

August 5, 2021

Greetings SLCS Families and Staff Members:

We hope this communication finds you well and enjoying a safe and fun-filled summer. Last spring we shared the District's intentions with respect to COVID-19 restrictions for the 2021-22 school year, which remains a focus on individual safety while looking forward to resuming as much normalcy as possible. With the start of school just over a month away, we want to update the school community with respect to our current plan for the 2021-22 school year. While our goal is to keep things as consistent as possible, we recognize this is a fluid situation and we will need to adjust the plan based on future mandates, additional guidance, and/or changing conditions.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have issued guidance for public schools for the upcoming school year. Both public health agencies have encouraged individual school districts to make decisions regarding COVID-19 protocols based upon local data and information specific to the school district. We have been in communication with the Oakland County Health Division (OCHD) and are awaiting guidance for public schools for the 2021-22 school year.

Last year, we looked closely at case rates within our District's boundaries and circumstances within specific schools when making decisions. Case rates within our boundaries have been low throughout the summer. In addition, vaccination rates of those adults eligible to receive the vaccine within Oakland County are nearing 70 percent. Therefore, the District's plan for the upcoming 2021-22 school year includes the following:

Learning Pathways	<p>SLCS will offer two learning pathways (100% Virtual and 100% In-person). Students participating in the In-Person Pathway will attend five days of face-to-face learning beginning with the first day of school Tuesday, September 7th. Students participating in the Virtual Learning Pathway will also begin classes on Tuesday, September 7th virtually.</p> <p>Requests for pathway changes at the middle and high school level may be submitted directly to the applicable school.</p> <p>Requests for elementary level pathway changes must be made using this form: SLCS Elementary Learning Pathway Change Request 21-22</p> <p>All requests must be submitted by August 15th.</p> <p>To see which pathway is currently selected for your student(s), please login to Skyward Family Access and click on the Student Info tab along the left side of the screen. The pathway will be labeled Method of Instruction.</p> <p>After August 15th, changes from one pathway to the other can only be requested from January 3-7, 2022. Changes would be effective as of January 31, 2022.</p>
Facial Coverings	<p>In accordance with CDC and MDHHS guidance, masks are recommended indoors for students and staff. Masks are not required in SLCS facilities. In all circumstances individuals may choose to wear a mask in SLCS facilities. Masks will be available for those who request one.</p>

School Bus Transportation	Federal regulations require masks to be worn on public transportation, which includes school buses. Hand sanitizer will be available on buses and windows can be cracked when weather permits to increase ventilation.
Hygiene & Cough Etiquette	Frequent hand-washing and proper cough etiquette will be stressed.
Cleaning and Disinfecting	Daily cleaning will be maintained in each of our facilities using products identified by the CDC to be effective against the COVID-19 virus. In addition, hand sanitizer and cleaning supplies will be available in classrooms and in common areas throughout our buildings.
Ventilation	Last year modifications were made to our HVAC filtration systems to increase the amount of time each day the systems run, to pull greater amounts of fresh air from outside the buildings, and to filter out smaller particles than normal. We are using MERV-13 rated filters as previously recommended by the CDC. These adjustments will continue this school year.
Daily Health Screening	Students and visitors are strongly encouraged to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to reporting to the school. Refer to the daily screener for more details: 2021-22 Student Screening Guidelines .
Staying Home	If students are feeling ill, they should stay home and use the daily screener to determine their next steps. Refer to the daily screener for more details: 2021-22 Student Screening Guidelines . Students who exhibit symptoms and fail the screener while at school will be sent home.
Testing Positive	If students test positive for COVID-19, they are required to isolate for 10 days. Refer to the daily screener for more details: 2021-22 Student Screening Guidelines .
Communication Regarding COVID Positive Cases	When a case of COVID-19 is identified within a classroom or on a bus, a general information letter will be sent home to families from that class, school, or bus as is appropriate. Also, schools are required by law to report communicable diseases to their local health department within 24 hours of obtaining the information. Positive cases of COVID-19 and related close contacts will be reported to the Oakland County Health Division.
Contact Tracing and Quarantine	The District will work in collaboration with the Oakland County Health Division. Names of individuals identified as probable or positive COVID-19 cases and close contacts will be shared with the OCHD as required. We are still awaiting detailed guidance from the OCHD regarding contact tracing and quarantine protocols. We will review the guidance and share the District's plan once that information is available.
Elementary (JK-5) Specific Items	Dismissal will resume at the regularly scheduled time. Drop-off and pick-up procedures will be determined and communicated at the school level. Students will resume eating meals in each building's cafeteria following the traditional lunch schedule. Specials and recess will take place as they did pre-COVID-19.
Secondary (6-12) Specific Items	Middle and high schools will follow a traditional six period day. The daily schedule will include three lunch periods with additional tables to allow students to spread out.

Athletics and Extracurricular Activities	The MDHHS and the Michigan High School Athletic Association have rescinded the testing screening, masking requirements, and capacity limits pertaining to athletics. These measures will not be required unless mandated by the MDHHS or other agency with such authority.
Physical Distancing	Physical distancing will be limited in most classroom/school settings.
Screening Testing	The District does not intend to participate in voluntary COVID-19 testing programs to screen students or staff members.
Vaccinations	There is currently no mandate for students or staff members to be vaccinated against COVID-19 to return to school.
Parent/Visitors	Parents/visitors will be permitted to enter school buildings when necessary. Specific procedures will be determined and communicated at the school level. Parents/visitors will be expected to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to entering the building. Refer to the visitor screener for more details: 2021-22 SLCS Visitor Screening Guidelines .
Food Service	All schools will provide breakfast and lunch through the cafeteria serving line. Items will be set up as Grab & Go.

SLCS will follow all required mandates as adopted by federal, state, and local health agencies. We will re-evaluate the protocols stated above should the local conditions change or upon receipt of additional recommended guidance and take necessary and appropriate actions. COVID-19 related questions should be emailed to covid-19q@slcs.us. The District will use frequently asked questions to develop a District FAQ document.

Have a wonderful rest of the summer, and we look forward to seeing our students in the fall.

Sincerely,

Steven P. Archibald
Superintendent