

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 for the spring semester, 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 the beginning of this 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.

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.

- 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 will be utilized in every room.

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 test case.
- They will remain off campus until they meet the following re-entry guidelines noted below.
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Response (Updated 1-11-2022)

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

Student/Employee Confirmed Diagnosis

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

- Report of a student/employee having a test-confirmed diagnosis should be immediately made to the school office.
- Upon receipt of information that student or staff at school is test-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school will submit a report to the Texas Department of State Health Services each Monday for the following prior seven days.
- All compromised areas will be disinfected.
- Return to school or work will require the 3-step “Re-entry Guidelines.”

Student Re-entry guidelines

Test-Confirmed Positive Diagnosis

In the case of a student who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when ALL 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)
- Asymptomatic students who receive a positive test result must stay home until at least 10 days after the day they were tested.

These re-entry guidelines are based on 25 Texas Administrative Code §97.7 as provided in the [Department of State Health Service \(DSHS\) Ruling](#).

Close Contact (Updated 1-11-2022)

While the CDC has updated their quarantine guidelines, they still recommend quarantining for the full 10 days after an individual's last close contact with someone with COVID-19 when possible. When this is not feasible, these are the available options per CDC and TEA guidance:

Household-based close contact

- Students must stay home for at least the first 5 days after close contact exposure with an individual who lives in the same household. The date of exposure is considered day 0. ○ If the student does not develop any symptoms within that 5-day stay-at-home period, he or she may return to school on the 6th day or remain in quarantine for the full 10-day period.

Non-household close contact ○ Parents of students who are determined to be in close contact of an individual with COVID-19 within the general public or school classroom may opt to keep their student at home during the 10 day recommended stay-at-home period.

- Alternately, parents may opt to send their children to school and monitor for symptoms.
- If exposure occurred at school, notifications will be made via email to families of students or staff identified to have been potentially exposed within the classroom.

Close Contact Guidance for the Fully Vaccinated ○ According to the CDC, children between the ages of 5-17 that have completed the primary series of COVID-19 vaccines do not need to quarantine after a close contact exposure. ○ However, they should monitor for symptoms for the following 10 days after exposure to an individual with COVID diagnosis.

Virtual Conferencing (Updated 1-14-2022)

Students who are test-confirmed to have COVID-19 or have been in close contact with an individual with COVID-19 will be offered the opportunity of virtual conferencing during their quarantine. Virtual conferencing will begin the morning after we have been informed of the positive COVID-19 test result or close contact with an individual.

Virtual conferencing means remote instruction in which a student at an off-campus location is able to virtually participate in classes provided by a teacher on the student's campus.

Students are eligible for Virtual Conferencing if they test positive for a Covid Test, or were in close contact with an individual who tested positive.

These two requirements must be met:

1. The student is unable to attend school because of a temporary medical condition.
2. The total amount of remote conferencing instruction does not exceed more than 20 instructional days over the entirety of the school year. If a student exceeds the 20 days allotted, each additional day for the student will be counted as an excused absence (A).

Please notify the front office as soon as possible.

Staff Re-entry Guidelines

Test-Confirmed Positive Diagnosis

Per TEA: Similar to students, school systems must exclude staff from attending school in person who are actively sick with COVID-19 or have received a positive test result for COVID. Based on recent updates from the CDC, staff may return when the following criteria have been met:

- If symptomatic, at least 5 days have passed since symptom onset, fever free without the use of fever suppressing medications, and other symptoms have improved.
- For those with no symptoms, at least 5 days after the day they tested positive.

Close Contact

While the CDC has updated their quarantine guidelines, they still recommend quarantining for the full stay-at-home period after an individual's last close contact with someone with COVID-19 when possible. When this is not feasible, these are the available options per CDC and TEA guidance:

Household-based close contact

- Staff must stay home for at least the first 5 days after close contact exposure with an individual who lives in the same household. The date of exposure is considered day 0. ○ If the staff member does not develop any symptoms within that 5 day stay-at-home period, he or she may return to school on the 6th day.
- If a staff member does develop symptoms, they must test at symptom onset with results reported to the office

Non-household close contact

- Staff may elect to stay at home for the first 5 days after close contact exposure with a non-household member. The date of exposure is considered day 0.
- Alternately, staff may elect to return to the classroom, monitor for symptoms, and test on the 5th day with results reported to the office.
- If a staff member does develop symptoms, they must test at symptom onset with results reported to the office.

Close Contact Guidance for the Fully Vaccinated ○ According to the CDC, individuals who meet one of the following criteria do not need to quarantine after a close contact exposure:

- Ages 18 and older and have received all recommended vaccine dose, including boosters and additional primary shots for some immunocompromised people.
- Were confirmed COVID-19 positive within the last 90 days and have fully recovered.

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.

- 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.
- 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.

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 before entering each classroom following the designated routes (touchless hand sanitizers are located outside each classroom door).

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 has water refill stations where students may refill their water bottles.
- 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.

****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 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

Students will eat lunch in the cafeteria and picnic tables (weather permitting). 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. Lunch drop-offs from restaurants and food establishments are prohibited during the 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

- 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.

Dismissal

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

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.

Physical Education

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

- All equipment will be used sparingly and sanitized thoroughly at the end of each period.

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.