

## A Message from the Superintendent – August 9, 2021 Update

Dear SEL School Community,

It's hard to believe August has arrived and the anticipation of starting a new school year is here. The last 18 months have been an unprecedented time in our history. The upcoming school year brings a sense of excitement and gratitude for the opportunity to be together. Together, we have overcome the challenges from a safety and educational standpoint during the last year. However, we still need to be mindful of the evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The continued safety of our students, teachers, staff, and the community remain at the forefront of the 2021-2022 school year. As a district we will continue to review the guidance and recommendation of the CDC, State of Ohio, and the Cuyahoga County Board of Health. We will begin the 2021-2022 school year with the following general guidance:

- **Face Coverings Indoor:** Regardless of your vaccination status, we will open the school year ***strongly recommending*** the wearing of masks indoors. This decision is aligned with state and local health agencies' recommendations as an effective prevention strategy. As new information becomes available and/or local mandates change, the decision to mandate face masks may be implemented indoors. At this time wearing face masks outdoors is optional.
- **Transportation:** Face masks will **be mandated for ALL students and staff who will ride a school bus**. This requirement is aligned with The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Order issued on **January 29, 2021**, requiring the wearing of masks.
- **Physical Distance:** When and where possible we will maintain at least three feet apart in district classrooms.
- **Cleaning and Disinfection:** We will continue to thoroughly clean and sanitize school environments. Our custodial staff will continue to disinfect high-contact, common areas throughout the school day. Electrostatic Sprayers will be utilized to sanitize large spaces efficiently and effectively.
- **Elementary (K-6) Visitors/Parties/Assemblies:** Elementary Visitors/Parties/Assemblies will be restricted through the first 9 weeks of school. These policies will be reevaluated after the first grading period. This student population is not yet eligible for vaccination. Elementary principals will provide more details on how these situations will be handled.
- **Lunch Periods:** Building principals will provide more details regarding lunch routines.
- **Meet and Greet Nights:** Building principals will provide more details on how these events will be handled.
- **Athletics:** The athletic department continues to monitor the recommendations from the OHSA and will follow the safety protocols recommended. Mr. Ross, BHS Athletic Director, will continue to update coaches and families if/when safety protocols change.

- **Suspected Illness and Quarantine:** The Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH) released the following guidance on August 3:

### **Isolation**

Anyone confirmed as having been infected with COVID-19 must isolate until they meet all of the following criteria:

- At least 10 days have passed since the onset of symptoms or 10 days since the test date if they had no symptoms
- Any COVID-19 related symptoms have improved
- They have been fever-free for at least 24 hours without taking fever-reducing medication, such as Tylenol or Motrin

### **Quarantine**

Since the implementation of the layered prevention strategies has proven to be effective in the K-12 school environment as documented during studies and pilot evaluations, Ohio modified its standard quarantine procedures. These changes are intended to allow unvaccinated students (staff) who have been exposed to COVID-19 in a school setting (classroom, bus, etc.) to continue to attend school and participate in sports and extra-curricular activities if:

- the infected person and contact were **both wearing masks consistently and correctly**
- all the aforementioned prevention strategies were in place
- they remain symptom-free

Per current CDC guidance, **fully vaccinated students (staff) do not have to quarantine.**

Unvaccinated students (staff) who are under quarantine should not attend in-person school or participate in organized sports or extra-curricular activities if their COVID-19 exposure occurred somewhere other than in the school setting. Anyone, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, who is a close contact of a case should self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days following the exposure. These recommendations are subject to change based on CDC or ODH guidance or changes in the level of community transmission. SEL schools will continue to adhere to the most current CDC or ODH guidance available.

## **SCHOOL MEALS**

UNIVERSAL FREE MEALS will be offered throughout the 2021-2022 school year. Although all students will receive free breakfast and lunch this school year, it is very important to complete the school meal application. Qualifying applications assist families and the school district in receiving funding from federal and state programs. Approved meal applications for the 2021-2022 school year will be valid until October 3, 2022. Again, completing an application is highly recommended to receive other benefits such as the P-EBT cards. The lunch application can be found here: [lunch application](#).

## **EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION**

All information must be current and accurate in the district's online system, including address, parent/guardian telephone number, parent/guardian email address and emergency contact information. For COVID prevention and safety precautions, **the Emergency Contacts entered online must be two (2) adults that will be available to pick up an ill student within 45 minutes of being contacted. This online update must be completed for each enrolled student by the first day of school.** The instructions are as follows:

1. Please go to [update.sel.k12.oh.us](https://update.sel.k12.oh.us)

2. The **username** is your student's 5-digit school ID
3. The **password** is your student's Date of Birth typed as **10 characters** in the following format:  
##/##/#### (ex-08/01/2018 – please note, you must include the slash (/) marks)

We look forward to seeing our students return on Thursday, August 19. Your child's principal will be providing you with more building specific information.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Reid

*Dr. Linda N. Reid*  
*Superintendent of Schools*  
*South Euclid Lyndhurst Schools*

