

SHS Health and Safety Plan

Soaring Heights School will be resuming onsite instruction for the 2021-2022 School Year. The health and safety of our students and staff is of the utmost importance, as is providing the best possible education to our students. In recognition of the continued concerns related to COVID-19 and its variants, safety protocols and guidelines are outlined below for in-person education. Soaring Heights will continue to offer a virtual education platform for those that may request this option.

Pandemic Team :The Pandemic Team for Soaring Heights School will be composed of Aimee Wilson, Director of Nursing, Amy Bueher, Vice President of Compliance Monitoring, Rebecca Cusick, Infection Control Nurse, Matt Thompson, Director of Education, Billie Jo Uron, LPN/Enrollment Coordinator, and the designated Program Director and Nurse at the specific location.

Promoting Behaviors that Reduce the Spread of COVID-19

- **Communication with families**
 - Post Health and Safety Plan on SHS website and Facebook page.
 - Send copy of Health and Safety Plan Packet to parents/caregivers.
 - Encourage caregivers and families to practice and reinforce good prevention habits at home and during family activities.
 - Alert parents/guardians prior to resuming in-person education that they will be responsible to pick up their child or arrange transportation if child is presenting with COVID-19 symptoms in school.
 - Remind parents/caregivers to keep children home and notify the school if:
 - They are currently living with or have been in contact with anyone known or suspected to have contracted COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
 - Any members of the household are currently awaiting COVID-19 test results.
 - The student is not feeling well or is showing any of the following symptoms:
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle aches
 - Congestion
 - Runny nose
 - Loss of taste
 - Sore throat
 - Nausea and/or vomiting
 - Diarrhea

- **Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette**
 - Soaring Heights will teach and reinforce the WHO technique of handwashing (*see attachment B- signs and references*) with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and increase monitoring to ensure adherence among students and staff.
 - If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol will be available (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer).
 - Ensure that staff and students cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash followed by thorough hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If a tissue is not readily available, then individuals are directed to sneeze into the inside of their elbow.
 - Hand sanitizing stations will be set up at each entrance, as well as each supervised area of the school, including classrooms and common areas.

- **Cloth Face Coverings**
 - Soaring Heights staff, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear properly fitted cloth face coverings, except while eating/drinking or while outside at a distance of 3 feet or more from all others. Students will be directed and encouraged to wear face coverings. This may be challenging for some of our students, therefore we do not expect complete cooperation from all students with this. Although staff will be working with students to increase cooperation of wearing face coverings, we are not able, nor is it safe, to force compliance of wearing a mask with our students. (*see below: Plan for Eliciting Safe Behaviors with Students*) Furthermore, individuals will be frequently reminded and encouraged not to touch their faces and face coverings.

- **Adequate Supplies**
 - Soaring Heights will support healthy hygiene behaviors by providing adequate supplies, including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol, paper towels, tissues, disinfectant wipes, cloth face coverings, and trash cans that do not require handling to dispose of items.

- **Signs and Messages**
 - Soaring Heights will post signs in highly visible locations such as entrances to the building, restrooms, main office, and classrooms that promote safety measures and describe how to stop the spread of germs. (*see attachment B- Signs and references*)

- **Arrival and Departure Process**
 - A designated screener or screening team (typically including the school nurse) will provide a screening to all students and staff before they enter the building. All screeners will first wash hands thoroughly and dress with a protective face covering and eye shield before performing any screenings.
 - **For Students:**

- Soaring Heights will implement a staggered entrance and exit process to avoid larger groups of students and staff congregating in common areas upon entry and exit of the building.
 - Before entering the building, students who understand and are able to respond to verbally presented questions will be asked a set of screening questions by the school's designated screener, and then receive a screening for presenting physical symptoms of COVID-19. *(see attachment C- Staff and Student Screening Process)*. Each student who passes the screening process will enter the building at least 3 feet apart from other individuals and will be directed to proceed to a handwashing station to thoroughly wash hands before reporting to their assigned classrooms.
 - If a student does not pass the screening questions or physical screening process, the individual will be directed to an isolated area of the school. The school nurse will then provide triage to determine the extent of care needed and contact the Pandemic Response Team for further instructions. The student's guardian will be contacted by the nurse, teacher, or program director once the triage is complete. The student or staff will likely be required to leave the school and will need to do so as soon as is possible. The student's guardian will need to arrange for transportation from school, as school staff will not be permitted to transport students being sent home for this reason. Follow-up documentation from a healthcare provider stating the student is able to return to school will be necessary before the student is able to return to campus.
 - If a student is experiencing any medical emergency or emergency warning signs of COVID-19, including, but not limited to, trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion or inability to arouse, or discolored lips or face, staff will call 911 immediately and notify the operator that the person might have COVID-19.
- **For Staff:**
 - Before entering the building staff will be asked a set of screening questions by the school's designated screener (typically the nurse), and then receive a screening for presenting physical symptoms of Covid-19. *(see attachment C- Staff and Student Screening process)*. Each staff who passes the screening process will enter the building at least 3 feet apart from other individuals and will immediately proceed to a handwashing station to thoroughly wash hands.
 - If a staff member does not pass the screening questions or physical screening process, the individual will be directed to an isolated area of the school. The school nurse will then provide triage to determine the extent of care needed and contact the Pandemic Response Team for further instructions. The staff member will

likely be required to leave the school immediately. Follow-up documentation from a healthcare provider stating the individual is able to return to the school will be necessary before the staff member is permitted to return to campus.

