

South Madison Community School Corporation COVID-19 Operation Plan 2021-2022

(Updated 7.8.21)

The following plan has multiple options based on the current level of spread, so that we can react incrementally to reduce the spread instead of just being either open or closed.

Information from the Indiana Department of Health will be used to determine the current level of spread that is occurring in our community. A score for the county will be calculated by using the total number of new cases per week and the percentage of positive tests. School operations and safety protocols will be based on the SMCSC COVID-19 Roadmap found in the plan below based on the county score.

New cases per 100,000 residents	County positivity rate
Less than 10 new cases = 0 10-99 new cases = 1	Less than 5% = 0 5%-9.9% = 1
100-199 new cases = 2	10% - 14.9 = 2
200 or more new cases = 3	15% or greater = 3

The average of the two scores will be the county's score for the week.

The level of operation for the following week will be determined each Thursday using the score provided by the Indiana State Department of Health. A change in level will be communicated to the public via email message. The current level of operation will be displayed on the district website.

- **Level 1 Low/No Spread:** Traditional Operation with safety protocols (Blue 0 and .5)
- Level 2 Minimal/Moderate Spread: Traditional Operation with enhanced safety and social distancing protocols (Yellow 1 and 1.5)
- **Level 3 Minimal/Moderate Spread:** Traditional Operation with enhanced safety and social distancing protocols (Orange Score 2 and 2.5)
- Level 4 Substantial Spread: Hybrid Operation utilizing a combination of in-person and eLearning at the secondary level. (Red 3)

This method to make decisions will be used for the district-wide operation level. In addition to the county score, the positivity rate at each school will be used to determine the operation level at each building. If the weekly positivity rate is more than 1% for any individual school, that school will operate the next week on a hybrid schedule for elementary students or eLearning for secondary students.

School Positivity Rate (1% of all in-person individuals)

School	Positive Cases	Operation
East Elementary School	8	Hybrid
Maple Ridge Elementary School	8	Hybrid
Pendleton Elementary School	10	Hybrid
Pendleton Heights Middle School	7	eLearning
Pendleton Heights High School	14	eLearning

The positivity rate for each school will be calculated each week using the number of positive cases at each building from Thursday to Wednesday.

In addition to in-person classes, SMCSC will provide a virtual option for students who do not wish to return to school based on a medical concern. Virtual classes for students in grades K-12 will be facilitated by an SMCSC teacher utilizing a variety of online resources. Students who choose to receive their education virtually will have to commit to this program on a semester basis.

The COVID-19 pandemic is fluid, therefore the contents of this plan are subject to change. All procedures and requirements found in this plan supersede those found in the student, teacher, and support staff handbooks.

Standard Operating Protocols

Any interaction with the general public poses an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19. People who show no symptoms can spread COVID-19 if they are infected.

- Students and staff will be required to follow the guidance from the Indiana Department of Health.
- Schools will maximize instructional space to support social distancing as much as possible.
- School cafeterias will maximize available space to support social distancing as much as possible
- Schools will employ enhanced cleaning procedures with additional hand sanitizer stations available.
- Playgrounds will be frequently sanitized.
- School buses will be sanitized prior to students boarding.
- Students will be given assigned seats in classrooms, school buses, and when possible in the cafeteria.
- Schools will identify a separate space to treat COVID-19 symptomatic students.
- Water fountains will be frequently sanitized and modified to allow for bottle refilling.
- Visitors and guest access will be restricted during the school day.
- Perfect attendance incentives will be discontinued.
- Virtual options will be available for any students in grades PK-12 who do not wish to return to school due to health-related reasons.

