



Springfield School District Reopening Plan for Schools Starting March 15, 2021



Face-to-Face

In Person Learning
Phased in by Grade Level
Layered Safety Mitigations

OR

Synchronous Online

Remotely Access the Classroom via
Zoom and Through Canvas
With Live Instruction

Reopening Plans for Schools
Starting March 15, 2021

Reopen

Re Engage

Recover



SSD Plan for Reopening Schools

Dear School Community,

The Springfield School District will begin bringing students back for in-person learning on March 15th. We will welcome elementary students in grades K through 5 on March 15th, and our secondary students in grades 6 through 12 on March 18th. Special Education students who are currently scheduled for four or five days a week will continue with their current model of in-person or virtual learning.

We will move forward, for the foreseeable future, utilizing our virtual Wednesday schedule as a way to maintain a buffer for sanitizing and disinfection, as well as a way for our teachers to connect with all students (and for them to connect with one another), regardless of whether they are in person or virtual. Also, as we anticipate that a percentage of students will remain virtual, our teachers will need time to accommodate the needs of all learners as they navigate the extraordinarily complex task of teaching the two groups of students simultaneously.

For students in grades K - 12, there will no longer be an option for students to attend on the A/B hybrid schedule. Students will be asked to attend either 4 days in-person or fully virtual on Zoom with their classroom teacher(s). The Return to School Phase-In Survey that you received on February 23, 2021 will give us the very best understanding of the numbers of students who will be attending school in person and allow us to plan accordingly. Please note that we need you to complete the survey by **8:00 pm on Sunday, February 28th**, in order for us to have the most accurate numbers for our planning.

This change in instructional delivery is due to the following: new revisions to the Chester County Health Department Guidance; a better understanding of the virus; declining data trends in virus transmission within our county and attendance boundaries; the efficacy of our existing health precautions, as well as the successful implementation of assurance testing within the district; and, perhaps most importantly, the accelerating academic, social, and emotional needs of our students who desperately need to be back in school.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

- K to 5 students attend school M, T, TH, F. *Wednesdays remain virtual/asynchronous.*
- *Students will eat lunch on Campus with 6 feet of distancing.*
 - Sabold/Scenic: 9:15 – 3:30
 - SLC: Grade 1: 8:45 – 3:15 &
Kindergarten: AM Session: 9:00 – 11:30 PM session: 1:00 – 3:30
- Distancing in Classroom(s) would be no less than 3 feet.
- Masks would be required at all times. No gators.

MIDDLE and HIGH SCHOOLS

- 6 to 12 students attend school M, T, TH, F. *Wednesdays remain virtual/asynchronous.*
- *Students will not eat lunch on campus. Due to current spacing and supervision limitations, we are unable to provide on-campus dining options.*
 - SHS: 7:50 – 12:35 Grab and Go Lunch w/ virtual afternoon
 - ETR: 8:20 – 1:05 Grab and Go Lunch w/ virtual afternoon
- Socially distanced snack breaks will be offered to students during the day.
- Distancing in Classroom(s) would be no less than 3 feet.
- Masks would be required at all times. No gators.

**The alternative to these proposed conditions listed above for more on-campus learning would be that families could elect to keep their children home, on camera / synchronous, for the 4-day a week program. Wednesdays would remain the same as they currently are and would be reviewed at a later date. The 2-day hybrid program would no longer be an option.*



TIMELINE for REOPENING SCHOOLS

Reopening of Schools

February 25, 2021

School Board approves
Revised District Health and
Safety Plan

March 15, 2021

Return to in-person
learning for all
elementary students in
grades K to 5



February 28, 2021

Parents complete
Return to School Phase-
In online survey

March 18, 2021

Return to in-person learning
for all secondary students in
grades 6 to 12

** Any students (special education/ELL) who are currently attending in-person instruction on a 4 or 5 day schedule will continue with their current schedule.*



Rational: CCHD REVISED GUIDANCE

With a wealth of new data from schools around the country which have already opened in-person, there has been a growing call by educators and health officials to review school health and safety practices in the hopes of getting students safely back into classrooms. The success of local schools in mitigating the spread of COVID-19 within their buildings has demonstrated that schools can reopen safely when following federal, state, and local healthcare agency guidelines.

