

Salt River Schools' reopening plans are put in place in an effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and support educational goals. Each campus will have COVID Campus Contact who will be the primary point of contact for that campus regarding any concerns or investigations of test-confirmed cases.

Updated: February 1, 2021

1. Promoting Healthy Behaviors

Health Pre-Screening for Staff & Students

Parents/Guardians of students and staff will be required to self-screen daily before arriving at school in accordance with the SRPMIC Return to Work guidelines. Anyone with a fever of 100 or higher should not come to school or a SRS facility.

Students and staff should also prescreen themselves for any of the following symptoms prior to coming to school:

- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 Fahrenheit
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting

If you suspect that your child may have symptoms of COVID-19, please make sure the child sees a health care provider immediately.

Students and staff may be subject to temperature checks for verification, especially if they are feeling ill or suspected of having a fever during the school day.

All staff will monitor students and refer them to the clinic if symptoms are present.

According to the assessment of the clinic staff, a treatment plan will be determined.

Parents will be contacted to pick up students who are unable to remain at school, and the students' return to school plan will be discussed.

Students should be picked up within 30 minutes and no later than 1 hour from the time the campus contacted the student's parent/guardian.

Students and staff will be required to report to SRS if a) they have come into close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19; or b) they themselves have COVID-19 symptoms.

SRS requires all outsourced vendors to pre-screen and check the temperatures of all contracted workers before they are allowed entrance on campus.

"Close Contact" Defined

"Close contact" is defined as:

(a) Being directly exposed to infectious secretions. (e.g., being coughed on)

Or

(b) Being within 6 feet for a largely uninterrupted or sustained extended contact period throughout the course of a day of approximately 15 minutes. However, additional factors like case/contact masking (i.e., both the infectious individual and the potential close contact have been consistently and properly masked), ventilation, presence of dividers, and case symptomatology may affect this determination.

Either (a) or (b) defines close contact if it occurred during the infectious period of the case, defined as two days prior to symptom onset to 10 days after symptom onset.

In the case of asymptomatic individuals who are test-confirmed with COVID-19, the infectious period is defined as two-days prior to the confirming lab test and continuing for 10 days following the confirming lab test.

Individuals, including students, teachers, staff, or other campus visitors, **who have had close contact with someone who is test-confirmed to have COVID-19**, as narrowly defined in this document and as determined by the Community health officials, should stay at home through the 10-day incubation period and should not be allowed on campus.

Students will not be allowed to attend or participate in school-sponsored or school-related extracurricular activities during their quarantine period.

Arriving at School

Parents are encouraged to drop their child off at school, or walk with their child to/from school, to allow for more space on buses for students who don't have options for arriving to school.

Students should not arrive at school any earlier than the times listed below.

ECEC is at 7:00 am

Elementary school is at 7:15 am

ALA is at 8:00 am

Students arriving at school early will be expected to social distance and follow campus protocols for arrival until school begins.

Bus riders will be taught to space themselves out from others as they exit the bus and walk into the school building.

Students will be expected to use district-provided hand sanitizer immediately upon entering the building.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The sites and different agencies have purchased and/or provided PPE to the schools for use as needed. The items purchased are dependent upon student age.

At ECEC, the following items have been purchased, in addition to their normal cleaning protocols.

- Hand sanitizer
- Disposable masks
- Reusable masks
- Gloves
- Reusable-Smocks (long and short sleeved)
- Disposable gowns
- Sanitizing wipes

SRES has ordered the following items:

- 40,000 disposable masks
- 2,500 children's cloth masks
- 2,500 adult cloth masks
- 66 countertop barriers
- 44 desk barriers (library & technology)
- 20 multi table divider
- 500 student table divider
- 60 student face shields
- 10 adult face shields

ALA has purchased and/or will order the following items:

- Signage for interior and exterior indicating employee safety COVID protocols
- Hanging Plexiglas purchased and installed for security desks, registrar desk and school secretary desks
- Desktop Plexiglas sets for all classrooms
- Lysol wipes
- Disposable masks
- Gloves
- Gowns for health office
- 2 Thermometers for health office
- Hand sanitizer for each classroom and office

Sneeze Guards and Plexi-glass have been added to public reception desks. They will also be added at the point of sale registers in the cafeteria check-out lines.