Addressing Community Spread in SMCSC Schools LEVEL OF COMMUNITY SPREAD (AS DETERMINED BY STATE AND LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS)

LEVEL OF COMMUNITY SPREAD (AS DETERMINED BY STATE AND LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS)				
Low/No Spread	Minimal/Moderate Spread	Substantial Spread		
Establish and maintain communication with local and state health officials	 Establish and maintain communication with local and state health officials 	 Coordinate with local and state health officials 		
 Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread. COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols Implement social distancing measures Implement enhanced cleaning measures Establish a protocol for students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms when they come to school Consider ways to accommodate the needs of children, teachers/staff, and families at higher risk for severe illness Participate in contact tracing efforts 	 Participate in contact tracing efforts Implement enhanced social distancing measures Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread. COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols Establish a protocol for students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms when they come to school Isolate and deep clean impacted classrooms and spaces Consider ways to accommodate the needs of children 	 Participate in contact tracing efforts (to the extent feasible) Secondary schools will use a hybrid schedule utilizing in-person instruction and eLearning Consider ways to accommodate the needs of children, teachers/staff, and families at higher risk for severe illness 		

Level of Community Spread (as determined by state and local health officials)	<u>Level 1</u> Low/No Spread: Traditional	<u>Level 2</u> Minimal/Moderate Spread: Traditional	<u>Level 3</u> Minimal/Moderate Spread: Traditional	<u>Level 4</u> Substantial Spread: Hybrid
Practicing Prevention	them	s to students and staff who need wear face masks/shields and	them along with other appr	taff to wear a face mask/shield at sted in the operation plan.
	 → Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as handwashing. → Provide hand soap and hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol at the provide hand soap and hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol at the provide hand soap and hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol at the provided hand soap and entrances to communification measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and the provided hand sanitizer and staying home when sick), good hygiene, and the provided hygiene hand suffered to student coming to school hygiene hand sanitizer. → Clean/disinfect playgrounds at least daily. → Allow students and staff to bring hand sanitizer. → Convert water fountains to allow for filling water bottles and allow he have represented the circular property and increase the circular provided hygiene. → Conduct deep cleaning of schools prior to students/staff returning have been property social distancing have social media and other communications to inform parents, stand good hygiene. 		and no-touch trash cans in all bathroonicate how to stop the spread. COVID d school-specific protocols requently. w students and staff to bring water bo culation of outdoor air as much as pog and on a regular basis	oms 2-19 symptoms, preventative ttles from home ssible

Level of Community Spread (as determined by state and local health officials)	<u>Level 1</u> Low/No Spread: Traditional	<u>Level 2</u> Minimal/Moderate Spread: Traditional	<u>Level 3</u> Minimal/Moderate Spread: Traditional	<u>Level 4</u> Substantial Spread: Hybrid
Transporting Students	SMCSC will: → Allow field trips		→ Restrict field trips to local destinations that are outside only.	SMCSC will: → Eliminate field trips. → Provide transportation during in-person instructional days.
	 → Require all students, drivers, and staff to wear a face mask/shield on the bus → Require bus drivers and staff to conduct a self-screen for symptoms prior to starting the route → Assign seats to students → Clean and disinfect buses prior to students boarding → Air out buses when not in use → Not hold students on buses after arriving at the destination → Restrict students and drivers to one route as much as possible → Restrict students to only riding their assigned bus → No food allowed on buses 			

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Entering School Buildings	SMCSC will: → Restrict visitors and guests	s outside of designated areas.	SMCSC Will: → Restrict visitors and guests	s in the building
	 → Require all visitors to wear a mask/shield when entering and leaving the building during the school day. → Encourage self-screening for symptoms prior to entering the building → Limit unnecessary congregations of students and staff → Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread. COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols → Establish a protocol for students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms when they come to school → Establish building-specific protocols for student arrival and dismissal to reduce large gatherings for students 			-19 symptoms, preventative

Level of Community Spread (as determined by state and local
health officials)

Level 1 Low/No Spread: Traditional

Level 2 Minimal/Moderate Spread: Traditional

Level 3 Minimal/Moderate Spread: Traditional

Level 4 Substantial Spread: Hybrid

Serving Meals



SMCSC will:

- → Provide traffic control solutions for enhanced social distancing where necessary
- → Seating will be arranged to allow students to remain 6 feet apart when eating where applicable.
- → Encourage student hand washing before and after meal service
- → Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff at the entrance to cafeteria and for use prior to eating
- → Conduct cleaning of cafeterias and high-touch surfaces frequently during the school day.
- → Utilize acrylic barriers between students and cashiers where applicable.
- → Prohibit lunch visitors
- → Follow federal school nutrition program guidelines based on qualifying programs at the time of school building closure to determine if alternative meal service is applicable