- If a staff member is experiencing any medical emergency or emergency warning signs of COVID-19, including, but not limited to, trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion or inability to arouse, or discolored lips or face, staff will call 911 immediately and notify the operator that the person might have COVID-19.

- **Plan for Eliciting Safe Behaviors with Students:**

-All Staff will be trained by SHS Director of Behavior Supports, Gina Brimmer, on how to implement the relevant steps below with students. (see attachment E- Staff Training Outline)

- Implementation of strong incentive plans (ie; token systems) for participating in 20 second hand washing when directed by staff
- Provide parents with information on how to prepare and teach students to wear masks before returning to school (*see attachment A- Parent Packet*)
- Staff will use shaping techniques (guidance provided by behavior support staff) for any students unable to wear masks throughout day as directed.
- Information packets sent home to parents (covid-19 symptoms, how to safely use masks and maintain hygiene, etc) (*see attachment A- Parent Packet*)
- Staff will have a daily morning review of expectations with students, utilizing active student responding.
- Staff will teach safe behavior to students using steps of BST (behavioral skill training)
- Frequent modeling of safe behavior by staff, including social distancing, wearing of face coverings, proper handwashing, etc.
- Use of items in the room for social distancing references and visual cues such as floor markers to show boundaries
- Provide frequent praise and other immediate reinforcement for handwashing and wearing face coverings
- Utilization of signs describing and demonstrating safe behavior. Staff will explain signs and model the behavior. Have students model the behavior at the beginning of each day to assess understanding and retention. (*See attachment B-Signs and References*)
- Staff will utilize prepared videos that explain safe behaviors. (*See attachment D- Video Links for Staff and Parents*)

2. Maintaining Healthy Environments

Soaring Heights Schools will implement several strategies to maintain healthy environments

- **Cleaning and Disinfection**
 - Soaring Heights will clean and disinfect all touched surfaces (e.g., playground equipment, door handles, sink handles, toilets, desks) within the school at least daily or between use as much as possible. Use of shared objects (e.g., gym or physical education equipment, art supplies, toys, games, electronics) will be cleaned and sanitized between each individual use.
 - A schedule will be implemented for increased, routine cleaning and disinfection.
 - Ensure safe and correct storage of cleaning products.
 - Cleaning products should not be used near children, and staff should ensure that there is adequate ventilation when using cleaning supplies.

- **Shared Objects**
 - Discourage sharing of items that are difficult to clean or disinfect.
 - Keep each child's belongings separated from others' and in individually labeled containers, cubbies, or areas.
 - Ensure adequate supplies to minimize sharing of high touch materials to the extent possible (e.g., assigning each student their own classroom supplies).
 - Avoid sharing electronic devices, toys, books, and other games or learning aids as much as possible. If these items are shared, they must be cleaned and sanitized between each use with an approved EPA cleaning agent.
 - Keep separate snacks for each student in a drawer of their assigned bin. Purchase items in individual packages instead of in bulk.
 - Make use of Smartboard group games with a designated staff as the moderator and solo user of the touch screen.

- **Ventilation**
 - Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible, for example, by opening windows and doors. Do not open windows and doors if doing so poses a safety or health risk (e.g., risk of falling, triggering asthma symptoms, elopement or community safety concerns) to children using the facility.

- **Modified Layouts, Physical Barriers, and Guides**
 - Space seating/desks at least 3 feet apart.
 - Turn desks to face in the same direction (rather than facing each other), students will sit on only one side of tables, properly spaced apart.
 - Install physical barriers, such as sneeze guards and partitions, particularly in areas where it is difficult for individuals to remain at least 3 feet apart.
 - Provide visual guides, such as tape on floors or sidewalks, stickers, and signs on walls, to ensure that staff and children remain at least 3 feet apart and to illustrate traffic flow.

- **Communal Spaces**
 - Close communal use shared spaces such as cafeteria and library. Restrooms, gymnasiums and playgrounds will be open with the implementation of social distancing and regular sanitation practices. (*see section: Cleaning and Disinfection*)
 - Add physical barriers, such as plastic screens, between bathroom sinks, with a priority placed on bathroom spaces that are not conducive to appropriate social distancing.

- **Food Service**
 - Serve meals in classrooms instead of cafeteria, while ensuring the safety of children with food allergies.
 - Use disposable food service items (e.g., utensils, dishes).
 - Students will place lunch orders in the morning, which staff will be delivering to each classroom during lunch periods.

- **Limiting non-essential personnel into the building**
 - Soaring Heights will be limiting non-essential staff in the building as deemed appropriate.
 - All meetings, including IEP meetings, CASSP meetings and Circle of Support meetings will continue to be held virtually to limit the amount of people in the building.