



COVID Management Plan 2022-2023

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COVID-19

The health and safety of all employees and students is a priority in SLPS. These efforts are subject to change depending on guidance from the FDOH and the CDC. *SLPS COVID-19 policies and procedures will remain flexible and vigilant as circumstances change.*

Face Masks or Face Coverings

Masks are not required for students and staff. Any masks worn should adhere to the guidelines established by the SLPS. *The CDC recommends wearing a mask if you have not been vaccinated.*

Guidelines

Personal face masks must adhere to the following guidelines:

- Must cover the nose and mouth to maintain effectiveness.
- Must be secured to minimize the need to adjust frequently.
- Face coverings shall not contain any offensive words or graphics. This includes, but is not limited to, words or graphics that promote violence, drugs, alcohol, sex, or other offensive or objectionable behavior or could be disruptive to the school or school facility.
- Should be worn prior to entering a building and in shared areas of the building when social distancing is not possible.
- Cloth face coverings should not be worn if they are wet.
- Have a plastic bag to store the mask in when not wearing it. Do not leave the mask lying around.
- Never swap face coverings with someone else. Consider writing initials on masks to identify them.
- Commercially produced or home-made face coverings are acceptable for compliance. Face coverings should be made of a solid cloth material or other suitable solid material. It may not be made of lace, mesh or other largely porous material. It may not have a vent. The principal shall have final authority to determine the suitability of any face covering.
- Must be disposed of in waste containers only.
- Students should not wear "Gaiters" as new research demonstrates they offer no protection and can add to the aerolization of virus particles.

How to Remove a Mask or Face Coverings

- Clean your hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer before touching the mask.
- Avoid touching the front of the mask. Touch only the ear loops. The front of the mask is contaminated.
- Hold both ear loops and gently lift and remove the mask.

Who Wears a Mask or Face Covering?

Wearing a facemask is optional on all buses and classrooms and on school grounds. For students with an IEP or 504, appropriate accommodations may be made based on the individualized needs of the students and parent choice. If a student forgets, loses, or damages their face covering, SLPS will provide a disposable face covering for that day or provide another face mask the parent has brought in.

PREVENTING COVID-19

Attendance

Students benefit from in-person learning, and safely returning to in-person instruction continues to be a priority.

Wear a Mask

This is recommended by the CDC if you are not vaccinated. It is a choice at school.

Cover Your Mouth and Nose

When you sneeze, cover your mouth and nose with your elbow. If you use a tissue, properly dispose of it in a garbage can and wash your hands.

Stay Home When Sick

Students, teachers, and staff should stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care.

Clean Frequently

Clean all surfaces and high touch areas with virus-killing disinfectant frequently.

Handwashing

Handwashing is an important part of fighting the virus. Wash your hands frequently throughout the day.

Vaccinations

COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective.

- Everyone 5 years of age and older is now eligible to get the COVID-19 vaccination.
- Search [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov), text your zip code to 438829, or call 1-800-232-0233 to find COVID-19 vaccine locations.

Screening testing, ventilation, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick and getting tested, contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation, and cleaning are also important layers of prevention to keep schools safe.

Students Waiting on the Results of a COVID Test

Symptomatic students and employees waiting on the results of a COVID Test must remain at home until they receive their results. Students and employees may return to school if their test results come back negative as soon as they feel better. Students and employees with a positive test must remain isolated and follow COVID Protocols.



Florida Department of Health COVID-19 Guidance

Student Status	Result:
Symptomatic or COVID-19 positive students	<p>1. If a student tests positive for COVID-19 and is symptomatic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stay home and away from others for five (5) days from the date symptoms began. (Day 0 is the day the symptoms began, so you count day one the next day.) ○ Student can return to school on day 6 if they are fever-free for 24 hours and their symptoms are improving. <p>2. If student tests positive for COVID-19 and is asymptomatic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stay home and away from others for five (5) days from the date of their positive test. Student can return to school on day 6 if they are fever-free for 24 hours and their symptoms, if any develop, are improving. ○ Day 0 = the date of a positive test if you are asymptomatic.
Close Contact to a Positive Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If you were exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Exposure = within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes within 24 hours (mask or no mask, vaccinated or unvaccinated) ○ If symptoms of COVID-19 develop, stay home and follow guidelines for a positive case. ○ If asymptomatic, you do not need to quarantine, however, continue to monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 10 days after exposure.