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Conducting Large Group Gatherings	SMCSC will:		SMCSC Will:	
	 → Stagger schedules to reduce large group gatherings when possible → Identify and utilize large spaces (i.e. gymnasiums, auditoriums, outside spaces – as weather permits) for social distancing → Extracurricular activities may be conducted following ISDH guidelines along with any requirements of individual sanctioning organizations such as the IHSAA or ISSMA → Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff 		or any relevant governing the stractural or activities may guidelines along with any result or sanctioning organizations selection or the stracture of the str	he state or local health department podies. ay be conducted following ISDH

Level of Community Spread (as determined by state and local health officials)	<u>Level 1</u> Low/No Spread: Traditional	<u>Level 2</u> Minimal/Moderate Spread: Traditional	<u>Level 3</u> Minimal/Moderate Spread: Traditional	<u>Level 4</u> Substantial Spread: Hybrid
Teaching and Learning	 → Establish an academic bas → Integrate Social Emotional 	enhanced precautions through partner eline and provide support to address the Learning and enhanced community delearning through increasing current Virtual Opt	learning needs.	SMCSC will: → Operate using a hybrid schedule which combines in-person instruction and eLearning for secondary schools.
		Students with IEP/ILP/504s will rece	SMCSC teacher ive services and/or accommodations rading scales	

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Protecting Vulnerable Populations¹



¹ Vulnerable Populations --Elderly individuals and/or individuals with serious underlying health conditions, including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune system is compromised such as by chemotherapy for cancer and other conditions requiring such therapy.

SMCSC will:

- → Allow vulnerable students to complete their coursework virtually
- → Encourage vulnerable students and staff to wear PPE throughout the school day (to the extent practicable)

SMCSC will:

- → Consider virtual learning opportunities, in consultation with the parent and potentially health officials
- → Require vulnerable students and staff to wear PPE throughout the school day (to the extent practicable)

SMCSC will:

Establish a point-of-contact with the local health department

Identify local COVID-19 testing sites

Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff

Provide PPE to vulnerable students and staff as appropriate

Adhere to FERPA and HIPAA requirements

Adhere to state and federal employment law and extended leave allowances

Establish a process for regular check-ins with vulnerable students and staff

Allow an early transition for vulnerable students to go to classes

Limit large group gatherings/ Interactions for vulnerable students and staff

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Kids Connection	SMCSC will: → Provide child care using a traditional schedule.		social distancing measures	aff to wear a face mask/shield at
	 → Provide hand sanitizer for s → Conduct cleaning of high-to → Limited interactions through distances is not possible 		ecautions such as face coverings for g	group activities when social

District Health Protocols

It is essential for the school community to work together to prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19 in the school environment and in the community while still providing a quality education program. The **SMCSC Roadmap** will be followed by all students and staff, however, there are certain additional precautions that may be put in place for students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) or Section 504 Plans.

State statute gives public school districts the authority to exclude students who have a contagious disease such as COVID-19 or are liable to transmit it after exposure (IC 20-34-3-9). In addition, the local health department has the authority to exclude students from school and may order students and others to isolate or quarantine (IC 16-41-9-1.6). As such, SMCSC will work closely with the Madison County Health Department.

Symptoms Impacting Consideration for Exclusion from School

Students and employees will be trained to recognize the following COVID-19-related symptoms:

- A fever of 100.4° F or greater
- Sore Throat
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline)
- Diarrhea, nausea or vomiting, abdominal pain
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever
- New loss of taste or smell

Students and employees will be excluded from school if they test positive for COVID-19. Unvaccinated students and employees who exhibit one or more of the symptoms of COVID-19 based on CDC Guidance that are not otherwise explained will be excluded from school.

Vaccination

The school district will not require proof of COVID-19 vaccination to attend school.

Close Contacts and Quarantine

Students and staff who have been exposed to a positive case of COVID-19 that have been fully vaccinated or have tested positive in the last 90 days and do not have symptoms do not have to quarantine but should monitor for symptoms for 14 days after exposure. Individuals without proof of vaccination or a positive test will be required to quarantine for 14 days according to Indiana Department of Health and CDC Guidelines.

