Sumner County Schools 2021-2022
COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Will Sumner County Schools notify me if there is a COVID 19 positive individual in my student's classroom?

A: The school system will notify parents via SchoolMessenger when we have been made aware that a person in their student's classroom has tested positive. We believe notifying parents of potential exposure in a more timely manner than the health department's current process will give parents the ability to monitor their student for symptoms and make the best medical decision for them. Close contact tracing and issuing quarantine recommendations remain the responsibility of the health department.

Q: Will Sumner County Schools require students or staff to wear face coverings?

A: Governor Bill Lee issued an order requiring all school districts to allow parents to choose if their students wear masks while at school. In light of the Governor's Order, masks will continue to remain a parent's choice in Sumner County Schools.

Q: Will Sumner County Schools be conducting contact tracing?

A: Close contact tracing and issuing quarantine recommendations are the responsibility of the health department. In order to streamline the health department's contact tracing process, we will take an additional step and provide our local health department leadership limited access to class rosters and parent contact information in our student information database. This will give them a direct link to all the necessary information they need to successfully contact trace positive cases.

Q: Will there be restrictions on sports and extra-curricular activities?

A: We will follow guidelines established by TSSAA regarding school sports. Principals will communicate details about specific events throughout the year.

Q: Will Sumner County Schools be requiring proof of COVID-19 vaccination of students or staff in order to attend school?

A: Students and staff will not be required to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination.

Q: Will Sumner County Schools have the ability to implement a district-wide hybrid or remote schedule this school year?

A: The State Board of Education passed a policy effective July 21, 2021 that school districts no longer have the ability to change learning formats within the school year without the Governor specifically declaring a state of emergency allowing districts to do so.

Q: What if my student has tested positive for COVID-19?

A: Students who have tested positive should inform their school attendance office and discuss the student's return-to-school date with the school nurse. Any individual who tests positive will be required to complete their isolation period per TDOH guidelines.

Google Classroom will be available for students who miss school due to COVID-19. Please communicate with your student's teacher for specific instructions. All COVID-19 related absences will be excused with a parent or doctor's note. Students may be counted present through participation in Google Classroom and daily communication with their teacher.

Q: Will visitors be allowed in school buildings this year?

A: We will return to limiting visitors to schools during the school day including, but not limited to, lunchrooms and assemblies.

Q: What happens if my student has been told to quarantine by the Tennessee Department of Health due to contact tracing?

A: The Sumner County Health Department will provide contact tracing for all Sumner County residents. We encourage parents to follow the recommendation of their student's healthcare provider or Tennessee Department of Health.

Parents should contact their student's school to inform them of the reason for the absence. All COVID-19 related absences will be excused with a parent or doctor's note. Google Classroom will be available for students who miss school due to COVID-19. Please communicate with your student's teacher for specific instructions. Students may be counted present through participation in Google Classroom and daily communication with their teacher.

Q: May I choose to quarantine my student if I believe they were a close contact of a COVID-19 positive individual?

A: Parents may choose to quarantine their student if they believe they are a close contact of a COVID-19 positive individual. We encourage parents to follow the recommendation of their student's healthcare provider or Tennessee Department of Health.

Parents should contact their student's school to inform them of the reason for the absence. All COVID-19 related absences will be excused with a parent or doctor's note. Google Classroom will be available for students who miss school due to COVID-19. Please communicate with your student's teacher for specific instructions. Students may be counted present through participation in Google Classroom and daily communication with their teacher.

Q: What if someone in my household tests positive for COVID-19?

A: Families are encouraged to consult with their healthcare provider or the Tennessee Department of Health on quarantine recommendations. If a quarantine is recommended, parents should contact the school to inform them of the reason for the absence. All COVID-19 related absences will be excused with a parent or doctor's note.

Google Classroom will be available for students who miss school due to COVID-19. Please communicate with your student's teacher for specific instructions. Students may be counted present through participation in Google Classroom and daily communication with their teacher.

Q: What prevention measures will the district have in place this school year?

A: Prevention measures will include:
- Provide hand soap and hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, paper towels, and no-touch trash cans in all bathrooms, classrooms, and frequently trafficked areas.
- Conduct deep cleaning of schools prior to students/staff returning; schedule periodic cleanings during weekends or school holidays/breaks (to the extent practicable).
- Clean and disinfect buses between morning and afternoon routes and after each day's use.
- Encourage student hand sanitizing before and after meal service.
- Conduct cleaning of cafeterias and high-touch surfaces throughout the school day.
- Eliminate self-serve option for K-8 lunches.

*This guidance may be revised based on federal, state, or local guidelines.   Revised 8/20/2021