Student-Athletes Returning from a Positive COVID-19 Test

Asymptomatic	Symptomatic with mild to moderate symptoms at home.	Symptomatic with severe symptoms: hospitalized, abnormal cardiac testing, or multi-system inflammatory syndrome (MIS-C)
Student may return to play immediately after isolation period has ended.	Student may return to play immediately after isolation period has ended.	Student may return to play after being cleared by a doctor to return with signed doctor's note.

Employees

If You Test Positive for COVID-19 (Isolate)

Everyone, regardless of vaccination status.

- Stay home for 5 days.
- If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you can leave your house.
CDC guidance: Wear a mask around others for an additional 5 days.

If you have a fever, continue to stay home until you have been fever-free 24 hours and your symptoms are resolving.

If You Were Exposed to Someone with COVID-19

- No quarantine- You do not need to stay home unless you develop symptoms
CDC guidance: Wear a mask around others for 10 days.
- It is recommended you test on day 5, if possible, even if you have no symptoms.

Athletics

Vaccinations

Vaccinations are available for student-athletes ages 5 and up from local providers. Vaccinations are optional for school.

Minimizing Risk: Managing Schedules and Team Training Sessions

- Students are required to let coaches know if they are experiencing or have experienced any signs or symptoms of Covid-19. Students should stay home if sick.
- Schedule mid- and post-workout cleaning periods, allowing a 10-15-minute buffer between teams or groups.
- Avoid person-to-person contact while spotting with use of bar catches and the 2-spotter technique. We suggest two partner lifts for bench press and incline press.
- Maximize air flow in the weight room.
- Use outdoor training spaces whenever possible.

Facility and Equipment: Cleaning and Sanitation Procedures

- Clean all weight room surfaces with germicidal disinfectant. DO NOT USE BLEACH.
- Wash hands frequently. Mask wearing is optional.
- Educate on weight room Covid-19 upkeep expectations during meetings with athletes.
- Promote hand washing before and after workouts and provide hand sanitizer. We suggest having a handwashing / sanitation station outside the building entrance.
- Keep extra bottles of disinfectant for wiping down equipment after use.
- Avoid the sharing of cloth towels or rags.
- Ensure cleaning and sanitation procedures include restrooms, locker rooms, carpet and flooring, exercise mats, and water fountains.
- Ensure all pieces of equipment are cleaned: Medicine balls, dumbbells, kettlebells, weight belts, bars and plates, etc.

- Have separate laundry baskets for clean and dirty items.

Training Safety: Risk Factors Following Periods of Inactivity

- DO NOT perform physically exhausting drills for developing “mental toughness.”
- Students must have completed athletic packets on file and have viewed the three required NFHS learn safety courses (Athletic Waiver, Concussion in Sports, Sudden Cardiac Arrest, and Heat Illness Prevention) PRIOR to any participation.
- Any violations of these procedures may cause suspension of all activities at the violating school. Principals and Athletic Directors are responsible for following these guidelines and for making sure that coaches adhere to them.
- Recommendations and restrictions are fluid and subject to change.
- Safety is our top priority.

Band Camp Procedures and Other Programs

Pre-rehearsal procedures

- Attendance will be taken in compliance with district Security and COVID – 19 safety procedures.
- Prior to camp all required paperwork and INCLUDING a pre- participation exam to be completed and turned in
- Any person with positive symptoms will not participate in rehearsal and should see their primary care physician.
- Parent meetings will be held to accommodate completion of paperwork.
- Students must complete all paperwork to participate in camp and/or after school co-curricular activities.

