

2022-23 RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES PLAN

OVERVIEW:

1. Description of Maintaining Health and Safety

~~Keeping students physically and emotionally safe is the number one priority of Aiken County Public Schools (ACPSD). The traditional 5-day, face-to-face schedule adheres to the current guidelines from CDC, DHEC, and SDE to the~~

5. Before and after eating, employees should wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water.
6. Schools should continue to promote common disease prevention strategies.
7. Custodians will implement enhanced health and safety protocols for cleaning and disinfecting surfaces in shared areas.

2. Universal and Correct Wearing of Masks

After considering Governor McMaster's Executive Order to lift the mask mandate in South Carolina's public schools and State Superintendent Spearman's rescission of her mask policy, ACPSD has determined that masks will be optional for faculty, staff, and students in our school buildings or on school buses.

3. Modifying Facilities to Allow for Physical Distancing (e.g., use of cohort/podding)

The school district will monitor cases of COVID-19 and will respond accordingly if the need arises to reinstitute strict social distancing protocols. All classrooms will have hand sanitizer and Morning Mist disinfectant available for staff to sanitize desks. Classroom doors will remain closed and locked during instructional periods. Teachers will be responsible for opening and closing doors when students enter or leave class.

Water fountains will remain closed for use. Students will be encouraged to bring a water bottle to school; bottle fillers have been installed in each location. Schools will have protocols in place for students to refill water bottles and for students who do not bring bottles to have access to water.

4. Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

It is recommended that children (and adults) wash their hands routinely and thoroughly throughout the day, particularly before eating, after using the restroom, and after hands are soiled or dirtied. There is no specific recommendation on the frequency or intervals of hand washing. Proper hand hygiene consists of washing hands thoroughly and often with soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds. When hand washing is unavailable, students should use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol. Hand sanitizing stations will be available in classrooms and hallways.

All persons are encouraged, regardless of presumed cause, to cover their nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing. Adults and students should also use tissues to contain respiratory secretions and dispose of these tissues in the nearest trash can after use. All persons should wash their hands immediately after contact with possible respiratory secretions and contaminated

objects/materials.

5. Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities, Including Improving Ventilation

Custodians will disinfect high touch surfaces in schools throughout the day with the product HALT. These surfaces will include but not be limited to doorknobs, panic bars, counter tops, sink handles, and toilet and urinal handles. Student desks will be disinfected once per day by custodians with a clean cotton towel and HALT. Classrooms with tile floors will be swept and spot-mopped daily and completely mopped twice weekly. Classrooms with carpet floors must be vacuumed and spot cleaned for spills daily. Teachers will also continue to be supplied with Morning Mist for daily disinfection of their workspaces.

In schools that will continue to eat lunch in classrooms, custodians will assist with distributing rolling trash cans from the cafeteria throughout the school each day prior to lunch. Classroom trash cans must be emptied after lunch daily. Student desktops will be disinfected by custodians with HALT prior to the end of each day.

Aiken County Schools has an ongoing initiative to improve indoor air quality. Each classroom has been equipped with individual air purifiers equipped with HEPA and carbon filters. The school district contracted with an independent air quality specialist to survey all District HVAC systems to determine the feasibility of installing needlepoint bipolar ionization devices. Devices are being installed to further improve indoor air quality.

Aiken County Public Schools has incorporated the guidelines from the SC State Department of Transportation (SCDOT), CDC, and DHEC to ensure the health and safety of our students during bus transportation to and from school. Each bus will be cleaned and disinfected using approved disinfectant after completion of each route. Cleaning protocols require drivers to wipe down frequently touched surfaces with disinfectant, including those in the entrance touched by passengers, such as handrails and seat tops as well as those surfaces contacted by the driver (steering wheel, door opening device, etc.).

6. Contact Tracing in Combination with Isolation and Quarantine

Aiken County Public Schools follows the recommendations of SC DHEC in accordance with the published School and Childcare Exclusion List. School nurses are updated by the nursing supervisor when the exclusion list changes. 2]TJ

Isolation: School nurses and administrators exclude students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 or have COVID-19 excludable symptoms for which they do not get tested in accordance with the current isolation criteria.

Outbreak Reporting: For classrooms or cohorts with five or more people, Aiken County Public Schools is required to notify DHEC if 20% or more of the students within the classroom or cohort (e.g., sports team or extracurricular group) are absent or sent home early within 72 hours of each other due to testing positive for COVID-19 or having symptoms of COVID-19. Outbreaks meeting this definition will be reported to DHEC by the nursing supervisor.

Contact Tracing: During an outbreak, DHEC recommends case investigation (including quarantine

7. Diagnostic and Screening Testing

Aiken County Schools currently does not participate

sanitize hands.

Support Hand Hygiene and

Clean and Sanitize Assistive Technology Devices and Therapy Equipment

Items that cannot be cleaned and sanitized should not be used.

Items that children have placed in their mouths or that are otherwise contaminated by body secretions or excretions should be set aside until they are cleaned by hand by a person wearing gloves.

Provide individual/personal materials for frequently used items.

Instructional items that can be divided, counters, blocks, books, manipulatives, etc. Will be put in individual "work boxes" for students to reduce sharing/contact of toys and materials. Those materials can then be sanitized and rotated weekly if needed.

Workstations and centers will be sanitized as students rotate stations.

Establish a bin or container to separate all materials that have been in a student's mouth, sneezed on, or otherwise contaminated until they can be sanitized appropriately.

Maintain individual seating. Label seats and table spaces so students will have their own chair.

Any schedules, teaching tools, token systems, picture exchange systems, circle or large group manipulatives, or other materials will be laminated for ease in disinfecting.

Items will not be shared as much as possible.

Toileting

When completing toileting needs for a student, staff and students will wash hands immediately following. Staff members will wear gloves when completing toileting tasks. Staff members will follow health and safety protocols as follows:

Preparing (includes putting on gloves)

Cleaning the student

Removing

Based on currently available information, it appears older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions might be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. To protect those at higher risk, it is important that everyone practices healthy hygiene behaviors.

Staff who have students who have underlying health conditions should discuss care plans and specific ways to address health and safety needs of students.

10. Coordination with State and Local Health Officials

The nursing supervisor serves as the liaison between Aiken County Public Schools and the DHEC Midlands Epidemiology team. In the absence of the nursing supervisor, a member of the Human Resources COVID team is designated to serve in this capacity.

OVERVIEW:

11. District response on continuity of services:

Aiken County Public Schools plans to ensure continuity of quality academic instruction by providing the option of face-to-face instruction five days per week or full-time virtual instruction for grades 6-12 through AIKEN INNOVATE, the District's full-time virtual program, which began in the 2021-2022 school year. Remediation will be provided during summer to help close learning gaps due to the loss of instructional time due to the pandemic. Additional information is available on the district website.

students will have the option of picking up "to go" style meals at school sites. When/if necessary, in-school dining arrangements will be modified to ensure social distancing. In the event of food service staffing shortages at a site(s) due to illness or other factors, food service employees may be shifted from other sites to adequately staff each location. The District is also working with a temporary staffing company to assist in meeting staffing needs. In extreme situations, other school or District staff could be mobilized to assist in non-food prep capacities.

In the event of COVID-related school or district closures, meals will be available to students on any school day, including a non-school day. Meals would not be provided on teacher workdays, weekends, or

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13. District response on public input in development of its