

Seashore Middle Academy COVID PLAN 2021-2022

Seashore Charter Schools' COVID-19 Prevention, Mitigation & Response Procedures for In-person Instruction for Seashore Middle Academy (SMA)

This guidance document is being provided based on the public health situation as we understand it today and takes effect immediately to help support Seashore Charter Schools (SCS) in planning for the 2021-2022 school year. Changes to the public health situation may necessitate changes to this guidance.

Dear SMA Families,

As we return to school at Seashore Charter Schools, we recognize that the pandemic continues to affect the normalcy of a typical school year, but we remain committed to supporting your student's learning, as well as his or her safety. There is not currently an option for remote learning approved by the Texas Education Agency. On campus attendance is mandatory if enrolled at Seashore Charter Schools. (TEA).

Our COVID plan from last year remains in place with some adjustments to processes and procedures to campus routines. This document outlines the protocols our campus will have in place to operate school safely while focusing on student's academic, social, and emotional health for the 2021-2022 school year.

We hope that this information gives you confidence in our systems and actions to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 on our campus under current state mandates. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Christopher Daniels Director, at christopher.daniels@seashorecharterschools.com.

While this will be a challenging year, we believe it can also be a great one, and we look forward to supporting your student in his or her learning journey.

Please note: as per the GA-38 Mandate by Governor Greg Abbott, Seashore Charter Schools will be following the mandate until further notice. However, I strongly encourage teachers, staff, and students to wear masks to help promote safety for all. We also encourage you to practice good handwashing techniques and social distancing. Our ultimate goal is to provide a great education while keeping everyone safe.

Sincerely,

Christopher L. Daniels Ed.D

Prevention

On-Campus Instructional Protocols 2021-2022

General Health & Safety Protocols

- Students will receive instruction on good hand washing techniques during the first week of school.
- Students will be asked to wash their hands as they enter the classroom each morning.
- Visual aids will be placed at the sink areas to remind students of proper handwashing procedures.
- Touchless EPA-approved hand sanitizer stations are available for each classroom.
- A face covering is optional but not required per Governor's orders.
- Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school on campus if the child has COVID-19 symptoms or a positive COVID-19 test.
- Janitorial procedures will be completed daily to include static disinfection as needed.
- Teachers have bottles of Peroxide Multi-Surface Cleaner and Disinfectant, and will make ensure that flat surfaces, tables, desks, keyboards, computer screens, and other frequently touched areas are wiped down.
- Steriphene II will be sprayed between classes as a deodorant and disinfectant.
- Effervescence Purtabs are put in the Static Sprayer to disinfect rooms. This is also known as a "fogger." It will be used after each lunch and after athletic events in classes.
- Air purifiers were recently donated to the school. They will be put in rooms all rooms, accordingly.

Daily Health Screenings for Students and Staff

COVID-19 Symptoms

In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, the following question will be considered:

Has the student recently begun experiencing any of the following in a way that is not normal for them?

- A measured temperature greater than 100°F
- Sore throat
- New or unexplained cough, congestion, or runny nose
- New or unexplained difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- New or unexplained fatigue

- New or unexplained loss of taste or smell
- New or unexplained headache
- New or unexplained nausea or vomiting
- New or unexplained muscle aches

It is critical that if staff or students exhibit the above symptoms that they stay home.

Students

- Parents are expected to screen their child for COVID-19 symptoms mentioned above each day prior to sending their student to school.
- Teachers will monitor students for symptoms during the day.
- If a student displays any of the above symptoms, the parent will be notified. The student will need to be picked up as soon as possible but *no later than one hour from notification*.

Faculty & Staff

- Staff members must self-screen for the symptoms mentioned above before entering the campus buildings each day.
- Staff will report to the school if they have symptoms or a lab-confirmed case.
- They will remain off campus until they meet the following re-entry guidelines noted below.

Response

Return to Campus Policy for Individuals Confirmed or Suspected with COVID-19
COVID-19 Symptoms/Diagnosis/Exposure Response Protocols

Confirmed Diagnosis Definition

A student or employee has a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 from a certified testing location or by a treating physician.

