



# SMYRNA SCHOOL DISTRICT

82 Monrovia Avenue, Smyrna, Delaware 19977

Telephone (302) 653-858 Fax (302) 659-6290

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## Smyrna School District Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Plan

### Layers of protection

Our district's position has been, and remains, consistent with that prescribed by the State of Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH).

Our approach to ensuring the safety of our students, staff, and visitors is to deploy a variety of approaches (layers) to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The key layers include: following DPH mask guidance, following DPH guidance with regards to physical distancing, handwashing/hand sanitation education/reminders, respiratory etiquette education/reminder, enhanced cleaning strategies, enhanced preventative maintenance with HVAC systems, asking all students/staff/visitors to complete a self-health assessment prior to entering our buildings, providing notification for COVID-19 testing, providing notification for COVID-19 vaccinations, supporting DPH with contact tracing efforts, making this information available on our website, and using signage throughout our buildings to display COVID mitigation strategies.

### Masks

Our district's position has been, and remains, consistent with that prescribed by the Governor's Office and the State of Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH). In accordance with the Governor's Public Health Emergency Order on August 16, 2021, students and staff will wear masks indoors until further notice. The mandate does not require that students, staff, and/or visitors wear masks while **outside** of school buildings (recess, outdoor athletics...). This statewide mask mandate is consistent with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics(AAP).

We used posters and other visual strategies placed throughout the buildings to provide visual cues and reminders to staff and students to wear masks (as prescribed by DPH) and to wear them appropriately. We also routinely remind our district staff to wear masks per DPH guidance via regular email messaging, as well as our messaging any time we announce a confirmed positive test.

We make disposable adult and youth sized masks available to all staff, students and visitors who need them.



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## Physical distancing

Our district's position has been, and remains, consistent with that prescribed by the State of Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH).

We used posters and other visual strategies placed throughout the buildings to provide visual cues and reminders to staff and students about social distancing.

## Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

We used posters and other visual strategies placed throughout the buildings to provide visual cues and reminders to staff and students to wash or sanitize their hands frequently.

Teachers and nurses have taught lessons on the duration of hand washing with soap and water and to utilize hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

In addition to hand washing, students learned the importance of covering their mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing through demonstration, visual and verbal cues.

## Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

Our district's maintenance team has implemented cleaning procedures consistent with those prescribed by the State of Delaware Division of Public Health. The district HVAC systems continue to receive enhanced preventative maintenance and monitoring to ensure functionality and enhanced fresh air introduction into the systems throughout each building in the district. The district has also purchased additional maintenance equipment that will support our team in maintaining our HVAC systems.

## Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine in collaboration with the state and local health departments

Our school and lead nurses work with the Division of Public Health to identify, communicate and track COVID-19 infections throughout the Smyrna School District. All school nurses have been trained in contact tracing and the "red cap" form through numerous learning opportunities provided by DPH, weekly/bi-weekly virtual office hour meetings, and continuous communication on a daily basis with epidemiologists. All protocols and guidance are followed. Continuous care and follow-up with families and staff occur throughout the infectious period.



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## Diagnostic and screening testing

We do not currently, nor do we plan to require testing of staff or students. The latest DPH self-assessment tool has been distributed to families and staff multiple times over the school year. In addition, the checklist is posted on the COVID information portion of our website. Testing opportunities around the state are, likewise, posted for families and staff.

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

The Smyrna School District has participated with the Delaware Department of Education and the Division of Public Health to provide four (4) vaccination clinics at Smyrna High School for our own staff, as well as the staff of other school districts. These clinics provided both the first and second doses for those individuals. Through our partnership with BayHealth and the Wellness Center at Smyrna High School, we have provided four (4) vaccination clinics for staff and students aged 12 and older, also at Smyrna High School. These clinics provided the first and second doses for those individuals, as well. Information provided by DPH and the CDC is disseminated to our school community with FAQs on vaccines. As a district, we plan to collaborate with DPH to coordinate future vaccination clinics to take place within the district. We also publish locations, dates and times of clinics taking place elsewhere in the state as they are announced.

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

Our practice is to continue to work with students with disabilities to be as healthy and safe as possible with consideration of their disabilities and physical limitations. Students who struggle to wear masks will be supported and educated with regards to this skill in a similar manner as other functional skills. Those students whose health needs prevent them from attending in person will be provided instruction and accommodations through a virtual platform. We educate and provide families with health information frequently. Masks with a clear shield are provided to students and staff who require lip reading or visual cues on how to form sounds with their lips. When contact tracing infections, these limitations are considered and accounted for as circumstances are reviewed with the epidemiology team.

**How will the Smyrna School District ensure continuity of services including but not limited to services to address the students' academic needs, and students', and staff member' social, emotional, mental health and other needs, which may include student health and food services?**



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We are working closely with families to determine their needs for the upcoming school year. We have sent out several surveys and called individuals who have not responded to determine plans for the 2021/2022 school year. While most students (~95%) will return to school for a five-day, in-person school week, we do have some students who will remain virtual.

The Smyrna School District is launching a One:One Initiative for the 21/22 school year. Every student (in-person and virtual) will receive a chromebook that will support their connection to high quality instruction.

The Smyrna School District Child Nutrition Team continues to provide opportunities for all of our students to access high quality breakfast and lunch meals. Since March 18, 2020, the Child Nutrition Team has provided >1,200,000 meals to our students outside of our cafeterias/schools. The Child Nutrition Team will continue to support the nutritional needs of our students (including those who remain virtual learners throughout the school year 2021/2022).

Our School Climate & Safety team is preparing a teacher resource guide that offers evidence-based strategies for both staff and students to use this upcoming school year. This guide outlines proactive tips and strategies regarding engagement and self-regulation. The guide was a companion to a sensory tool kit purchased for all students in the district. The sensory tool kit provides each classroom with a dry erase lapboard, stress ball, sensory gel pack, and Velcro strip for every student. K-6 classrooms were provided with bouncy bands and secondary classrooms were provided sensory stones. These tools will be used to help with stamina, engagement, and self-regulation for successful acclimation to full schedule instruction.