Return to School After Exclusion

Once a student or employee is excluded from the school environment, they may return if they satisfy the recommendations of the Indiana Department of Health.

Screening

The current CDC guidelines recommend screening all students and employees for COVID-19 symptoms and history of exposure. Screening can consist of self-screening, school-based screening, and/or medical inquiries. The type and extent of screening is at the discretion of the district/school.

- **Self-Screening:** South Madison Community Schools will provide information to parents and training to employees about the symptoms of COVID-19 and require them to self-screen before coming to school. Students and employees exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 without being otherwise explained are prohibited from coming to school, and if they do come to school, they should be sent home immediately.
- School-Based Screening: South Madison Community Schools will utilize school-based screenings to identify students and employees who may be infected with COVID-19.
- **Temperature Screening:** The school may take the temperature of students, employees, and visitors on school property in situations where there is reason to believe that the person may be ill.

Medical Inquiries

Federal law typically limits the type of medical inquiries that can be made, but given the nature of the pandemic, more leeway has been given to schools in this circumstance to make additional medical inquiries of staff and students than would otherwise be allowed.

- If a parent tells the district/school that a student is ill, the district/school may ask the parent whether the student is exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19.
- If an employee calls in sick or appears ill, the district/school can inquire as to whether the employee is experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms.
- If a person is obviously ill, the district/school may make additional inquiries and may exclude the person from school property.

Even without symptoms, if a student or employee has recently had contact with a person with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19, has someone in their home being tested for COVID-19, or has recently traveled from somewhere considered to be a "hot spot" by the CDC, the district/school may exclude the student or employee from the school building and recommend that they self-quarantine for 14 calendar days.

Clinical Space: COVID -19 Symptomatic

Each school will have a separate space where students or employees who are feeling ill are evaluated or wait for pick up. All waiting staff and students should wear a face covering. Only essential staff assigned to the room may enter. A record will be kept of all persons who entered the room and the room will be disinfected several times throughout the day. Strict social distancing is required and staff must wear appropriate PPE. Students who are ill will be walked out of the building to their parents. Additionally, all staff and students with fevers or symptoms associated with COVID-19 should be encouraged to seek medical attention for further evaluation and instructions. Students and staff may return if they are approved to do so in writing by their healthcare provider.

Clinic Space: Non-COVID-19 Related

Students who do not display symptoms of COVID-19 will be seen and treated in the nurse's clinic. These would include students who are injured during the school day or students with special health care needs such as those with chronic health conditions (i.e. - diabetes or seizures), those requiring medical treatments (i.e. - suctioning, tube feeding), and those with individual health plans.

Clinic Space: Parents

Parents will no longer be allowed to bring medications into clinics. If you need to provide medication for your child, a nurse will meet you in a designated area to handle this. There will also be changes in how stocked medicines are administered, the suspension of nebulizer treatments, and new criteria for staying home from school/returning to school, based on CDC guidelines.

Please reach out to your school nurse if you have specific concerns regarding your child's medical care

Confirmed Case of COVID-19 on School Property

The individual who tested positive will not be identified in communications to the school community at large but may need to be selectively identified for contact tracing by the State Health Department. If closure is determined necessary, SMCSC will consult with the Madison County Health Department to determine the status of school activities including extracurricular activities, co-curricular activities, and before and after-school programs.

Any student, teacher, administrator, or staff who is symptomatic for infection should stay home and consult their primary care provider or seek testing. The state website www.coronavirus.in.gov has a list of over 200 testing facilities, their location, and hours of operation. This list is updated frequently. If an individual in one's home has COVID-19 or is quarantined because of COVID-19, those in the household should also stay home according to the guidelines of the Indiana Department of health and the CDC

Information regarding confirmed positive cases on school property will be communicated weekly on the district website.

Face Coverings (Levels 3 & 4)

It is our goal to keep schools open and as safe as possible for all of our students and staff members. The Indiana Department of Health has reported a 40-60% reduction of COVID-19 transmission when masks are used by all. This is especially important since some infectious carriers of COVID-19 may not have any symptoms. Children who have generally been less affected by COVID-19, expose school staff and adults at home who may be more at risk.