Rehearsals

Check-In/Dismissal and Set-Up

- Students will check in and wait outdoors in a designate area, at an acceptable social distance (3 feet minimum).
- Students will get instruments and return to their check-in spot.
- Students will wash hands/use hand sanitizer before and after each session of rehearsal.
- Students must have their own water bottles, towels, mouthpieces, sticks, mallets, music, cell phones, or anything else used during marching camp or rehearsal. (No Sharing.)
- Students will wash their mouthpieces before and after each rehearsal.
- Dealing with spit valves: Use puppy sanitation pads that each student could have and then dispose of. Each student could have their own beach bucket with paper towels at the bottom. They would be responsible for disposing of them at the end of the session.

Outdoor Instruction

- Masks are optional.
- Students will be assigned to groups that encourage socially distancing and allow for contact tracing.
- Students will have breaks and meals at prescribed social distance.
- All outdoor activities will be spaced at three feet minimum intervals.

- The outside portion of camp will take place during a time and temperature that safe as prescribed by the Zachary Martin Act and have a predetermined location for students to go to in a bad weather event.

Recess at Summer School

Elementary schools can continue to provide recess. Students must wash their hands or sanitize their hands at the end of recess.

Monitor for heat exhaustion for all students and students in masks may need a mask break if they become overheated. Have established areas for students to take a socially-distanced mask break, or socially distanced activities (like the swings) where students may pull their mask down to play.

Theatre, Dance, Drama, Choir, Band Performances

Outside Performances at Stadiums or Other School Spaces Such as Auditoriums and Theatres

There will be a return to full capacity at events, barring any unusual changes such as a surge in COVID cases.

Length of Performance

As needed. Performances may have intermissions.

School Health Rooms

Schools will need to provide three different clinical spaces to meet the needs of our students. The main clinic must remain in place. Schools will also have to provide an isolation room for students who have been identified as having a fever or flu-like illness. These students must be kept separately from other students visiting the main clinic. Finally, if a school has medically fragile students or students who must use a nebulizer at school, there needs to be a Nebulizer Clinic space. Each clinical space will have different requirements.

Health Room

- Morning procedures for visiting parents: same procedures for a visit. Parents must provide ID at the door. The health paraeducator or designate will then meet the parent. To drop off medication, parents must make an appointment to do so.
- **It is imperative to decrease visits to the health room so that it is for essential visits only: first aid, general sickness and medication.**
- The school health room is an area designated in each school in the district to be utilized to assess the health needs of students and staff, perform prescribed treatments, administer first aid, administer medications, house student health records and perform mandated health screenings.
- Maintain physical distancing with cots.
- All students and staff must wash hands upon arrival and leaving of health room.
- Staff must declutter the main clinic and keep room free of “stuff.” Only keep what is wipeable.

- The main clinic must be stocked with masks, face shields and gloves. Disinfectants- keep locked, need to clean and disinfect after every student.
- Only utilize disinfectant products in the school health clinics that are approved by the school district. Be sure to follow the manufactures guidelines related to the dwell time of the product.

Isolation Room

- The school nurse or health paraeducator is the priority staff member in this room. When the isolation room must be staffed, back-up personnel will staff the health room.
- Students who present with a fever and any flu-like symptoms will need to be isolated, away from the main clinic and other rooms. Parents will need to be contacted and advised to pick up the child from school as quickly as possible.
- Any student with a fever must stay home for a minimum of 24 hours after the time they are diagnosed with a fever. Any student positive for COVID19 must stay home for 5 days plus 24 hours after the last day of fever.
- After any person has entered the clinic or isolation room with a fever, the clinic or isolation room must be wiped down and disinfected.
- All students and staff must wash hands upon arrival and leaving of health room.
- Isolation rooms must be free from clutter and as sterile as possible. Items in isolation rooms should be easily wipeable with disinfectant.

