

Southeastern Academy

Covid Guidance

2021-22

Revised 8-9-21

Masks:

Masks will be MANDATED for the 2021-2022 school year. They are to be worn by all students and staff regardless of vaccination status when indoors. The SeA School Board will continue to monitor school and community transmission rates and may amend this decision accordingly.

** Masks must be worn at all times on the school bus to and from school. Masks will still be available for students who may need one.

Sea's Layered Covid-19 prevention strategies:

1. Masks indoors and on bus
2. Handwashing and Hand Sanitizer
3. Respiratory etiquette (covering coughs and sneezes)
4. Staying home when sick with symptoms of infectious illness including Covid-19
5. Regular cleaning/disinfecting to help reduce transmission risk

Handling Possible, Suspected, Presumptive, or Confirmed Positive Cases of COVID-19 Symptoms:

Students, teachers, and staff who have symptoms of COVID-19, should stay home and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care. Staying home when sick is essential to keep infections out of schools and prevent spread to others. For students, staff, and teachers with chronic conditions, symptom presence should represent a change from their typical health status to warrant exclusion from school.

Occurrence of any of the symptoms below while a student, teacher, or staff member is at school suggests the person may be referred for diagnostic COVID-19 testing or evaluation.

- Fever (temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher)
- Sore throat
- Cough (for people with chronic cough due to allergies or asthma, a change in their cough from baseline)
- Difficulty breathing (for people with asthma, a change from their baseline breathing)
- New loss of taste or smell
- Diarrhea or vomiting
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever

More information on how to monitor for symptoms is available from the CDC.

Diagnosed:

People presumed to have or are diagnosed with COVID-19 must stay home until they meet the criteria for return to school. Staying home when sick with COVID-19 is essential to keeping COVID-19 infections out of schools and preventing spread to others.

Exposed:

It is also essential for people who are not fully vaccinated to quarantine after a recent close contact to someone with COVID-19. NOTE: As of 7/9/21, CDC added an exception to the need to quarantine in the close contact definition, excluding students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or clinically compatible illness) where:

- both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting face masks; and
- other K–12 school prevention strategies (such as universal and correct mask use, physical distancing, increased ventilation) were in place in the K–12 school setting.
- This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.

Exclusion Category	Scenario	Criteria to return to school
Diagnosis	Person has tested positive with an antigen test but does not have symptoms of COVID-19 and is not known to be a close contact to someone diagnosed with COVID-19.	If the person has a repeat PCR/molecular test performed in a laboratory within 24 – 48 hours of their positive antigen test, and that PCR/molecular test is negative: the positive antigen test can be considered a false positive and the person can immediately return to school; OR If the person does not have a repeat PCR/molecular test, or has one within 24 – 48 hours and it is also positive, the person can return to school 10 days after the first positive test, as long as they did not develop symptoms. The person is not required to have documentation of a negative test in order to return to school.
Diagnosis	Person has tested positive with a PCR/molecular test but the person does not have symptoms.	Person can return to school 10 days after their positive test.
Symptoms	Person has symptoms of COVID-19 <u>and</u> has tested positive with an antigen test or PCR/molecular test	Person can return to school when <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has been 10 days since the first day of symptoms; AND • It has been at least 24 hours since the person had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine); AND • Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving. The person is not required to have documentation of a negative test in order to return to school.
Symptoms	Person has symptoms of COVID-19 but has not been tested for COVID-19 nor has visited a health care provider. Therefore, the person who has symptoms is presumed positive for COVID-19 due to the presence of a clinically compatible illness in the absence of testing.	Person can return to school when <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has been 10 days since the first day of symptoms; AND • It has been at least 24 hours since the person had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine); AND • Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving.

Symptoms	<p>Person has symptoms of COVID-19 but has received a negative test for COVID-19* or has visited a health care provider and received a an alternate diagnosis that would explain the symptoms of COVID-19 *In a person with symptoms, a negative test is defined as either (1) a negative PCR/molecular test or (2) a negative antigen test if the person has a low likelihood of SARS-CoV-2 infection (e.g., the person has no known or suspected exposure to a person with COVID-19 within the last 14 days or is fully vaccinated or has had a SARS-CoV-2 infection in the last 3 months.) See CDC antigen algorithm for interpretation of antigen tests</p>	<p>Person can return to school when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has been at least 24 hours since the person had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine); AND • They have felt well for at least 24 hours. <p>Note: The health care provider is not required to detail the specifics of the alternate diagnosis.</p>
Exposure	<p>Person who is not fully vaccinated and has been in close contact with someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19. (Fully vaccinated persons and persons who have tested positive in the last 3 months and do not have any symptoms after a close contact do not need to quarantine.)</p>	<p>Person can return to school after completing up to 14 days of quarantine. The 14 days of quarantine begin after the last known close contact with the COVID-19 positive individual. Alternatively, the person may complete a 10-day quarantine if the person is not presenting symptoms of COVID-19 after daily at-home monitoring, or they may complete 7 days of quarantine if they report no symptoms during daily at-home monitoring, and the individual has received results of a negative antigen or PCR/molecular test on a test taken no earlier than day 5 of quarantine.</p> <p>Follow the recommendations of your local public health department if someone at your schools should quarantine. Local public health authorities make the final decisions about how long quarantine should last in the communities they serve, based on local conditions and needs.</p> <p>If quarantine is discontinued before day 14, the individual should continue to monitor symptoms and</p>
		<p>strictly adhere to all non-pharmaceutical interventions (e.g. wear a mask, practice social distancing) through 14 days after the date of last exposure.</p> <p>Note: NCDHHS recommends that schools not require an individual who is fully vaccinated (at least 2 weeks after getting their second dose in a 2-dose series or one-dose of a single-dose series) or tested positive for COVID-19 in the past three months to quarantine if they have had no symptoms after being a close contact to someone with COVID-19, and they do not live in a congregate setting (such as a shelter).</p>
Exposure	<p>K-12 student who is not fully vaccinated but has been in close contact, within 3 to 6 feet, with someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19, in which both individuals were wearing a mask the entire time</p>	<p>NCDHHS does not recommend quarantine of students following exposures in school settings if masks were being worn appropriately and consistently by both the person with COVID-19 and the potential exposed person. This applies to exposures in classrooms, other in-school settings, and school transportation but does not apply to exposures during extracurricular or athletic activities. This option should only be utilized in settings where masks are consistently worn. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.</p>