

**COVID-19 Return to School**  
**SCSD Health Office Plan (updated 8.16.20)**

The purpose of this policy is to outline the Susquehanna Community School District's Health Office return to school guidelines and Health Office procedures in relation to the COVID-19 Pandemic. These guidelines are in addition to the Mandated School Health Program already established by the district and required by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Areas of this policy have been carefully considered to address and promote the safety, health, and welfare of the SCSD school community in accordance with CDC, DOH, and DOE recommendations.

All Health Office related care will utilize appropriate PPE, good hand hygiene, and universal precautions based on the guidance provided by the CDC.

All procedures are subject to change as necessary and according to public health emergency orders as directed by the Pennsylvania Governor's office. Depending on the public health conditions, there could be additional actions, orders, or guidance that is provided by PDE or DOH as a county is designated as having a transmission rate that is LOW, MODERATE, or SUBSTANTIAL.

- 1) Monitoring students and staff
  - a) Daily morning School Symptom Screening Tool at home for students/staff before departing for school
    - i) Any student or staff with any one (1) symptom from Group A, two (2) or more symptoms from Group B, or are taking any fever reducing medications, should remain at home and notify the school nurse at 570-853-4921, ext 1345
    - ii) Any student or staff is urged to contact their primary care provider or emergency services as needed
    - iii) The PA DOH Hotline is available at 1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-624-3258) for questions or recommendations related to COVID-19
  - b) Observation by transportation providers upon pickup & observation by homeroom teachers upon arrival to class
    - i) Any student that appears to have any signs/symptoms/reports of possible illness upon arrival to school will be reported to the Main Office or the Health Office via phone contact or in person
    - ii) The child should be offered a mask, if one is not already being worn, and the child should be directed to the Health Office
    - iii) Nurse or aide on duty will attempt to meet the child in the hallway to ensure safe arrival

- c) Nursing observation, assessment, and monitoring of any student with a medical complaint that is chronic, acute, or in follow-up of a recent illness
- 2) Illness guidelines relating to COVID-19
  - a) Known exposure to a COVID-19 positive individual
    - (1) Follow CDC guidelines for school exclusion and isolation
    - (2) Parent/guardian must notify the school of this exposure (570-853-4921)
  - b) Symptoms that would require absence or immediate parent pick-up from school for possible medical evaluation due to the **high risk** of association with COVID-19 (may include one or more symptom from Group A or two or more symptoms from Group B, along with a determination by the school nurse on duty)

<b>Group A</b> <b>1 or more symptoms</b>	<b>Group B</b> <b>2 or more symptoms</b>
Cough Shortness of breath Difficulty breathing New olfactory disorder New taste disorder	Fever (measured or subjective) Chills Rigors Myalgia Headache Sore throat Nausea or vomiting Diarrhea Fatigue Congestion or runny nose

- c) Each district building will have a “Well Child Health Office” and an “Isolation Area” designated to limit any possible cross contamination of potentially infectious agents, appropriate cleaning of each location will be strictly maintained
- d) Immediate pick-up constitutes a student being retrieved from school within a reasonable amount of time (less than one hour)
  - i) Ideally, multiple emergency contacts should be provided to the school in the event that a parent cannot be reached in a timely manner
  - ii) Working contact numbers are essential to the safety of our students, please update any contact information as there are any changes
- e) Upon pick-up, parent/guardian will be provided information in regard to returning to school and educated to possible emergency symptoms that may include:
  - i) Trouble breathing
  - ii) Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
  - iii) New confusion or changes in mental status

- iv) Inability to wake or stay awake
  - v) Bluish lips or face
- 3) Return to school after an illness with high risk symptoms for COVID-19
- a) Refer to the CDC website for recommendations, [use the DOH “Symptomatic K-12 Student/Staff Process Flow”](#), or call the DOH Hotline, 1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3258)
  - b) If symptoms suspicious of COVID-19 were present, one or all of the following should occur while following parameters set in the DOH “Symptomatic K-12 Student/Staff Process Flow” sheet
    - i) Contact the School Nurse for further recommendations
    - ii) Contact the DOH Hotline (1-877-724-3258) for guidance
    - iii) Contact your primary care provider for directions
  - c) A medical excuse will be required to allow a student back to school after having experienced high-risk symptoms or illness suspicious of or diagnosed as COVID-19
- 4) When to visit the health office while on SCSD campus during the COVID-19 pandemic
- a) All life-threatening emergencies should be handled on a case-by-case basis for the health and safety of the student, classmates, and staff
    - i) Never delay if 911 is needed
    - ii) If 911 is needed, ensure the Main Office and nurse on duty are notified
  - b) Students who are identified with a potential High-Risk Symptom of COVID-19 (as listed in section 2b. of this document)
    - i) Mask applied to the student
    - ii) Contact the nurse via phone (do not use student identification over walkie-talkies)
    - iii) Send the student to the nurse (no student escorts)
    - iv) The nurse or other health office staff will make every effort to meet the child in the hallway
  - c) Minimize student exposure
    - i) To prevent potential exposure to infectious diseases, promote safe distancing, and decrease office congestion, do NOT immediately send students to the Health Office with the following common situations:
      - (1) Paper cuts, small abrasions, picked scabs - have the student wash the area and their hands and apply a band-aid if needed
      - (2) Localized bug bite - if no allergy history and no sign of spreading over large areas of the skin, apply a cool/moistened paper towel to the area to prevent scratching

- (3) Minor injury that did not recently occur (did not occur within the past few minutes at school) - redirect the child and determine if their injury requires nursing interventions after a brief 5-10 minute period of time
- (4) Anxiety/Stress/Psychosocial Issues - if not affecting breathing or medical health, try a snack, redirection, or please refer to counseling or other applicable services for collaboration
- d) Utilize the “Well Child Health Office” as available if no improvement in those symptoms listed in section 5c
- e) Utilize the “Well Child Health Office” for chronic health conditions, medication administration, and screenings