Daily Reporting

Clinics must provide a daily health report to the building principal. Information regarding the number of fevers or flu-like illnesses will also be shared with the St. Lucie Department of Health.

Students with Intellectual Disabilities and/or Autism Spectrum Disorder

Masks are optional for students in the classroom. If the parent asks for the student to continue wearing the mask, the teacher may have to work with the student to teach appropriate skills for wearing the mask. To reinforce this expected behavior, time must be spent with all students teaching appropriate and expected behavior. For many of these students, the use of Social Stories and appropriate social skills lessons must be integrated into the daily schedule. High level reinforcement must be utilized to achieve the expected outcomes from the instruction focusing on social behavior.

Pre-K Students with Disabilities

SLPS currently serves students with disabilities beginning at age three (3). Most Pre-K students who enter at age three attend half-day programs and begin a full-day program at age four (4) Social stories and videos must be incorporated immediately into the instruction for Pre-K students to address proper hygiene and expected protective behaviors.

- Classrooms must be kept clean and clutter free to the greatest extent possible.
- Areas should be wiped down frequently as students move from station to station in the classroom for designated learning activities.

- Because many of these students will require assistance with daily living activities, such as toileting and feeding, special precautions must be taken to sanitize and disinfect areas where these activities will take place.
- Handwashing activities must be incorporated into the daily schedule.

Countering COVID-19 Stigma and Racism

Bullying and harassment are *never* acceptable, but they can be especially damaging when students or segments of society feel especially vulnerable. School personnel need to be prepared to prevent and to intervene quickly and effectively in the presence of abusive behaviors toward *any* students. **Indeed, schools have a legal and ethical responsibility to uphold all students' civil rights, which includes preventing all forms of bullying, harassment, and racist intimidation or behavior.**

The CDC defines stigma as discrimination against an identifiable group of people, a place, or a nation. Stigma is associated with a lack of knowledge about how COVID-19 spreads, a need to blame someone, fears about disease and death, and gossip that spreads rumors and myths. No single person or group of people are more likely than others to spread COVID-19. Public health emergencies, such as this pandemic, are stressful times for people and communities.

Fear and anxiety about a disease can lead to social stigma, which is negative attitudes and beliefs toward people, places, or things. Stigma can lead to labeling, stereotyping, and other negative behaviors toward others. For example, stigma and discrimination can occur when people link a disease, such as COVID-19, with a population, community, or nationality. Stigma can also happen after a person has recovered from COVID-19 or been released from home isolation or quarantine.

Stigma hurts everyone by creating more fear or anger toward a person instead of focusing on the disease that is causing the problem. Stigma can also make people more likely to hide symptoms or illness, keep them from seeking health care immediately, and prevent individuals from adopting healthy behaviors. This means that stigma can make it more difficult to control the spread of an outbreak.

Some groups of people who may experience stigma during the COVID-19 pandemic include:

- Certain racial and ethnic minority students including: Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and black or African Americans;
- Students who tested positive for COVID-19, have recovered from being sick with COVID-19, or were released from COVID-19 quarantine.
- The children of emergency responders or healthcare providers.
- The children of other frontline workers, such as grocery store clerks, delivery drivers, or farm and food processing plant workers.
- [Students who have disabilities](#) or [developmental or behavioral disorders](#) who may have difficulty following recommendations.
- Students who have underlying health conditions that cause a cough.
- Students whose families choose to wear a mask, or choose not to wear a mask.

Students who experience stigma may also experience discrimination. Discrimination can take the form of:

- Other students avoiding or rejecting them

- Verbal abuse
- Physical violence

Stigma can negatively affect the emotional, mental, and physical health of stigmatized students and the communities they live in. Stigmatized individuals may experience isolation, depression, anxiety, or public embarrassment. Stopping stigma is important to making *all* communities and community members safer and healthier.