Face coverings can be worn at any time. When the district is operating on Levels 3 & 4, face coverings will be required for all staff and students at all times with the following exceptions.

Food Consumption: Face coverings or face shields are not required while eating or drinking

Faculty/Staff: Faculty and staff, while working-other than to prepare food or meals-along with other individuals who are in a room, office or place, where all persons not of the same household can maintain six (6) feet of social distance from each other are not required to wear a face covering or face shield;

Classroom Settings:

- 1. Where a classroom or place of instruction can be configured so that all students and instructors can maintain six (6) feet of social distancing from one another at all times, face coverings or face shields do not need to be worn during in-person educational instruction;
- 2. Where a classroom or place of instruction can be configured so that all students can maintain at least three (3) feet of social distancing from one another at all times, and where students are positioned to face in the same direction, face coverings or face shields do not need to be worn during in-person educational instruction by students. Instructors must wear a face covering or face shield unless the instructor(s) can maintain six (6) feet of social distancing from students; or
- 3. Where a classroom or place of instruction cannot be configured so that all students can maintain either six (6) feet of social distancing or at least three (3) feet of social distancing from one another with students facing the same direction at all times, face coverings or face shields must be worn during in-person educational instruction by students. Instructors must wear a face covering or face shield unless the instructor(s) can maintain six (6) feet of social distance from students. At the direction of the instructor, a student may be permitted to remove his or her mask on an intermittent and temporary basis.

Recess: Face coverings and face shields may be removed during recess periods provided social distancing can be maintained.

Extracurricular & Co-Curricular Activities: Students, teachers, instructors, directors, coaches, trainers, volunteers, and other personnel, when not engaging in strenuous physical activity or subject to an exemption specified above, shall wear face coverings or face shields unless six feet of social distancing can be achieved and maintained.

In addition if a student has an IEP or 504 learning plan with a documented need the student may be exempted from wearing a face covering or face shield.

If an employee declines to wear a face mask/shield in a required area, the direct supervisor is responsible for addressing it with the employee. Employees should refrain from addressing non-compliance or perceived non-compliance directly with other employees, and should instead report issues to their supervisors.

If a student declines to wear a face mask/shield in a required area, the staff members should remind the student of the requirement and give the student a chance to comply with it prior to referring the student to the office.

Students that refuse to comply with face mask/shield requirements may be removed from their classes and enrolled in the virtual option.

School resource officers are not responsible for enforcing face mask/shield requirements and should not be contacted regarding such issues.

Virtual Instruction

Online learning with an SMCSC teacher will be available for students with medical concerns.

To manage staffing and scheduling, students must commit to in-person or online learning for an established period of time and will not be permitted to move back and forth during this commitment.

Students in grades K-12 will have the option to select Virtual Learning for one semester at a time. Students that request Virtual Learning the first semester will need to recommit to Virtual Learning for the second semester if they wish to continue that mode of learning.

Grades K-6

Students who do not attend school in person will be enrolled in Virtual Learning facilitated by a licensed SMCSC teacher. Students will receive instruction by completing a series of modules in core academic classes. Modules may include video tutorials, practice with feedback, and application of learning through an activity. In addition, readings, practice exercises, and other activities may be given. Virtual group or individual meetings will occur periodically through Google Meet with the teacher. The time needed to complete coursework will vary for each student, but students should expect to be engaged in 4-5 hours of daily academic activities. Attendance will be documented.

Grades 7-12

Students who do not attend school in person will be enrolled in courses through the Edmentum learning platform that provides online instruction. South Madison has utilized this instruction program for many years at the Carnegie Learning Center. Student progress will be monitored by a licensed SMCSC teacher, but course content will be delivered online through the software. In addition to online readings and practice exercises, instruction and assignments may include other activities such as video tutorials and projects. Virtual group or individual meetings will occur periodically through Google Meet with the teacher. The time needed to complete coursework varies for each student but should be comparable to requirements for in-person learning, or 5-6 hours a day. Attendance will be documented. Some courses will not be available online.