



# Sunflower County Consolidated School District

Dr. Miskia Davis, Superintendent

School Health Services

## *Return to School Guidance 2021-2022*

SCCSD adopted the following Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) recommendations and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) strategies to provide students and staff a safe environment for optimal learning opportunities.

### **VACCINATIONS**

SCCSD supports all eligible students, faculty, and staff **12 years and older** receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

SCCSD will offer convenient on-campus COVID-19 vaccinations through MSDH and trusted community health providers. SCCSD will provide the vaccines with parental consent and regardless of socioeconomic status.

Advantages to fully vaccinated students, teachers, & staff include:

- Decreased COVID-19 transmission risk and illness severity if infected
- No mask-wearing while indoors
- No required quarantine or testing is required if exposed to COVID-19 unless the individual develops symptoms
- Return to extracurricular activities (i.e., sports) without frequent COVID-19 testing

### **MASK USE**

Consistent with CDC and MSDH public health guidance, SCCSD will practice universal indoor masking and in crowded outdoor settings for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 school settings when not eating or drinking, ***regardless of vaccination status.***

### **SOCIAL DISTANCING**

SCCSD will require at least three (3) feet of physical distancing between students in the classroom settings, combined with universal indoor mask-wearing to lower the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

SCCSD will require at least six (6) feet of physical distancing and universal indoor mask-wearing in all other indoor circumstances.

### **CONTACT TRACING & QUARANTINING**

SCCSD will continue vigilant contact tracing to identify all individuals who are in ***\*close contact*** with COVID-19 within the school setting or extracurricular activities through the use of class schedules and attendance reports.

**\*Close Contact-** Exposure to a COVID-19 infected individual for 15 minutes or more at <3 feet (classroom) or <6 feet in other indoor settings combined with inconsistent mask-wearing

- Students and staff who are not fully vaccinated and come in close contact with an infected person will quarantine at home for 7 days. The student or staff member may return to class or work on day 8 following the quarantining period if they have a negative



# Sunflower County Consolidated School District

Dr. Miskia Davis, Superintendent

## School Health Services

### *Return to School Guidance 2021-2022*

COVID-19 test (molecular or antigen) collected on day 5, 6, or 7 of the quarantine period AND remain symptom-free.

- Fully vaccinated students and staff in close contact with an infected person **DO NOT** have to quarantine or get tested unless they develop symptoms, but should test within 3-5 days of exposure for breakthrough infection.
- Students or staff who tested positive for COVID-19 within the past three (3) months **DO NOT** have to quarantine or get tested unless they develop symptoms.

#### **POSITIVE COVID-19 CASES & ISOLATION**

- Students or staff who **test positive** for COVID-19 will be excluded from the school setting and isolate for a full 10 days **regardless of vaccination status**
- Students and staff may return to school at the end of their full 10-day isolation (on Day 11) unless they develop persistent fever or new symptoms. If the student or staff experiences persistent fever or new symptoms, they will require a medical evaluation and release from their healthcare provider.

#### **QUARANTINE & ISOLATION EMPLOYEE LEAVE**

The legal requirement for COVID-19 leave pay ended March 31, 2021. As a result, any SCCSD staff requiring days off work for quarantining or isolating due to COVID-19 will have to use accrued sick or personal leave.

#### **COVID-19 TESTING/SCREENINGS**

SCCSD will partner with MSDH and offer voluntary screening testing of **asymptomatic, unvaccinated** students and staff as follows:

- **Parental consent is required for student testing and screenings**
- Unvaccinated students participating in school-sponsored extracurricular activities of any type, including sports, may have weekly screenings.
- Asymptomatic, unvaccinated teachers and employees may have weekly screenings.
- **The test is a rapid antigen test with results in 15 minutes. It is non-invasive and requires inserting a swab a short way into the front part of the nose (NO DEEP INSERTION IS NECESSARY).**

#### **OTHER SAFETY MEASURES:**

- All students, teachers, and staff with infectious illness symptoms should stay home from school AND be evaluated by their healthcare provider regardless of vaccination status.
- SCCSD schools will continue practicing and promoting good hand hygiene with frequent handwashing and the use of 70% alcohol-based hand sanitizers.
- Because of the current rise in the Delta variant COVID-19 infections, SCCSD will continue to use barriers in the front offices, classrooms, and cafeterias, and limit visitors to lower the risk of transmission.