



## **Seacoast Community School COVID19 Restrictions and Procedures for Parents/Guardians Updated September 16, 2021**

The policies below are reviewed and revised by the SCS Admin Team as the CDC, Federal, and NH State policies and guidelines regarding COVID19 evolve. SCS practices and policies not mentioned here are to remain in place and all families are to adhere to them as we have done during the pandemic to this point. These policies and procedures may change occasionally and you will be alerted of major revisions.

With seasonal cold symptoms starting to appear in children, and knowing these issues will increase and decrease as seasons change, also included here is a Question and Answer guide to how the school and parents will screen and respond to various forms of child illnesses and the COVID19 virus itself. Having had many months of success behind us we feel confident that these policies will continue to keep our school and family populations safe and well.

Symptom Screening alone will not protect the school from an outbreak of the virus, but in conjunction with our current policies it will form a strong barrier of protection for everyone. Please continue to notify us with any situations that arise, so we can help make the best determination of how to proceed. As you all know, this is a time of uncertainty for our community at large and we are trying to make the best decisions for everyone.

### **Drop-off, Pick-up:**

Parents are now able to pick up and drop off children at their inner classroom doors at the Campus. PEAK parents follow the rules of their respective school buildings. Parents and accompanying siblings are required to wear masks and distance themselves whenever they are on campus or at a PEAK site. Parents are not allowed inside classrooms at ECE or PEAK sites, and are encouraged not to talk with teachers beyond a reasonable time. ECE and PEAK pick ups at the end of the day may take place at the inner classroom doors or on the playgrounds.

### **Screening:**

Brightwheel Touchless Check-in/out Function will be used at all ECE classrooms. All parents submit a simple self-screening check for each child in Brightwheel while dropping off. PLEASE

HAVE YOUR PHONES AND BRIGHTWHEEL APS ON HAND. Teachers will perform temperature checks at dropoff.

**COVID Opening and Closing times:**

The Community Campus and The Meadows Preschool hours are 7:30am-5:00pm, Community School at Little Harbour are 8:30am-12:30pm and PEAK Classes close at 5:30pm.

**Exposures:**

The policies and procedures on this topic have changed significantly now that the State of Emergency has been lifted in New Hampshire. After a known exposure, children will require a test only if COVID symptoms exist; if the exposure is within their household they will need to quarantine. SCS is not accepting rapid tests for children; only PCR tests produced in a laboratory are acceptable. Please see the Q&A section of this document for answers to your questions.

**Masks at School:**

All currently masked children and teachers will continue to wear masks indoors. All events will continue to require masks.

**Travel Outside the US:**

Any unvaccinated parent or child who travels outside of the US, must be tested and quarantined as normal. Although vaccinated parents need not quarantine, unvaccinated children traveling outside the US still need to quarantine upon return.

**Combining Classes:**

Classes may combine outdoors, at the end of the day, with a max of two classes, and only between age cohorts. All these elements must be in place.

**Cleaning:**

The COVID cleaning procedures we have followed this year have played a major role in keeping everyone healthy so they are continuing.

**Seacoast Community School  
COVID19 Q & A  
(aka The Sniffles Manifesto)**

**Why is symptom screening important?**

Symptoms of COVID exist as “crossovers” with other common illnesses and it is therefore often difficult for even professionals to tell what illness the child actually has. Screening out these other illnesses is effective in determining who has the virus and who does not. It also serves to protect the rest of the school population from infection as children who fail the screenings need to stay home until they are better. Here is a helpful chart of the COVID crossover symptoms and the more common illnesses involved:

Chart:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oRRO6cOaupoM7HbbJsht6dbYSRYlwCuJ/view?usp=sharing>

**Who needs to stay home?**

If your child has an unexplained fever, cough or [other symptoms](#), they might have COVID19. Most people have mild illness and are able to recover at home. If you think your child may have been exposed to COVID19, contact your healthcare provider. After reading the CDC guidelines on best practices for school screenings, we do not consider all sickness and symptoms as red flags and reasons to be away from school. A simple runny nose can have many origins such as allergies or irritations and we do not want to require every family to get their child tested or acquire a doctor’s note because of it. For now, the main focus will be the following three criteria. If your child has any of these please keep them home and get them tested for COVID:

1. The presence of elevated fever over 100.4
2. The presence of multiple cold, flu, or COVID symptoms and/or suspected exposure to the virus
3. Known exposure to the virus.

If there is a question about exposure or sickness we request that all parents err on the side of caution and keep children at home. Remember, we are trying to keep over 200 children and faculty virus free here. Please contact your Program Director for guidance in questionable situations; in the end, it is their determination that will be the official position of the school on who stays home or not.

## **What about siblings?**

If a child presents with symptoms as listed above, his/her siblings do not need to be excluded from school unless they too are exhibiting similar symptoms or fever, and there is a suspected chance of exposure to COVID. If a child presents with a high fever unrelated to something obvious (e.g. ear infection, recent inoculation), then we suggest the family keep both the child and siblings home until you are certain of the cause.

## **How long do children need to stay absent from SCS programs?**

If the child has tested positive for COVID or is suspected of having it based on the screening criteria above, parents need to follow directions as described in our earlier statement of Response Instructions. Please use the link below to see those. A negative COVID test does not necessarily clear a child for school however, as we still follow our typical policies for sicknesses. A child with a fever must stay home until s/he is fever free for 24 hours without medications, and children with other non-COVID illnesses need to be fully recuperated before returning even with a negative test in hand.