Masks

For the safety of everyone, students, teachers, staff, and visitors must wear a face mask and practice social distancing where possible. These times could include entering and exiting the bus, walking during passing periods at school, before-school areas of congregation, etc.

Appropriate masks include: disposable masks, washable masks, etc.

Face shields may be worn in addition to a mask. **However, they do not replace the requirement for a mask.**

Masks with exhalation valves or vents are not a CDC approved mask and are not acceptable.

Being 6 feet apart does not negate the requirement to wear a mask.

Mask Exceptions

If a student who receives ESS or 504 services has a medical condition that prevents them from wearing a mask, the ESS/504 committee will review the medical documentation discussed with the doctor and other relative data, to determine if accommodations are appropriate.

Students who are currently not receiving ESS or 504 services but have a medical condition that prevents them from wearing a mask, should contact the 504 Coordinator.

Students will not be required to wear face coverings when actively eating or drinking or participating in physical activities that are both vigorous and provide a minimum of 6 feet separation between students.

In addition, campus administrators may provide additional opportunities, as needed, for “mask breaks.” These breaks must adhere to a minimum of 6 feet of social distancing and may include, but are not limited to the following:

Designated and monitored mask free area during recess

Designated and monitored class time outdoors

Designated and monitored time in the hallway, not during passing periods.

Masks - Noncompliance

Slogans and images on masks must comply with the SRS dress code.

If students don't abide by the face mask requirement for in-person instruction, they may be disciplined in accordance with the SRS Student Code of Conduct.

Handwashing & Hand Sanitizers

Students and staff will be trained in proper hand washing protocols to aid in the prevention of COVID-19 and the spread of germs.

All students will be expected to wash their hands for 20 seconds at least two times each day. In addition all students will be encouraged to wash hands after using the restroom and before eating.

Handwashing stations are available in restrooms and some classrooms.

Follow these five steps every time:

Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.

Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.

Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the “Happy Birthday” song from beginning to end twice.

Rinse your hands well under clean, running water.

Dry your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

Hand sanitizer stations have been added in classrooms, hallways and common areas throughout our facilities.

Staff and students are allowed to use their own hand sanitizer, but should not share it with other students or staff.

Social Distancing Protocols

Students and staff will be trained in proper social distancing.

Signage will be provided to help encourage students and staff to practice social distancing.

Social Distance processes are a personal responsibility of each individual attending school or coming to a SRS facility.

Anyone causing a disruption or unwilling to follow SRS safety protocols, putting students/staff at unnecessary risk may be asked to leave the premises immediately.

We understand that all students have different needs, but whenever possible throughout the day, students and staff will remain six feet apart. NOTE: it isn't always feasible for staff and students to maintain six feet of social distancing at all times, especially in classrooms.

Campuses will develop schedules and protocols for the use of common areas, including how to sanitize space between usage. All students and staff will be expected to use hand sanitizer when entering and exiting common areas.

Classrooms shall arrange the desks in a manner that best separates students from one another. We realize that classroom sizes and shapes, as well as student counts, will vary across campuses. If six feet of separation cannot be achieved, then students shall be separated to the maximum distance possible within a given space.

Classrooms should utilize a seating chart so that students have the same seats in the classroom.

2. Maintaining Healthy Environments

Classroom Environment

Students should be encouraged to keep as much distance between them and others as feasible.

Desks should be arranged as far apart as the space will allow. Students should sit six feet apart when possible. When six feet spacing is not achievable, students should sit as far apart as possible.

Personal furniture shall be removed from all teaching areas and taken home or disposed of properly. The intent of removing personal furniture is threefold:

- Clear out space for separating desks

- Remove furniture that encourages shared seating, either at the same time or one after another (for example: loveseat, couch, beanbag, etc.).

- Remove furniture that is difficult to clean or is made of a porous material.