Student/Employee Confirmed Diagnosis

If an individual with a lab-confirmed case has been at school, the following steps will occur:

- Report of a student/employee having a lab-confirmed diagnosis should be immediately made to the school office.
- Results from home tests such as Rapid, will not be sufficient proof for positive or negative test. An individual must have a lab-confirmed test.
- The school must then notify our local health department in accordance with the federal, state, and local laws including the confidential requirements of the ADA and FERPA laws. (*The Nueces County Health Department number for reporting is 361-826-7200.*)
- All compromised areas will be disinfected.
- Return to school or work will require the 3-step “Re-entry Guidelines.”

3-step Re-entry guidelines

In the case of staff or student who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when ALL three of the following criteria have been met:

- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared
- At least one day (24 hours) has passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications)
- Improvement in symptoms (i.e. cough, shortness of breath)

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

** 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, the 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.

*** In the event of a pending lab COVID-19 test, that individual will not be allowed on campus until there is a negative result.

Close Contact

- Exposure notifications will be made by the end of the school day via email to families of students or employees identified to have been potentially exposed within the classroom. Per TEA guidance under Executive Order GA-38, parents of students who are determined to be in close contact with an individual with COVID-19 may opt to keep their student at home during the 10 days recommended stay-at-home period.
- Alternately, students can end the stay-at-home period if they receive a negative result from a PCR acute infection test after the close contact exposure ends.

Close Contact Guidance for the Fully Vaccinated

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), a vaccinated person with exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 is not required to quarantine if they meet all the following criteria:

- Are fully vaccinated (ex. More than 2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or more than 2 weeks following receipt of the dose in a single-dose vaccine)

- **Have remained asymptomatic since the date of exposure**

Persons who do not meet both criteria should continue to follow current quarantine guidance after exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

Remote Conferencing

TEA has recently released guidance regarding remotely supporting students who are unable to attend school because of a temporary medical condition. More information will be released as we receive further details.

MITIGATION

Health and Safety/Social Distancing Protocols

Before Arrival

Parents need to complete a health screening on their child(ren) before arriving to school each morning by monitoring for any symptoms listed above. If your child(ren) exhibit any of these symptoms listed on page two, please keep them home and continue to monitor.

Arrival

The cafeteria will host and hold students that arrive earlier than 7:30 AM.

A staff member will ensure students maintain social distancing.

- **Students will remain in the cafeteria until 1st period begins. A staff member will escort the students into the school and guide them to their first-period class.**
- **Parent drop-off (FRONT ONLY) students will remain in the vehicle until ready to go inside the school.**
- **Designated drop-off areas will be marked.**
- **Students will have paths marked on the floor to follow entry into the school. The hallways are divided so students can walk down the right side. This will allow traffic coming the opposite way to walk down the right side of the hallway.**
- **Student (no parent escort) - Once the student is accepted to enter the school, they will follow the instructions of the staff member receiving them.**
- **Hand sanitization will occur when students enter the building.**

At arrival, if a student presents any of the listed COVID-19 symptoms, the student will be denied entry/access to campus for 24 hours.

Entering the school

Students will immediately proceed to 1st-period class, and sanitize again before entering each classroom following the designated routes (touchless hand sanitizers are located outside each classroom door). Routes will be marked on the floor for each student to strictly follow. The routes will be in the form of a typical road. There will be a two-way street with a turning lane. Students need to maintain an appropriate social distance.

Classroom Procedures

Before the end of the class period, teachers and students will wipe down all seating areas, classroom phones, doorknobs, computers/tablets, shared materials/supplies, and any other surface that has been compromised during the class period with EPA approved disinfectant.

- Students are encouraged to bring full water bottles, *labeled with their names*, from home to stay hydrated. SMA now has water refill stations where students may refill their water bottles to stay hydrated.
- Students will be required to carry their personal belongings in their backpacks. Sharing of supplies is discouraged.
- Classrooms that are equipped with sinks will execute hand washing before leaving the classroom.
- Students will sanitize hands before class begins and at the end of the classroom period.
- Teachers will try, to the best of their ability, to seat students in regards to social distancing. Group tables will no longer face each other to eliminate the spread of germs across the table. All tables and desks will face one direction toward the teacher.

****If at any time a student has to leave the classroom (restroom, office, etc.) they must sanitize hands before leaving and immediately upon their return.**

*****If a student reports feeling ill with COVID-19 symptoms, the student will be sent to the office with their belongings. The teacher will contact the office to let them know a student is en route and once the office has received the student, the teacher will be notified. The school office will be the isolation area until the situation is resolved.**

Parents need to make arrangements to have a sick child promptly picked up from the SMA campus.