Response Instructions Link:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1eIVRctL5AftO0ZHLbscRs6YBVIs0fCCz2c3T4LrCGQ/edit>

## **Who needs to get tested or obtain a note from the doctor?**

If any of the 3 criteria listed above applies to your child, then please get them tested using a PCR test for COVID as soon as possible and/or follow the quarantining instructions outlined in the Response Instructions Link above. When you have the test results please let us know and send the child in to school by following the guidelines in the Response link above.

## **What about testing for Allergies, Asthma, Strep and Flu?**

Because these illnesses have cross-over symptoms with COVID, we **STRONGLY** urge you to get your child tested to eliminate them whenever s/he shows similar symptoms. Also, as the CDC states that all children over 6mos can safely get a flu vaccination by shot or nasal spray, we **STRONGLY** recommend all SCS children get inoculated ASAP. If everyone gets the flu shot/spray then we will ALL feel safer.

## **What about Common Colds?**

Because there is no formal test or cure for this illness, the symptoms can be construed as COVID by mistake. If your child has symptoms of the common cold, AND has a real possibility of exposure to the virus, then please keep them home until they are better, have them get a note from their doctor clearing them of COVID, or get them tested for COVID to eliminate it.

Please note that the State of New Hampshire has announced that students with runny noses alone **should** stay home. Use your best judgement.

### **What constitutes illness at SCS?**

- Kids do get sick, have allergies, temperature spikes, colds, tummy aches etc. These are considered common illnesses.
- COVID19-like symptoms are listed as any of the following: runny nose, fever, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, muscle aches and chills.

### **How do we typically respond to illness at the school?**

- Follow regular protocols as detailed in the Parent Guide for all common illnesses.
- Encourage families not to send sick, or even potentially sick children to school.
- Have parents pick up children as soon as they can make it to school if sickness happens during the school day.
- Return children to school when they feel better, have no symptoms when off medications, and have waited at least 24 hours.

### **What additional responses/precautions will we be taking during the pandemic?**

- All children have their temperature taken at least once during the day.
- We will remove kids with COVID19-like symptoms from classrooms immediately and notify parents to pick them up as soon as possible from school.
- We will require children with COVID19-like symptoms to get COVID19 testing or remain quarantined for 10 days since symptoms occurred and 3 days since recovery. Sick children will not return to school until completely free of symptoms for the 3 days.
- Quarantines will be required of adults or children who had sustained contact with a known positive case of COVID19 in school or out, or traveled Internationally, on a cruise ship, or on public transportation in the United States outside allowable states and are showing symptoms of COVID19.
- We will require confirmed or potential cases of COVID19 to ALSO submit one of the following:
  - A doctor's note defining a non-contagious condition
  - Proof of a negative COVID19 test result
  - Proof of a completed quarantine period of 10 days since symptoms occurred and 3 clean days since recovery
  - Proof of a completed quarantine period of 14 days

### **How will the school communicate information to parents/faculty/community?**

- We will not reveal the names of sick children or families to anyone without permission of the family. Admin and Faculty will share information on a "need to know basis" only.

- Class or PEAK Group parents will be notified of potential or real COVID19 illnesses that appear in their class group at school or are reported from home.
- Teachers and parents of sick children will follow contact tracing protocols for recent sustained contacts (10 minutes or more) by the child with adults or children.
- Parents of children identified as having had sustained contact with an infected child or adult will be notified, and the children will be required to quarantine.
- SCS parents will be notified of a positive COVID19 case or exposure in their classroom and instructed as to if they must quarantine or not.

### **What is the SCS tuition policy vis-a-vis illness and COVID19?**

- Absences due to common illness will incur regular charges.
- Absences and quarantine periods due to a child testing positive to COVID19, or having been exposed to a child or teacher with COVID19 will also incur regular charges.

### **What will we do about faculty illness?**

- All faculty are mandated to stay home if sick.
- Ill or potentially ill faculty will not be allowed to come to school and cannot return to work until symptoms are considered resolved.
- A potential case of COVID19 will also require one or more of the following before returning for cases or symptoms to be considered resolved.
  - A doctor's note defining a non-contagious condition.
  - Proof of a negative COVID19 test result. Fever free and all other symptoms improved to the level that would not traditionally keep them out of work.
  - Proof of a completed quarantine period of 10 days since symptoms occurred and 3 days since recovery, with a negative test result.
  - Proof of a completed quarantine period of 14 days
- Faculty with a potential case of COVID19 will also follow contact tracing protocols for sustained contacts (10 minutes or more) with adults or children.
- Parents will be notified if a faculty member has identified them, or their children, as having recent sustained contact with a potential or actual case of COVID19.
- All SCS parents will be notified of a positive COVID19 case in the faculty.

### **What else do I need to know about SCS policies during the pandemic?**

- The school reserves the right to require testing of any SCS family or employee, but of course we want to work with everyone under all circumstances before we get to that!
- Parents are required to report positive cases for themselves or their children to SCS Program Directors Jess DuBois (PEAK) and Alicia Tonelli (ECE) immediately.
- Once identified, positive cases of parents or children are not allowed on campus until their cases are resolved.

- If parents report a positive case to SCS, they must produce a negative COVID test for the child(ren) on day 5 after the exposure, or on the day that they are showing COVID-like symptoms, in order for the child(ren) to return to school after completion of the full required quarantine period.

More questions? Please contact Amie Cole at [acole@seacoastcommunityschool.org](mailto:acole@seacoastcommunityschool.org)  
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