Every classroom and office area will have CDC-approved disinfectant in a spray bottle with appropriate cleaning cloths provided for employees and students to use on high-touch areas throughout the school day.

The sites have been encouraged to purchase site-specific PPE based on facility and classroom configuration.

At the beginning of any class where students will occupy a desk or work area for the first time, staff will spray disinfectant at each student's work area and the student will use a paper towel to clean their work surface depending on student age.

Discourage sharing of items that are difficult to clean or disinfect.

Playground Environment

Playgrounds are often crowded and could make social distancing difficult.

SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, can spread when young children touch contaminated objects, and then touch their eyes, nose, or mouth.

Because it can be difficult to keep surfaces clean and disinfected between use of equipment, children should wear a mask while playing on the playground.

Maintain a distance of at least 6 feet away from people while on the playground.

Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before and after being on the playground.

Children should utilize hand sanitizer while actively playing on playground equipment.

Cleaning & Disinfectant Protocols

SRPMIC Public Works custodial employees have been trained on COVID-19 safety protocols.

Cleaning and disinfecting will occur nightly in every classroom, restroom, commons area, and on high-touch surfaces.

Routine checks will occur daily to refill supplies.

Every classroom and office area will have CDC-approved disinfectant in a spray bottle with appropriate cleaning cloths provided for employees and students to use on high-touch areas throughout the school day.

At the beginning of any class where students will occupy a desk or work area for the first time, staff will spray disinfectant at each student's work area and the student will use a paper towel to clean their work surface depending on student age/grade.

CDC-approved disinfectants will be used for deep cleaning campuses on a regular and ongoing basis by Public Works.

Tissues will be provided in classrooms and common areas to encourage students and staff to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and if not available, to cover with their elbows. Used

tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately with soap and water or hand sanitizer should be used.

Social distancing and safety signage will be added and visible throughout school facilities.

Food Service Safety

SRS plans to utilize the classrooms and the school cafeteria for student meals. NOTE: No parents/visitors will be allowed during lunch.

Cafeteria staff will be trained in COVID-19 safety protocols.

Classes will go to lunch on a staggered schedule to minimize the number of students in the cafeteria at the same time. The campus may add a lunch period to reduce the number of students in each lunch period as well. Depending upon the age of the student, some grade bans may eat meals in their classrooms.

All cafeteria staff will be wearing masks and gloves while serving students.

Seats, tables, door handles, and high-touch areas will be disinfected between lunch periods/use.

When possible, food items will be pre-packed and boxed to minimize face-to-face contact in the cafeteria line.

Food service will provide 2 choices and students will be directed to either line to help expedite and space out students while in line.

Masks will be worn at all times while in line.

Hand sanitizer will be used upon entry into the Cafeteria line.

Campus, Class, and Program Closures

SRS closures should occur under extreme but necessary circumstances. SRS will continue to follow all guidance received first from SRPMIC, then state and county health agencies.

Understanding that things can change rapidly, decisions may be adjusted as needed in response to the health, safety, and welfare of our students and staff. If cases are isolated to a specific grade level or program, a more localized approach may be considered.

In addition to COVID-19 positive cases, increased absences related to COVID-like symptoms may also be assessed for widespread transmission control.

Campus Closure

SRS will consider a closure of a campus when the active test-confirmed cases of the student and staff population at any given campus reach percentages in accordance with Community guidelines. ADHS's metrics for safer in-person instruction cites that the positivity rate should ideally be less than 7%.

Additional Considerations:

Three or more linked cases.

Increasing number of cases identified within a 10 day period.

Increasing number of teachers/staff that are out due to COVID cases, without a sufficient number of viable guest educators available.

Class/Program Closure

Any given class/program may be subject to closure with test-confirmed rates in accordance with Community guidance.

Additional Considerations:

Three or more linked cases.

Increasing number of cases identified within a 10 day period.

Significant number of participants have been exposed and identified as close contacts.

Increasing number of teachers/staff that are out due to COVID cases, without a sufficient number of viable guest educators available.