Classroom to Classroom Transition

- At the end of the class period, teachers will stand in the hallway and ensure students remain within the recommended distance, when feasible while transitioning to class.

- Teachers will allow one student out of the classroom at a time maintaining the recommended distance, when feasible.
- Students will be responsible to move their personal belongings (backpacks, water bottles, etc.) during the transition time. Hallway cubbies are not to be used as a storage spot for items throughout the school day.

Lunch

Lunch in Designated Spaces: Gym, Cafeteria, and picnic tables (weather permitting). Utilizing the three areas during lunch will provide space to appropriately social distance. For students who eat in the gym, all of the bleachers will be utilized. Students will clean their hands upon arriving and departing.

During this COVID-19 pandemic, students will be able to utilize the microwaves in the cafeteria and gym. Lunch drop-offs from restaurants and food establishments are prohibited during this pandemic time. Students will need to bring a ready-to-eat lunch every day. We encourage students to bring a sack lunch (cold lunch) to avoid long lines of using the microwave.

The following will occur in each of the designated areas for lunch:

- Hand washing/hand sanitization before and after lunch.
- Disinfect cleaning surfaces at the end of the period.
- Use the common protocols to transition back to the main building.
- Sharing of food or drink will not be allowed.

Art, Music, Electives

- Modifications will be made to activities (when feasible) to increase social distancing.
- Staff will continually monitor student distancing for student safety, during all activities.
- All supplies/equipment used during the class period will be sanitized thoroughly after each class period.
- Students will, social distance, when feasible, during all activities.
- Teachers will provide parents with more Information on specific mitigation strategies for electives.

Dismissal

Preparing for dismissal

- Teachers will have students gather materials and disinfect their learning spaces before leaving.
- Students will sanitize/wash their hands before leaving.

- **Students will remain in the classroom and will be dismissed by their last name. School personnel will identify the "last name" displayed in the vehicle's dashboard. This will notify the school that a student is being picked up and called to the front for dismissal. If multiple students are being picked up by one vehicle, the office needs to be notified OR all the last names need to be displayed in the vehicle's dashboard.**
- **Siblings with different last names will be grouped with the older sibling. SMA will provide each family two last name cards.**

Staggered Dismissal

Several teachers and staff will be working assigned duty stations to ensure a safe, orderly departure.

3:30 pm: Students who are Walkers, Bike Riders, Off-campus pick up will be dismissed first.

3:35 pm: There will be a drive-thru pick-up at the front of the school and the back of the school.

Front-of-school—Pickup in the front of the school will be for those students that are located in the main building. Students will remain in their classrooms, and they will receive notification from the intercom to leave the classroom and enter their vehicle. Siblings will be notified simultaneously.

Back of school departures will be for students that have a class that is not in the main building. There are designated areas for each student to stand to meet the social distancing protocol.

Physical Education

PE will continue important activities with modifications to activities (when feasible) to increase social distancing by utilizing the gym and sports court (weather permitting).

- **Staff will continually monitor student distancing for student safety, during all activities.**
- **All equipment will be used sparingly and sanitized thoroughly at the end of each period.**
- **Staff will ensure safe distancing.**

Special Programs

Students currently participating in special program services, e.g., special education, 504, Bilingual/ESL, etc., will continue to receive services. Student's ARO, LPAC, or 504 meetings may be held using virtual meeting platforms, or in person.

Large Group Gatherings

Opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities will continue at the discretion and consistency of maintaining safe, healthy practices that benefit students, teachers, and staff. Upon our local conditions, the school will consider eliminating assemblies and other activities that bring large groupings of students and/or teachers and staff together.

Visitors

Parents and other visitors must follow the virus prevention and mitigation requirements of the school as well as adhere to the same daily health screening given to students and staff. Visits to the school must be deemed essential to the school operations.

Visitors will not be permitted to enter the school after school has started unless prior arrangements have been made. At that time, they may enter according to the front office protocols. Visitors who do not pass or are not willing to complete the screening tool may be temporarily prohibited from being on the campus. Visitors may be asked to schedule an appointment for a campus visit.

Contractual Personnel must follow the same guidelines as the staff personnel stated in the section titled Daily Health Screenings.