

Revisions from the previous version of this document are in blue font.

Safe Return to In-Person and Continuity of Services Plan

Overview

school and LEA staff, and the extent to which it has adopted policies or practices and a description of any such policies or practices, on each of the CDC's safety recommendations including: universal and correct wearing of masks; modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding); hand washing and respiratory etiquette; cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation; contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the state, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments; diagnostic and screening testing; efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible; appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies or practices; and coordination with state and local health officials.

I. Description of maintaining health and safety

This guide presents instruction model options for students and protocols that have been developed or expanded to prevent the spread of COVID-19. It is based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC). The top priority in all decisions made by our Local Education Agency (LEA), Rock Hill School District, is the health, safety and well-being of our students, employees and school communities. This document is subject to change as conditions evolve in our community and recommendations by the CDC and SCDHEC. If and when the circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic change, the guidance we receive from State and local agencies may also change and cause adjustments to our plans. As of [March 4, 2024](#), CDC and SCDHEC have provided updated guidance regarding COVID-19 to school districts.

Policies or Practices Regarding CDC Recommendations

II. Universal and correct wearing of masks...Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

The coronavirus can be spread between individuals interacting in close proximity — for example, by speaking, coughing, or sneezing — wearing face coverings is recommended by CDC/

SCDHEC's recommendation regarding COVID-19 precautions, including wearing face masks, have not changed. Wearing face coverings and taking other precautions are important disease prevention methods that protect not only the person wearing the mask but also those around them from COVID-19. SCDHEC continues to follow federal CDC guidance, backed by multiple research studies, that masks are an effective and essential tool for protecting the health of all South Carolinians especially when Covid 19 hospital admission level increase to medium or high. CDC recommends that schools continue to use the COVID-19 prevention strategies outlined in the current version of CDC's Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools.

III. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

Social or physical distancing means At least three (3) feet of distance between each student should be maintained to the greatest extent possible. At least six (6) feet of distance between adults, adults and students, and athletes should be maintained to the greatest extent possible. This means people should stay the recommended distance apart from others. It also means people should avoid gathering in groups, crowded places and mass gatherings. This is especially vital, given that asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic individuals are known to spread the virus. The goal of social distancing is to limit physical contact to decrease viral spread among people in community settings, such as school. This is an effective, efficient means of mitigating disease transmission risk. All schools and facilities are taking actions to ensure all campus spaces support health and safety. Students with disabilities and employees who work with them are expected to practice social distancing when possible. Social distancing strategies may be implemented based on feasibility and the unique space and needs of a classroom or other campus location. Not all strategies will be feasible for all schools. For example, limiting hall movement options can be particularly challenging in secondary schools.

IV. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette...Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable

The CDC recommends everyone wash their hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds. Schools will incorporate additional handwasit oftehh6nds often with s 792 re3(e)4(n-7004-1 0 0 1 2.1 2.1k30ttl 0 Or3 519.9(on lev

APPA 2 Level 2 – Ordinary Tidiness Level 2 is the base upon which cleaning should be maintained. Lower levels for washrooms, changing/locker rooms, and similar type facilities are not acceptable.

The Rock Hill Schools custodial team uses industry-leading practices, products, and adheres to standards and guidelines set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Association of Physical Plant Administrators. This section provides an overview of current and expanded cleaning and disinfecting processes in Rock Hill Schools and a listing of disinfecting chemicals used to neutralize the spread of SARSCoV-2, which is more commonly referred to as COVID-19.

Disinfecting units allow the custodial team to thoroughly and quickly disinfect large areas, which directly leads to an increase in instruction time. The electrostatic sprayer uses a process of adding an electric charge inside the liquid droplets when they are sprayed. This makes the droplet electrically stronger than the surface or the item it is treating. Just like magnets, they are drawn to each other and attach when one surface is more positively charged than the other. In simple terms, when you spray a solution that is properly charged with electrostatics, the solution will envelop all surfaces in the area being treated. Custodial services have a total of 107 Electrostatic Sprayer units distributed throughout the school district.

QT3 and QTPlus disinfecting chemicals, both of which are used by our custodial team, have demonstrated effectiveness against viruses similar to 2019 novel coronavirus on hard non-porous surfaces. Therefore, QT3 can be used against 2019 novel coronavirus when used in accordance with the directions for use against Enterovirus D68 or Norovirus on hard, non-porous surfaces. Combined with a chemical dispensing system, our team is able to consistently and accurately mix cleaning solutions for use in our schools and facilities. This ensures products are mixed properly to achieve the maximum impact.

Total cleaning and disinfecting of all areas and surfaces will be completed by the custodial team daily before students are allowed to use the facility the next day. Additionally, all district staff will follow strict protocols released by Nursing Services on a day-to-day assessment of CDC and SCDHEC guidance.

View the Custodial Manual and each individual tasks are in this document at -

[Facilities Services / Custodial Services \(rock-hill.k12.sc.us\)](https://rock-hill.k12.sc.us/facilities-services/custodial-services)

Return to school disinfecting video

<https://youtu.be/KqgXCISvWng>

Air Quality and HVAC Systems:

Rock Hill Schools will continue to adhere to ASHRAE recommendations concerning air ventilation in classrooms. For more information on the RHSD's air quality and HVAC systems please visit the following website:

[Energy and Sustainability / Home \(rock-hill.k12.sc.us\)](https://rock-hill.k12.sc.us/energy-sustainability/home)

reporting processes. The classroom (or room used by the cohort of students) may need to be closed for cleaning and disinfection before use again.