3. Maintaining Healthy Operations

Staff Training

Campus staff will be trained in COVID-19 safety protocols and students will engage in lessons focused on hand washing and social distancing practices upon return to in-person instruction and at the beginning of the school year moving forward.

Students, teachers, and staff will be encouraged to sanitize and/or wash hands frequently following proper practices.

Teachers will encourage students to wash their hands at a minimum of twice a day while on campus. For the classrooms that have access to sinks within their room, students may utilize these sinks for handwashing. If a teaching space does not have a sink within the classroom, then the teacher will need to encourage students to wash their hands at the restrooms or other areas with sinks.

Signage and Messaging

Signage will be posted in highly visible locations (i.e. school entrances, restrooms) that promote everyday protective measures. Broadcast regular announcements on reducing the spread of COVID-19 on PA systems throughout the school day as well as social media.

Messages about behaviors that prevent the spread of COVID-19 will be included when communicating with staff and families (such as on school websites, in emails, and on social media).

Floor signage will be placed in gathering areas to encourage social distancing. (i.e. reception area, restrooms, nurses' clinics, cafeteria, etc.).

Bus Transportation Protocols

SRS will provide bus transportation for all students who register for transportation services and meet the eligibility requirements for transportation.

Bus drivers will be trained in COVID-19 safety protocols.

Drivers will be required to wear a face covering/mask.

Each student will be required to wear a mask at all times while on the bus.

Bus riders will be encouraged to sit apart from one another and will be required to sit facing the front of the bus and keep their hands to themselves.

Hand sanitizer will be available on all buses and are to be used by students when exiting the bus.

Seats, handles, and high-touch areas will be disinfected after every trip per Community, state and local guidelines, utilizing CDC-approved disinfectant.

When possible, bus windows will be opened to allow outside air to circulate in the bus.

Visitors

Visitors to campuses will be limited to essential needs on the campus.

Lunch visitors will not be permitted.

Main school entrances will be secured by staff immediately after arrival times and remain that way throughout the day to help ensure effective management and safe screening of visitors.

Hand sanitizer will be available upon entering the building.

Volunteers will be limited to essential needs, and approved by school personnel prior to arriving at the school. Any guest educators scheduled for work at a campus will complete a pre-screening survey prior to entering the school.

SRS is permitted to prevent any individual who fails the health screening criteria from being admitted to the campus until they meet any of the criteria for re-entry to the campus.

4. Preparing for Illness

COVID Campus Contact

Each campus will have a designated COVID Campus Contact. Their information will be made available to the staff, teachers, students and parents for that campus.

The COVID Campus Contact will:

- lead the investigation of any test-confirmed cases and identify any individual who should be considered to have had close contact with the test-confirmed case. The information gathered from any investigation will be shared solely with the Community Epidemiologist as outlined in SRPMIC guidance;

- serve as the parent contact on the campus for questions related to COVID protocols;

- coordinate Tier 1, 2, and/or 3 COVID notification letters to staff and student families; and

- partner with site health assistants based on SRPMIC health department guidance.

School Health Clinic Procedures

Temperature and symptoms will be checked in a triage area in the clinic to determine whether isolation is indicated. A student's medical history will be considered when determining whether a student should be excluded.

When indicated, a student will be isolated from others until picked up by his/her parent in the campus clinic and should be picked up within 30 minutes and no later than 1 hour from the time the campus contacted the student's parent/guardian

Students who come to the school health clinic showing symptoms will be required to put on a face covering/mask until their parent arrives to take them home.

Additional staff members will be trained on basic first aid, medicine distribution, etc. and will be supported by the nurse.

Clinic staff and substitute clinic staff will be trained in COVID-19 safety protocols.

Minor health needs will be handled in the school office area, when possible, by trained staff to reserve the health clinic space for students experiencing symptoms or fever.

Attendance clerks will be trained to collect information from parents that report their child is sick with identified Coronavirus symptoms.

The COVID Campus Contact will follow up with the Community Epidemiologist to ensure that return to school protocol has been clearly explained to the family.

