

Sullivan County Schools
Additional Operational Procedures
as it pertains to the Health and Wellness of Staff and Students
2021-2022

1. We realize COVID vaccinations are a personal decision and we are not requiring COVID vaccinations. Students and staff who have been vaccinated will not be subject to quarantine unless they test positive for COVID. Some of the research indicates that vaccinations may not only help to keep us from getting the virus, but it may also help prevent the virus from mutating. Some of the research indicates that a virus has more opportunities to mutate if it can spread. Vaccinations can help slow the virus's ability to mutate because the virus has more difficulty replicating. Many world leaders are becoming increasingly concerned about the different variants of the virus because some of them are more contagious/dangerous. However, we still believe that COVID vaccinations are a personal decision, and the school district will not require vaccinations for COVID.
2. We have no plans to issue a mask mandate for the upcoming school year. We will continue to monitor health conditions and may have to modify current plans. However, at this time - we will not require students or staff to wear a mask in the classroom or on the bus. Students and staff may wear a mask if they so desire, but it will not be a requirement.
3. We will not require the taking of temperatures before school. We ask parents to closely monitor the health condition of their children. We ask parents and families to not send children to school if they have a fever or are experiencing some other type of legitimate health issue.
4. We will not have restrictions on the number of spectators at athletic events this year unless mandated by TSSAA or another governing agency. Spectators will not be required to wear a mask at athletic events unless mandated by TSSAA or another governing agency. We will allow all athletic events, scrimmages, jamborees, and practices to continue as we have done prior to the virus.
5. We will be open and transparent about our cases, but we will not distribute a daily case count. The Tennessee Department of Health will be responsible for contact tracing and making recommendations regarding isolation and quarantine. Students who test positive will be required to follow Sullivan County Health Department recommendations. Students living in a household with family members testing positive may be required to stay at home for a period of 20 days depending on individual circumstances. Public Health officials will contact families and provide the return back-to-school date for each person.

6. We will return back to eating in the cafeteria as we have done in the past. We will restrict some of the self-serve options we have had in the past to prevent the spread of diseases and viruses. We will ask our food service staff to serve items on the line instead of allowing students to reach in and take specific items from the lunch line.
7. All students will receive a free breakfast and lunch this school year. Parents are encouraged to continue to complete a free/reduced lunch application to be eligible for other state benefits, but this paperwork is not necessary for the school district's breakfast and lunch program.
8. Field trips will be approved on an individual basis as in years past.
9. We require parents wishing to bring in food items (such as birthday cupcakes) only bring in prepackaged items and not homemade food.
10. We will continue our efforts to sanitize the classrooms, furniture, and buses to keep staff/students safe. We will also continue our efforts to have students maintain safe/healthy hygiene habits such as washing hands, coughing into the elbows, not sharing personal items, etc.
11. We will continue to keep public water fountains closed this year. Water filling stations will be open. Students may bring their own water bottles to school.

It is important to note that community/school health conditions can change quickly and require the school district to make a variety of modifications to these guidelines. However, we fully understand that changes within the school system can have a significant impact on our families and community and we pledge to communicate as quickly and transparently as possible when issues/concerns arise.

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