Employees in SLPS will help stop stigma by:

- Protecting the individual rights of all students.
- Monitoring students who may be stigmatized.
- Maintaining the privacy and confidentiality of those seeking healthcare and those who may be part of any contact investigation.
- Correcting negative language that can cause stigma by sharing accurate information about how the virus spreads.
- Speaking out against negative behaviors and statements.
- Teaching appropriate socially acceptable behavior.

Returning a Student to School After a COVID-19 Illness

Many cases of COVID-19 are mild in nature. Other cases may be much more serious. For serious cases, a student who is recovering from contracting COVID-19 may have emotional and physical issues that may interfere with their learning when they return. The student’s family may also have concerns about his or her mental health and interactions with other students. Schools must create an intake process upon the student’s return to school to take these concerns into account. Each student will have a different recovery period with different needs. To make sure a student returns smoothly:

- **Investigate the student's ability to focus on learning.** Talk with the student’s family and the student about the student's level of stamina throughout the day and whether he can return to a regular schedule. What can the student accomplish physically? Does he or she need homebound instruction for a brief period working online?
- **Investigate the student’s physical needs.** Is the student in need of any other physical accommodations?
- **Look at the student's mental health needs.** Encourage a school counselor to meet with the student and determine if he or she needs any additional mental health support either inside of the school or outside of the school.
- **Know when to increase parental support.** A student's behavior and need for related services may change after experiencing COVID-19. Revisit the student's remote or in-person behavior plan and need for occupational therapy, physical therapy, and other related services and offer training to parents if they will need to provide more support to their student.
- **Maintain student confidentiality. It is the law.**

Classroom Screening

Daily Classroom Screening for Students

Teachers: Please perform this short screening each period for the students in your classroom. This is completed through teacher observation.

Observation for Symptoms

Does the student have any of the following symptoms, that indicates a possible illness that may decrease the student's ability to learn and also put them at risk for spreading illness to others?

Yes	NO	Cold-like symptoms, runny nose, coughing or sneezing (for students with chronic allergies, asthmatic cough, a change in their usual symptoms)
Yes	No	Student reports they have a temperature
Yes	No	Sore Throat
Yes	No	New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic/ asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline)
Yes	No	Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
Yes	No	New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever

If you answer yes to any of the questions above, send the student to the health clinic for further assessment.

Daily Classroom Screening for Students

Please complete this short check each morning with your child or children before sending them to school.

SECTION 1: Symptoms

Does your child have any of the following symptoms, that indicates a possible illness that may decrease the student's ability to learn and also put them at risk for spreading illness to others? Please check your child for these symptoms.

Yes	No	Temperature 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
Yes	No	Sore Throat
Yes	No	New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline)
Yes	No	Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
Yes	No	New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever

If the student/parent/caregiver answers YES to any of the above questions in Section 1, the student must stay home until symptom-free for at least 24 hours without fever reducing medications.

If the student answers YES to any question in Section 1, then:

- If positive test for COVID, student should stay home for 5 days until symptom free and at least 24 hours without fever reducing medications. Day 0 is the day symptoms started. Count five days after that. If these criteria are met, the student does not need a negative test or doctor's note to return to school.
- If student has a negative COVID test obtained during current symptoms, student should stay home until fever free for at least 24 hours and all other symptoms have gone away.

SECTION 2: Close Contact/Potential Exposure

Yes	No	Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19 <u>and is now showing symptoms</u>
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If answered yes to the above question in Section 2, the student must stay home for 5 days since onset of symptoms. Student may return when they have been fever free for 24 hours and symptoms are subsiding.

If student develops symptoms of COVID within 10 days of exposure to a positive case, we recommend the student should be tested for COVID. If student does not get tested, do not return to school until symptoms have gone away. School should be notified.

If you wish to have your child tested, SLPS offers a testing site location in the parking lot at Manatee Elementary School Monday through Friday from 8:00am-1:00pm. The address is: 1450 SW Heatherwood Blvd, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986.

Contact the COVID-19 information line 772-446-8480 Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., to learn more about testing and vaccination locations throughout St. Lucie County.