicly available to the community on our district's website. Since the passage of the American Rescue Plans (ARP), we have reviewed and updated our plan to reflect current conditions and requirements. We will continue to review and update as needed.

****This plan was updated on 01/04/2022 to remove the use of plexiglass in all classes and to update quarantine procedures.**