

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

### *Universal and correct wearing of masks*

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 to wear masks 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.

Our district website contains videos and other instructional materials related to mask education.

We provide disposable adult and youth sized masks to all staff, students and visitors.

All of our practices were discussed, reviewed and planned during our returning-to-school committee meetings. The committees included teachers, paraprofessionals, custodians, administrators, parents, and community members.

### *Physical distancing*

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

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Our district website contains videos and other instructional materials related to mask education.

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### *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 our nursing staff 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.

Our district website contains videos and other instructional materials related to personal hygiene, specifically, handwashing.

All of our practices were discussed, reviewed and planned during our returning-to-school committee meetings. The committees included teachers, paraprofessionals, custodians, administrators, parents, and community members.

*Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation*

Our district's facilities maintenance team has implemented cleaning procedures consistent with those prescribed by the State of Delaware Division of Public Health. The district HVAC systems have received 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.

All of our practices were discussed, reviewed and planned during our returning to school committee meetings. The committees included teachers, paraprofessionals, custodians, administrators, parents, and community members.

*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.

[https://www.smyrna.k12.de.us/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC\\_ID=438752&type=d](https://www.smyrna.k12.de.us/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=438752&type=d)

The Smyrna School District created and presented a COVID "101" presentation to provide families with an overview of how the school handles infections, quarantining and communication with the school community. That presentation can be found here:

[https://www.smyrna.k12.de.us/apps/news/show\\_news.jsp?REC\\_ID=695695&id=0](https://www.smyrna.k12.de.us/apps/news/show_news.jsp?REC_ID=695695&id=0)

*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. We also publish locations, dates and times of clinics 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 struggled to wear a mask were taught this skill in a similar manner as other functional skills. Those students whose health needs kept them from attending in person were 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?**

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 will return to school for a five-day, in-person school week, we do have some students who will remain virtual.

The plan for summer 2021 is to reconvene our return-to-school committees to review all of our practices, ensure alignment with the State of Delaware Division of Public Health and CDC guidance documents, and make any necessary enhancements for the 2021/22 school year. Our committees will continue to include teachers, paraprofessionals, custodians, administrators, parents, and community members.

The Smyrna School District Child Nutrition Team has provided continuous opportunities for all of our students to access high quality breakfast and lunch meals since March 18, 2020. Since March 18, 2020, the Child Nutrition Team has provided 1,192,132 meals to our students outside of our cafeterias/schools. The Child Nutrition Team, in addition to serving students in our cafeteria, served curbside meals, delivered meals into various neighborhoods throughout the district, collaborated with the Smyrna Middle School staff to support the operational needs of our District's *Harry K Foundation* Food Pantry, and partnered with various organizations to provide USDA Farm-to-Family meal boxes to our community. 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).

The Smyrna School District through the School Climate and Safety Office has provided weekly virtual field trips, virtual yoga sessions, parent check-in surveys, mental health and crisis response resources, and social and emotional learning (SEL) activities and lessons for the community on our district website, Facebook, and YouTube pages. The School Climate and Safety Office has provided monthly calendars with SEL lessons for staff to utilize either virtually or through hybrid instruction. In addition, the District has partnerships with a number of community mental health providers to further ensure continuity in education and mental health supports.