



SCCPSS Health & Safety Protocols (SY 21-22)



SCCPSS remains committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and staff. We are excited to bring students back into our buildings so that we can continue our mission to provide quality educational services that meet the needs of every child.

SCCPSS continues to monitor the community transmission index with guidance from community health professionals. As conditions change the District may revise any of these protocols. If there are changes to these requirements, parents will be notified through our parent notification system, as well as through normal media channels, including our website and social media.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. Children should return to full-time in-person learning with layered prevention strategies in place. According to the CDC, though COVID-19 outbreaks have occurred in school settings, multiple studies have shown that transmission rates within school settings, when multiple prevention strategies are in place, are typically lower than – or similar to – community transmission levels. Please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html> for additional information and recommendations.

MASKS AND/OR FACE COVERINGS:

Mask/face covering protocols shall be required while inside any SCCPSS facility as a health and safety requirement for the start of the 2021-22 school year. This includes all students, staff, and visitors regardless of vaccination status. Schools will utilize best practices for cafeterias and other areas where it would be difficult for students to wear masks. Masks are required for all clubs that meet indoors.

OTHER MASK/FACE COVERING PROTOCOLS INCLUDE:

- Masks are optional for activities held outside.
- Masks are optional for student athletes during indoor practice or play associated with athletic sports/extracurricular activities.
- Masks will be required for all indoor athletic facilities such as lockers rooms, weight rooms, and for spectators of an indoor athletic event.

- Athletic teams are also required to follow all SCCPSS District protocols as well as those established by the Georgia High School Association for safety at practice, workouts, and sporting events.
- Masks/face coverings are also required for anyone riding a school bus.

Must people experiencing an immediate health challenge wear a mask?

Masks may be removed on a short-term basis when a person experiences shortness of breath, nausea, asphyxiation, or some other health-related experience that reasonably necessitates the removal of a mask.

What is the appropriate way to wear a face mask?

A face mask must cover the nose and mouth. Face mask are not allowed to be worn under the nose or mouth. Face shields are not equivalent to masks and may only be used in connection with an approved mask wearing exemption.

MASK/FACE COVERING EXCEPTIONS:

The District is authorized to issue mask-wearing requirements from time to time for public health reasons. The scope and application of the mask requirement can be limited or expanded by the District.

A student may be considered for an exemption if a treating physician provides written documentation stating the medical reason a student cannot wear a mask. Students with disabilities may be exempted in accordance with accommodations established through individualized educational plans (IEPs and 504). Such exemptions should generally be made through IEP and 504 team meetings. Disability-based exemptions may be implemented prior to conducting an IEP or 504 meeting with the special approval of the District's 504 Coordinator.

***See additional details provided in Face Covering Requirements*

Mask/Face Wearing Protocols will remain in place until further notice. SCCPSS monitors local health conditions regularly with guidance from the Coastal Health District. Should mask/face covering requirements ease for students and staff, families will be notified through the District's parent notification system and the SCCPSS website at sccpss.com.

SELF MONITORING:

Continue to self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19, especially if you have been around someone who is sick. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, it is recommended that you get tested, stay home, and stay away from others. SCCPSS has deployed temperature kiosks and hand-held thermometers at all schools. Any student or staff member who seeks a temperature check while at school may utilize one of these devices.

If you are sick, please alert your classroom teacher and stay home. If you are experiencing any of the symptoms listed below that you would not typically experience, alert your classroom teacher, and stay home!

- Fever of 100.4° or greater orally, or 99.4° using an SCCPSS adopted kiosk thermal and non-touch handheld thermometers (99.4 temperature reading is adjusted for kiosk temperature variation)
- Feeling feverish (chills, sweating)

SELF MONITORING (cont.)

- New cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle aches or body aches
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Vomiting, diarrhea, or nausea
- Congestion or runny nose
- Headaches



*As health conditions permit, students who miss school are encouraged to stay engaged with classroom teachers so they may stay on pace with class assignments. Simply log on through the **itsLearning portal**.*

PHYSICAL DISTANCING:



When it is not possible to maintain physical distance, such as when schools cannot fully re-open while maintaining distances due to capacity limitations, it is especially important to implement multiple prevention strategies. CDC recommendations for physical distancing will be followed to include minimum spacing of 3-foot physical distance between individuals where feasible. Staying apart by at least 3 feet or more is strongly encouraged. SCCPSS will implement multiple mitigation strategies for the safety of students and staff.

VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS:

The official start of the school year is August 4, 2021. To allow students and staff a period to reacclimate to the teaching and learning environment, there shall be no entry of visitors or volunteers for the first 20 days of school (Aug. 4 – Aug. 31).

During this period, only those with business necessary for the operation of the school shall be allowed entry. This includes vendors who may be dropping off school materials or parents seeking to meet with school personnel for education related matters. School Administrators shall work to ensure general community engagement is done in the safest manner possible including prioritizing outdoor activities and virtual options.

