**SSCD Start of School Plan & answers to SSCD parent questions.**

***What can we do to keep our students in school and keep our school open?***

**We can be proactive & preventative, not reactive & remorseful, just as we did last year!**

**We were successful! We did it!**

As we navigate this ever-changing situation, we will stand on the success we created last year. We made smart decisions and maintained in-person instruction with very little need for students to quarantine based on exposures. Our school has confidence in our parents’ ability and cooperation in performing the daily health screenings (form on website) and decision making to keep sick children home and honestly communicate sickness, exposures and test results. The almost 50-page plan created by our planning team worked last year and can work again. Some things are out of our control, including the DOH isolation and quarantine processes and the CDC RECOMMENDATIONS. We must stay focused on what is possible as far as best cleaning and safety practices to keep our school open and keep all students here as much as possible.

***Jefferson Co. is at a high level of transmission, how will we keep it from affecting our school?***

**By utilizing the same plan as last year! We were successful! We did it!**

* We will ask parents to perform the Daily Health Screen and keep sick kids home.
* We will health screen and hand sanitize all students upon entering school.
* We will distance our students; it is only 3 feet this year! We are social learners, and we are happy to be closer to classmates.
* We will wear a face covering when we are indoors and on the move.  As of now, no masks outside (and we are outside for learning, lunch, gym, recess and every chance we get)! We have our desks measured at the recommended 3 feet so we can have masks breaks. Masking indoors on the move to start school will give us a chance to get school started!

***How do we know what is best for our students and our school?***

**We gauge our personal feelings, beliefs and opinions, we stay informed, do the best we can at that moment and we remain flexible as the situation changes.**

**Current CDC Guidance (8/12/21):**

* Children should return to full-time in-person instruction
* Universal indoor masking by all students (age 2 and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status
* Schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms to reduce transmission risk

•      Screening testing, ventilation, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick and getting tested, contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation, and cleaning and disinfection are also important layers of prevention to keep schools safe

Close contact, CDC definition: Someone who was within 6 feet of a COVID infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more within a 24-hour period.

***Why are we wearing masks?***

**To avoid the need for quarantining or closing our school for cleaning after close contact.**

* In the **K–12 indoor classroom** setting, the close contact definition **excludes**students who were within3 to 6 feet of an infected student if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) [correctly and consistently](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/effective-masks.html) wore well-fitting [masks](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/cloth-face-cover.html) the entire time.
* This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.

***What if masks are NOT worn properly?***

CDC Guidance –When to Quarantine if Unvaccinated

Unvaccinated people who have come into [close contact](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/appendix.html) with someone with COVID-19 should:

* **If you choose NOT to test**–
  + Stay home for 10 days (The ideal time to quarantine is 14 days)
  + If you have **NO** symptoms, you may leave quarantine on day 11
  + Continue to monitor symptoms through day 14
  + Wear a mask through day 14

***What if a parent does not perform the daily health screening and a child comes to school sick?***

CDC Guidance – Isolation

* Isolate students who come to school with symptoms and send home (see handout “What to do when a student is sick at school”)
* Anyone who is COVID 19 positive must isolate
* COVID 19 positive cases can be around others after:
  + 10 days since symptoms first appeared**and**
  + 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever reducing medication **and**
  + Other symptoms of COVID-19 have improved

**What if these “Best Practices” do not fit my personal beliefs, feelings or opinions?**

**Communicate directly to school leaders. Call 814-938-4224 to reach your teacher or principal, email**[**heather.kunselman@sscdschool.com**](mailto:heather.kunselman@sscdschool.com)**, message on Remind app, come to the school office or make an appointment outside of school hours as needed.**

**You know what is BEST for your child. We will always do our best to love them, keep them safe, academically advance them, emotionally support them, socially encourage them and instill in them all the good that comes from God. If this is not a shared vision, please know that your tuition can be refunded and you and your child/ren will remain in our hearts even if you are not in our building.**

**We ask for your understanding, patience, guidance and help during this unique school year, but more importantly we have asked the same of God.  We will pray and trust His plan.**

**~Ms. K.**