The Chester County Health Department (CCHD), the health authority for Delaware County, released revised guidelines that recognize and support the urgent need to reopen schools as “in-person learning is vital for children in all grade levels.” Additionally, the new set of guidelines are also aligned with the CDC’s position statement that, “access to the vaccination should not be considered a condition for reopening schools for in-person instruction.”

Drawing upon the updated guidance and recommendations from federal, state, and local healthcare agencies, the administration of the Springfield School District drafted a revised Health and Safety Plan and submitted it to the Chester County Health Department for review. Following their review and feedback, the revised Health and Safety Plan was submitted in draft form to the Board of Directors for review earlier this week in anticipation of a vote for its approval on February 25, 2021. Please find a copy of our revised Health and Safety Plan [HERE](#). Remember, this is just guidance.

The revised guidance by the CCHD is aligned with CDC Community Transmission Levels, and continues to define the risk of COVID-19 transmission by the 7 day incidence rate per 100K and 7 day percent positivity. The CCHD defines the levels using the table below:

County Community Transmission Level	7-Day Incidence Rate per 100,000	7-Day Percent Positivity	Physical Distancing*
Low	<10	<5.0%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">6 feet to the greatest extent possible is recommended for students; at no time is less than 3 feet permitted6 feet is required for staff (staff-to-staff and staff-to-student interactions)
Moderate	10 - 49	5.0% - 7.9%	
High	50 - 99	8.0% - 9.9%	
Very High	≥100	≥10%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">6 feet is strongly recommended for students6 feet is required for staff (staff-to-staff and staff-to-student interactions)

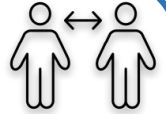
CONTINUED LAYERING OF MITIGATION STRATEGIES



Masks

- ✓ K-12 students & staff are required to wear approved face coverings.
- ✓ Approved face coverings will be worn at all times except when eating or drinking.
- ✓ Approved face coverings will be provided for students who forget them or whose face covering is not approved.

Distancing



- ✓ Classroom furniture will be arranged to achieve 6 feet to the greatest extent possible.
- ✓ Recess will be distanced with approved face coverings required.
- ✓ Elementary students will eat meals in designated areas with six feet of distancing.

Assurance Testing

- ✓ Assurance testing is available for staff who wish to be tested.
- ✓ Staff and students who become symptomatic while at school may be tested on site.



Cleaning and Hygiene

- ✓ Daily cleaning and disinfecting will continue.
- ✓ Hygiene protocols (ex. handwashing, sanitizing) will remain in place.



Screening

- ✓ Students/families and staff must self-screen before entering schools.
- ✓ Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms may not come on campus.
- ✓ Contact tracing will be used to investigate and to prevent further spread.





Social and Emotional Health

As we enter what we believe will be the final phase of the pandemic, the district wants to ensure that we are prepared to support all of our students and families as we increase in-person learning. We, consequently, continue to offer the services of our counselors and school-based teams. Families that feel that they need the support of our trained professionals should either email their child's counselor or reach out to their building principal.

Simultaneously, the district continues to work on universal mental health screening tools and procedures, curating available community-based resources and a communication plan that makes it easy to access them, and how moving forward we will embed pandemic specific social and emotional wellness activities and learning into the opening of school lessons.



CLOSING MESSAGE

Throughout this pandemic, our focus has been on the health and safety of our school community. As noted on every occasion, we have followed the Chester County Health Department's (CCHD) guidance and have worked collaboratively with them on every step of the way. However, we understand that every family must make a personal decision about the return to school based on their unique family circumstances; that is why we are providing a choice in instructional models, and leaving the final decision to you. Be well and stay safe.