On **September 1, 2021**, a review of health conditions will be conducted. If health conditions allow, greater visitor and volunteer access will be considered.

SCREENING/ENTRY POINTS (Visitors):

Any visitor entering an SCCPSS facility must follow sign in protocols and will be subject to a temperature screen and COVID-19 symptom questions. Masks/Face Coverings are required.

No person with a temperature of 99.4° or above (based on SCCPSS adopted kiosk thermal and non-touch handheld thermometers) will be allowed entry.

SCHOOL ENTRY POINTS

During school hours, the main entry point of the school shall be used for all visitors. No entry through side or rear doors is permitted. Perimeter doors will remain closed. After hours/athletic events shall include directions for entry and screening protocols.

SPECIAL EVENTS/LARGE GROUPS AND FACILITY USE:

Schools will work to limit large group gatherings. SCCPSS will take precautions to avoid large gatherings and/or stagger events using virtual and outdoor options when possible.

All events will seek to enforce the 3-foot physical distance minimum where feasible. Mask/face coverings are required.

According to the CDC, you are less likely to get or spread COVID-19 during outdoor activities.

FACILITY USE REQUESTS: SCCPSS Facility Use Requests will be approved on a limited basis. A review of public health conditions will be conducted on September 1, 2021 (after the first 20 days of school) where expanded use opportunities will be considered. No requests will be considered unless received using the proper online process. Simply visit sccpss.com, click the **District tab**, navigate to [Operations](#) and find the **Facility Rental Request** link.

HYGINENE AND SANITATION PROTOCOLS:

Custodial and school staff have been trained for effective cleaning protocols, and schools have been supplied with cleaning materials to add an additional layer of mitigation. Staff and students should frequently wash and/or sanitize their hands. Frequently touched surfaces must be disinfected regularly.



- Hand sanitizer provided in all classrooms, common areas, and school buses
- Daily cleaning of high-touch surfaces in school buildings
- Disinfectant Foggers supplied to every school
- School buses will be disinfected after use
- Ventilation Systems will be cleaned regularly
- Water Fountains will not be operational. Parents are recommended to send your child to school with a refillable water bottle.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds - especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, sneezing, or touching your face. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth, and wash your hands after touching your face.

COVID CASE RESPONSE:

POSITIVE TEST RESULT: Any student or staff member who tests positive for COVID-19 will be directed to isolate in accordance with the CDC & DPH guidelines. Those diagnosed with Covid-19 cannot report to school and will be referred for contact tracing protocols.

- Prior to returning to school, 10 days of isolation from the date of the onset of symptoms must have occurred. In addition, symptoms must have improved, and the student must be free of a fever for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication.
- For an asymptomatic individual, the 10 days of isolation begins the date of the test.
- Any student or staff member who is identified as a close contact will be required to quarantine in accordance with CDC & DPH guidelines. Fully vaccinated individuals should continue to monitor for symptoms. SCCPSS will follow CDC guidelines for quarantining as it relates to vaccinated individuals.

SCCPSS will adhere to the protection of sensitive health information for individuals and will avoid the unauthorized sharing of health information.

COVID case alerts will be provided as conditions warrant and will offer general information as a precautionary matter to those who have not been identified as a positive or close contact case. Families should monitor their children closely for symptoms. If symptoms become evident, the child should stay home from school and notify his/her classroom teacher.

VACCINATIONS:



Current transmission data shows that positive cases are on the rise among unvaccinated people. According to the CDC, COVID-19 spreads mainly among unvaccinated people who are in close contact with one another. Vaccination is a key strategic approach to support a multi-layered plan to protect individuals. Vaccines authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration are highly effective at protecting vaccinated people against symptomatic and severe COVID-19 illness. According to the CDC, a growing body of evidence suggests that fully vaccinated people are less likely to have symptomatic infection or transmit the virus to others.

Please remember, the guidance and protocols that we have outlined in this document are subject to change. The pandemic recommendations constantly evolve and the CDC/DPH information changes frequently. SCCPSS will provide updates to the document as guidance becomes available and is appropriate for our community. SCCPSS appreciates your support and understanding in following mitigation practices to minimize the transmission of the virus and ensure school remains open 5-days a week for in-person instruction.

Student Face Covering Requirements

SY 2021-22 Health & Safety Protocols

Additional Information and FAQs

The District is authorized to issue mask-wearing requirements from time to time for public health reasons. The scope and application of the mask requirement can be limited or expanded by the District. This guidance document applies when District mask wearing requirements are in place.

Must people experiencing an immediate health challenge wear a mask?

Masks may be removed on a short-term basis when a person experiences shortness of breath, nausea, asphyxiation, or some other health-related experience that reasonably necessitates the removal of a mask.

What is the appropriate way to wear a face mask?

A face mask must cover the nose and mouth. Face masks are not allowed to be worn under the nose or mouth.

What types of Masks or Face Coverings are not allowed by SCCPSS?