School Health Clinics will be cleaned and disinfected regularly.

Protocols for Test-Confirmed Case of COVID-19 at School

Responding to a Test-Confirmed Case

If an individual who has been in a school is test-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school will notify the Community Epidemiologist and health department, in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, including confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

We will close off areas that are heavily used by the individual with the test-confirmed case (student, teacher, or staff) until the non-porous surfaces in those areas can be disinfected, (unless more than 7 days have already passed since that person was on campus, per AZ guidelines).

Notification of a Test-Confirmed Case

The creation of a SRS COVID Dashboard to be updated nightly at 6 PM

If approved:

Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, SRS will notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a school if a test-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participate in any on-campus activities. SRS will have a 3-tiered notification process as outlined below:

Tier 1 - Upon confirmation of a test-confirmed COVID-19 case, communication will be sent out to all teachers, staff, and families of students who are assigned to that specific campus. Tier 1 letters will be sent out within 24 hours of the campus being notified of a test confirmed COVID positive student/staff member.

Tier 2 - Upon confirmation of a test-confirmed COVID-19 case, communication will be sent out to all teachers, staff, and families of students, who are enrolled in any class or activity with the individual who has the test-confirmed COVID-19 case. Teachers, staff and students sharing a room with the test-confirmed may meet the definition of having close contact with the case. Those receiving this letter will be required to monitor themselves and if they begin to have any COVID-19 symptoms, they will need to quarantine and contact their campus. Tier 2 letters will be sent out within 24 hours of the campus being notified of a test confirmed COVID positive student/staff member.

Tier 3 - Upon confirmation of a test-confirmed COVID-19 case, the Campus COVID Contact will begin an investigation. If the results of this investigation provide that close contact was confirmed with any teachers, staff, or students, those specific individuals will receive communication requiring them to quarantine. Tier 3 letters will be sent out within 24-48 hours of the campus being notified of a test confirmed COVID positive student/staff member.

Returning to Campus after Recovering from a Test-Confirmed or Suspected Case

Any individual - including teachers, staff, students, or other campus visitors - who themselves have qualified as either of these individuals:

- Are test-confirmed to have COVID-19 or
- Have experienced symptoms of COVID-19 or
- Have been tested

Individuals must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to the campus until the individual is screened to determine if the following conditions for campus re-entry have been met.

In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:

- At least one day (24 hours) has passed since recovery (no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications).

- The individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath).

- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

In the case of an individual that is asymptomatic but has received a positive COVID-19 test result, the individual may not return to the campus until ten days have passed since a positive test.

In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, such individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to the campus until the individual has completed the same three-step set of criteria listed above.

If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the above stay-at-home period, the individual must provide one of the following:

- Obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis OR

- Obtain an acute infection test from the Community that comes back negative for COVID-19.

Individuals (including students, teachers, staff, or other campus visitors) who have had close contact with someone who is test-confirmed to have COVID-19, as narrowly defined in this document and as determined by the appropriate Community health guidance, should stay at home through the 10-day incubation period and should not be allowed on campus.

SRS clinic staff will screen individuals after the incubation period has concluded, and if the individual did not experience COVID-19 symptoms during that period, the individual

can be allowed back on campus. If the individual experienced symptoms, they must stay at home until the conditions outlined above have been met.

Students in Quarantine

While in quarantine/isolation, students should access their class work every day for each class via Microsoft TEAMS, Edgenuity and/or Class Dojo.

Daily attendance will be taken:

Engagement in learning each day must take place in order to be counted as present. This would include engagement in online activities or submitting work to the teacher daily.

If a student is sick while in quarantine, please follow the school's usual process for reporting an absence. Once the absence is reported to the school, the student will be counted as "excused absent." Failure to report an absence due to illness may result in an "unexcused absence."

While in quarantine, the teacher(s) will be available for support as needed. Please email the teacher when needed.

SRS grading guidelines will be followed on assignments.

Please note: Parents should schedule a time to pick up any technology or classroom items from the school that are needed during quarantine.