



Office of the Superintendent

February 4, 2021

Dear SCPS Families and Staff,

As we transition into a new semester and our middle and high school students return to face-to-face instruction, I want to remind you of some important health mitigation strategies in place to keep our students and staff safe during COVID-19 pandemic.

As per the SCPS policy and the [Governors Executive Order \(EO\) 63 on mask wearing](#), children ages five and older must wear masks when they are in an “indoor place shared by groups of people who are in close proximity to each other,” including schools and child care settings. Under this EO children are not required to wear masks when outdoors, for example, at recess.

The EO does not provide relief to the mask wearing mandate even when 6 feet of physical distancing is maintained; therefore, masks must be worn by students even when proper distancing is in place during the day. Layering mitigation strategies (such as the combination of face masks, proper distance, and hand hygiene) allows us to mitigate against the risks of transmitting COVID-19 better than any of those strategies alone. This combination of strategies provides the safest possible in-person learning experience for students and staff.

Exceptions are made for students with medical conditions or disabilities, for whom wearing a mask would pose a threat to their health or safety. Exceptions are also made for those communicating with the hearing impaired. Additionally, the EO provides that students may remove masks when eating, drinking, or exercising with proper social distancing maintained.

[The CDC has provided guidance on the appropriate masks to wear, and how to wear them. Studies have shown that "gaiters," "bandanas," and "vented" masks do not protect those around you](#) from COVID-19 droplets. Gaiters and bandanas, when worn in a single layer, have been found to be as ineffective as not wearing masks at all. The vented mask protects the wearer from others, but allows the wearer’s droplets to be spread to others on exhalation.

Another critical practice is to stay home if you are not feeling well or anyone in your household is waiting for the results of a COVID-19 test.

As a reminder, SCPS mitigation strategies include:

- [Families screening their students for any symptoms of illness prior to sending their student to school.](#)
- Students and Staff with symptoms need to stay home when sick.
- All Staff and Students must wear proper masks except when eating or exercising (with proper social distancing maintained).
- Frequent hand hygiene using soap and water or 60% or greater ethyl or isopropyl alcohol based hand sanitizer.
- Frequent wiping down of frequently touched surfaces.
- If anyone in the household is being tested for COVID-19 stay home until results have been received.

Thank you for your assistance in keeping our community safe by adhering to these mitigation strategies.

Sincerely,



Scott R. Kizner, Ph.D.
Superintendent