VII. **Diagnostic and screening**

and families who need some flexibility in the usual school schedule and who have the capacity to support rigorous schooling at home.

For students or teachers who may be diagnosed with COVID-19 and/or are quarantined during the school year, classrooms are equipped to support continuous learning through the use of technology (laptops, cameras, microphones) and the student's learning management system (Canvas, SeeSaw).

As always, students with exceptional learning needs or who may have an Individual Education Plan or 504 will be accommodated in either learning program selected.

Cultivating Emotional Resilience in areas of Mental Health and Social-Emotional Learning for Students, Staff and Community

Rock Hill Schools understands that COVID-19 closures and changes have had a significant impact on students' learning, social/emotional and mental health issues. The COVID-19 pandemic is considered a collective traumatic event that has impacted our students, staff and community. The following positions, services and programming will be put into place to provide tiers of interventions towards improving mental health, social emotional learning as well as cultivate emotional resilience.

Director of Behavioral and Mental Health for Rock Hill Schools

Addresses the mental health needs facing the students, staff and community in reference to navigating the pandemic; transitioning to school from virtual services, providing crisis intervention services related to trauma, stress and anxiety due to issues brought on by all facets of the pandemic.

Establishes a system to identify and provide care for students with mental health conditions

Review and/or develop and implement required policies and procedures affecting students, staff and/or community with mental health needs

Students

Site-based mental health services at all schools -preschool through high school

- Rock Hill School District mental health providers offer 1:1 therapy, group therapy, support groups and family therapy
- Catawba Family Therapy offers 1:1 therapy and family therapy

Behavior management Assistants (BMS) and Crisis Management Assistants (CMA)

- 1 BMA is assigned to all elementary schools and preschool center and one CMA at each middle and high school
- BMAs and CMAs provide Social Emotional Learning (SEL) activities & lessons in individual pullout or check-in sessions, small groups, in the general education classroom and along with the school counselor when appropriate.
- BMAs and CMAs are uniquely trained to de-escalate students in crisis, assist students with self-regulation, and check-in/check-out with identified students each day

K-12 mental health screener will be implemented in the 2021-2022 school year to assist students requiring tier 1, tier 2, and tier 3 mental health interventions

School Counselors, BMAs and CMAs have been trained to use the Social-emotional learning curriculum - S.E.L.F. (Social-emotional Learning Foundations) integrating SEL lessons and activities throughout the school day.

ABii the Robot will be utilized along with the SEL Curriculum - *In Focus* with all elementary students in 2021-2022. (Currently piloted through the Hayden-

mental and physical health counseling
social-emotional learning

XII. Periodic Review

Overview

Districts are required to review and, as appropriate, revise their Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan at least every six months through September 30, 2023, including seeking public input and taking such input into account in determining whether to revise the plan and, if revisions are determined necessary, on the revisions it makes to its plan. If a district developed a plan prior to enactment of the ARP Act that was made publicly available and was developed with public comment but does not address each of the required aspects of safety established in the ARP Act, the district must, as part of the required periodic review, revise its plan consistent with the ARP Act requirements no later than six months after it last reviewed its plan.

District response on ensuring periodic updates to its plan

The district will review and revise the *Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan* as directed in the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP Act). Our district will also follow

outlets directing the public to the draft plans to provide feedback. The document was posted until noon June 14, 2021.

Follow up on responses received

There were over three hundred respondents to the links provided for input on the *Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan* as well as the Spending Plan for ESSER III Funding. Responses were received from the following categories: Parents 52.9%; Teachers 31.2%; and Support Staff 9.5%. In January 2022, responses were from Parents 69.3%; Teachers 26% and a mix of Support Staff, Students and Community Members 4.7%. The remaining respondents represented School and District Administrators, Community Members, Students, Bus Drivers, Custodians, Grandparents, Teacher & Parent, Alternative Programs, School Board Trustees, and Former Teachers. All of our district’s school locations were represented.

There were a wide range of responses documented in the questionnaires. The responses included questions, specific opinions, concerns, reports, suggestions on moving forward, and affirmations on the content in the draft report. Be assured that all responses were read as there were concerns voiced by several respondents. As well, all responses were considered, but many could not be incorporated because of the guidelines and directives the district has received from Federal and State agencies. Additional communication will be provided to our community to respond to questions and concerns that were conveyed in the feedback questionnaire that were not within the scope of this document.

For the thirteen sections in the *Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan*, the following percentages of respondents stated, “No feedback to provide for this section”.

Section Descriptions	Percentage June 2021 295 Responses	Percentage January 2022 149 Responses	Percentage August 2022 227 Responses	Percentage April 2023 135 Responses	Percentage Sept. 2023 621 Responses	Percentage April 2024 <u>XXX</u> <u>Responses</u>
I. Description of Maintaining Health and Safety	78.7%	77.7%	93%	90.6%	94.4%	

V.	Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities, Including Improving Ventilation	71.3%	73%	87.2%	81.9%	89.9%	
VI.	Contact Tracing in Combination with Isolation and Quarantine	77.7%	68.9%	86.3%	84.1%	89.2%	

