

SCCPSS Coronavirus Response Frequently Asked Questions

We are monitoring the reporting of cases throughout the US and are preparing our staff, faculty and students for any potentiality. We have policies in place for infectious disease control and we are treating this as we would any contagious disease.

Our priority is for the safety of our school family – students and their families, our staff, teachers, and administrators.

How are teachers and staff being educated?

We are preparing a video message that will outline our response as well as a fact sheet that will be sent to all principals and teachers. School nursing personnel have daily conference calls with state officials, as well as local officials, and our lead risk management and security personnel are in contact with Chatham and Georgia Emergency Management Agencies to provide a coordinated response to any potential outbreak. Information is being shared with our leadership via our internal and external channels.

What supplies do schools have?

Our custodial staffs have inventoried their soap, hand sanitizer, antibacterial wipes and other cleaning agents. If supplies are found lacking, we will replenish as quickly as possible. We have a four-week supply of cleaning agents. Our first order of business is to educate students and staff about the effectiveness of handwashing, wiping down high-touch areas (doorknobs, handles, tabletops, etc.), social distancing, and use of disposable tissues. If parents wish to send any materials to their child's school, we ask that you coordinate with your school principal to ascertain any specific needs.

What precautions are you taking to prevent contamination or disease spread?

As stated above, we are taking extra precautions in cleaning common areas and are encouraging everyone to be mindful of social distancing, wiping high touch areas with Lysol (or Clorox) wipes, and using appropriate measures for coughing and/or sneezing. Busses have been supplied with a cleaning kit that includes wipes, hand sanitizer, disinfectant spray and tissues.

Would any of the absentee policies change?

Certainly, if a student or teacher is required to stay home (quarantine), we would work with that student or teacher to stay current on their work. If a student or teacher misses school due to an illness, that illness is excused as long a physician's note is supplied. Should it become necessary to invoke an e-learning or distance learning protocol, our teachers have prepared two weeks of lesson plans. Individual cases will be handled administratively at the school level. Our first priority is safety!

When do you tell a student to stay home and for how long?

Individuals who are exhibiting symptoms that present a reasonable concern that they have a contagious disease or condition should not remain in the school setting. Unless the student has been tested for the CoVid19 strain, there is no reason to believe they have contracted the virus. Students exhibiting persistent symptoms of a communicable disease/condition may be required to undergo testing and/or provide health risks to others before being allowed to return to school.

The recommended quarantine for suspected cases of CoVid19 infection is 14 +1 days.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

Fever, coughing, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing are all indicators of a respiratory ailment. Additional symptoms to watch for are chills, body aches, sore throat, headache, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting or runny nose.

What can parents and students do at home?

Our advice to the general public is the same as every cold and flu season.

First, we cannot overstress the importance of handwashing. The use of soap and water is the single most important thing one can do to prevent disease and infection. Wash hands often with spa and water for at least 20 seconds (How long is 20 seconds? Try singing “Happy Birthday” through twice!) Wash after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer with a minimum of 60% alcohol. Bleach is an excellent barrier to infection, as well, as are disposable wipes (Lysol, Clorox or store brands – please read the label to make certain it says “antibacterial” and mentions influenza virus on the label.) In addition, cover coughs and sneezes with a disposable tissue – and toss that tissue after you use it. Stay home with you are sick with any respiratory disease symptoms. Social distancing is important, as well. This means staying 4-6’ away from other individuals who may exhibit symptoms.

Be mindful of traveling, especially to areas that could be considered high risk.

Additional information is available at the following websites:

www.gachd.org/covid19

<https://www.gachd.org/emergency-prep/covid-19-preparedness-response/guidance-for-schools-preparing-for-covid-19/>