

Silver Sands Montessori Charter School

Emergency Directive 052: COVID-19 Mitigation Plan

Promoting Vaccination

Achieving high levels of COVID-19 vaccination among eligible students as well as teachers, staff, and household members is one of the most critical strategies to help schools safely maintain in-person operations. Silver Sands Montessori Charter School (SSMCS) understands the importance of promoting vaccination and will continue to promote and encourage vaccination of all staff and students to decrease the spread of COVID 19.

Mask Use/Face Covering

Per the Governor's Directive, face coverings are optional and SSMCS will only require masks if the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services/Southern Nevada Health Department requires us to do so in the event of an outbreak.

Students and staff may be required to wear a face covering/mask if returning from a shortened isolation and/or quarantine per CDC and/or SNHD guidelines.

Physical Distancing

SSMCS will continue to maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms when and if possible. Students will remain with their classroom cohort throughout the day and eat lunch with their assigned cohort in order to minimize contact tracing and to limit students required to quarantine if there is a positive case. (See Quarantine and Isolation below.)

COVID-19 Testing

SSMCS has an established voluntary testing program using the Binax Now program. SSMCS will continue to offer the Binax Now Rapid test to students and staff on a voluntary basis. Positive cases of COVID-19 is reported to SNHD and to the SPCSA.

Ventilation

SSMCS will continue to sanitize the school and maintain mitigation levels as described in our FY2021-22 Reopening Plan.

Hand Washing and Respiratory Etiquette

SSMCS will continue the hand washing and respiratory etiquette described in our FY2021-22 Reopening Plan.

Stay Home When Sick

Students, teachers, and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as influenza or COVID-19, should stay home. Staying home when sick with COVID-19 is essential to keep COVID-19 infections out of

schools and prevent spread to others. SSMCS continues to remind our school community of the importance of staying home when sick.

Quarantine and Isolation

Isolation is separating people who have COVID-19 or symptoms of COVID 19 from those who are not infected or showing symptoms in order to prevent transmission of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Individuals who have confirmed or suspected COVID-19 should be isolated.

Students, teachers, and staff who test positive for COVID-19 and never develop symptoms should isolate for at least 5 days. Day 0 is the day of the positive viral test (based on the date of testing) and day 1 is the first full day after the specimen was collected for the positive test.

- If they continue to have no symptoms, they can end isolation after at least 5 days.
- They should continue to wear a face-covering around others at home and in public until day 10 (day 6 through day 10). If they are unable to wear a mask when around others, they should continue to isolate for 10 days.
- Avoid people who are immunocompromised or at high risk for severe disease, and nursing homes and other high-risk settings, until after at least 10 days.
- If they develop symptoms after testing positive, the 5-day isolation period should start over. Day 0 is the first day of symptoms. Follow the recommendations above for ending isolation for people who had COVID 19 and had symptoms

People who have COVID-19 and have or had symptoms should isolate for at least 5 days. To calculate the 5-day isolation period, day 0 is the first day of symptoms. Day 1 is the first full day after their symptoms developed.

- They can end isolation after 5 full days if they are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and other symptoms have improved (loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation).
- They should continue to wear a face-covering around others at home and in public until day 10 (day 6 through day 10). If they are unable to wear a mask when around others, they should continue to isolate for 10 days.
- Avoid people who are immunocompromised or at high risk for severe disease, and nursing homes and other high-risk settings, until after at least 10 days.
- If they continue to have fever or other symptoms have not improved after 5 days of isolation, they should wait to end isolation until they are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and their other symptoms have improved. They should continue to wear a well-fitting mask and contact their healthcare provider with questions.

People with symptoms of COVID-19, including people who are awaiting test results or have not been tested should isolate in accordance with the CDC guidance above.

Household Contacts

Household contacts have *ongoing* exposure, meaning they will be repeatedly exposed until that person is no longer able to spread the virus to other people. Household contacts should quarantine for 5 days after the release of the positive patient and should wear a mask through day 10.

Close contacts

A close contact on the school site is defined as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. An infected person can spread SARS-CoV-2 starting from 2 days before they have symptoms until they meet the criteria for discontinuing home isolation.

Quarantine is a strategy used to prevent transmission of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, by keeping people who have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 apart from others. Individuals who are not vaccinated, are under vaccinated, or do not have temporary 90-day immunity should quarantine according to CDC guidance.

Outbreaks

SSMCS will use the outbreak definition provided by the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services “School Related Cluster and Outbreak Reporting”. CSTE Definitions include:

- Cluster- A K-12 school associated cluster is defined as an education institution that has been found by their local health department to have:
 - Multiple cases comprising at least 10% of students, teachers, or staff, within a specified core group OR
 - At least 3 cases within a specified core group meeting criteria for a probable or confirmed school associated COVID-19 case with symptoms onset or positive test results within 14 days of each other, AND no likely known epidemiologic link to a case outside of the school setting.

- Outbreak- A K-12 outbreak is defined as an educational institution that has been found by school leadership or the local health department to have
 - Multiple cases comprising at least 10% of the students or staff within a specified core group OR
 - At least three cases within a specified core group meeting criteria for a probable or confirmed school associated COVID-19 case with symptom onset or positive test result within 14 days of each other; who were not identified as close contacts of each other in another setting outside of the school; AND
 - Epidemiologically linked in the school setting or a school-sanctioned co-curricular activity.

School administration, in consultation with the school nurse will monitor for outbreaks based on the above definitions. The school administration, in consultation with the school nurse will declare outbreaks when those definitions have been met.

Outbreak Monitoring

Upon outbreak declaration an email be sent to the SPCSA, SNHD, and the families, staff, and SSMCS Board of Trustees. The email will include the required outbreak mitigation measures:

- Universal masking
- Quarantine and Isolation according to CDC guidelines.
- To the best of the school ability maintain 3 foot social distancing
- Weekly testing for co curricular activities
- Cleaning and disinfecting, hand-washing and respiratory etiquette, and improved ventilation as defined in this plan.

Outbreak Closure

It typically takes at least one incubation period of 14 days for the impact of implemented mitigation measures to be reflected in the case data. To declare an outbreak over the school administration, in consultation with the school nurse, will monitor weekly for a consistent and sustained reduction in disease transmission over at least 2 incubation periods (28 days).

Declaring the outbreak closures is based on case data and other contextual information. Once an outbreak is declared over, an email notification will be sent to all key stakeholders.