PLEASE AVOID:

- Masks made from loosely woven fabric or that are knitted, i.e., fabrics that let light pass through
- Mask with exhalation valves or vents (including those with 2.5PM or other replacement filters)
- Masks that do not fit properly (large gaps, too loose or too tight)
- Masks made from materials that are hard to breathe through (such as plastic or leather)

***SCCPSS follows the recommendations of the CDC for allowable face coverings.*

Face shields are NOT allowed as a substitute for a face mask unless approved to meet the specific educational need of a student in accordance with an IDEA or Section 504 plan.



Neck fleeces, also called gaiter masks, are NOT allowed. Wearing a fleece mask or gaiter results in a higher number of respiratory droplets because the material breaks down larger droplets into smaller particles that are more easily carried away with air.

Will face mask exemptions be approved?

A student may be considered for an exemption if a treating physician provides written documentation stating the medical reason a student cannot wear a mask.

Students with disabilities may be exempted in accordance with accommodations established through individualized educational plans (IEPs and 504). Such exemptions should generally be made through IEP and 504 team meetings.

Disability-based exemptions may be implemented prior to conducting an IEP or 504 meeting with the special approval of the District's 504 Coordinator.

Will the District provide face masks?

Parents are required to provide their student(s) with face masks. SCCPSS will seek to provide a temporary face mask if a student arrives at school without a mask for that day.

Is it permissible for a student to refuse to wear a face mask?

It's important for parents to partner with the District to educate students on the importance of wearing face masks. Repeated non-compliance with face coverings when the District has issued a health safety requirement for masks may result in the delivery of instruction through the District's online school option.

Are face masks required on school buses or during sporting events?

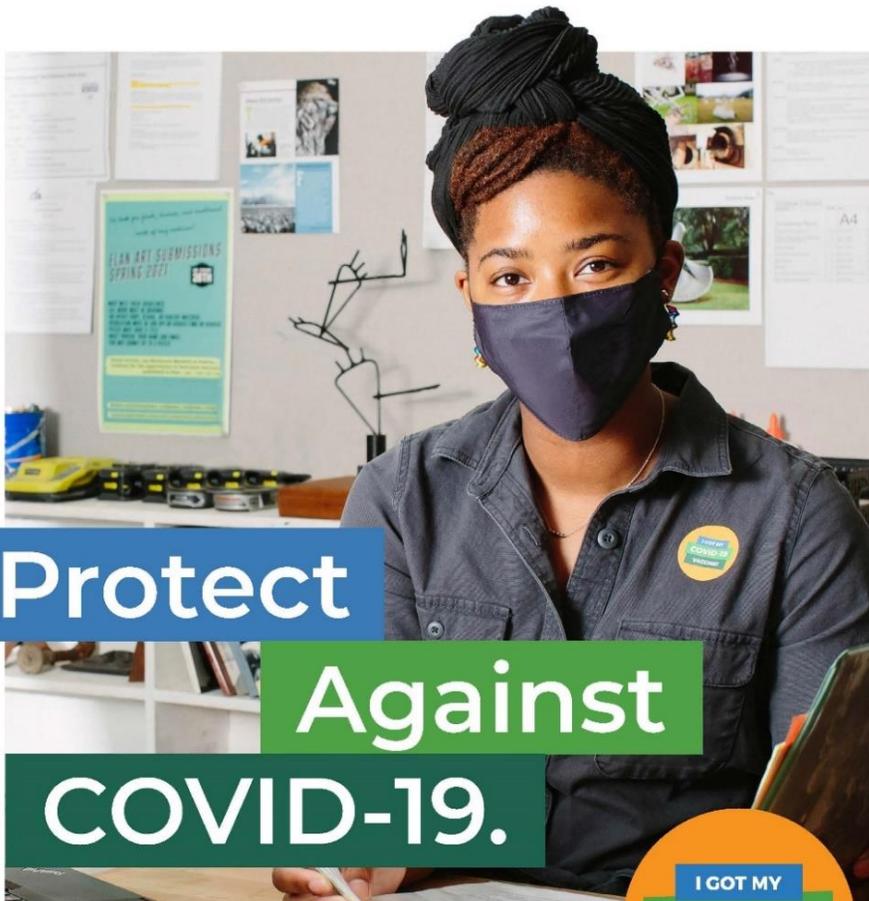
Students may be required to wear masks on school buses based on a District mask requirement. In general, school buses will be one of the most likely settings where a mask limitation will apply. School site mask restrictions will normally apply to after-school events on school property unless the District indicates otherwise.

Are students required to wear face masks during recess?

Students should seek to maintain appropriate social distance. SCCPSS face covering protocols include *mask optional for outdoor events/activities*.

What is the best way to handle a face mask?

Masks should be placed in a clean receptacle when not being worn. (ex: bag labeled with child's name)



More information on how to protect yourself against COVID-19 can be found online by visiting: [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)

A safe and effective vaccine to protect against COVID-19 is now available.



Learn how you can get a COVID-19 vaccine.
[cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccines](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccines)