

## Schnee Learning Center Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

Our plan focuses on the safety of our students and staff members, as well as the educational needs of our students in the 2021-2022 school year. As directed by the Ohio Department of Education, our plan has included the voices of stakeholders in our community.

Schnee Learning Center's Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan has been written to address specifics on how our school will address the six guideline areas highlighted by the COVID-19 Health and Prevention Guidance for Ohio K-12 schools released by the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Health.

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/schools/K-12-Schools-Guidance.pdf>: Strongly Recommend Vaccinations, Assessing for Symptoms, Washing and Sanitizing Hands to Prevent Spread, Clean and Sanitize School Environment, Practicing Social Distancing, and Face Covering Policy. This document will also include specifics related to the academic calendar and daily and school structures specific to supporting our students and staff during this time.

If health information, recommendations, or mandates change, the Board of Directors will adjust protocols to meet the safety needs of our students and staff members.

### **Strongly Recommend Vaccinations**

The COVID-19 Health and Prevention Guidance for Ohio K-12 schools strongly recommends vaccinations for staff and eligible students. "Vaccines are our best tool to protect students and prevent the spread of the virus." Parents/guardians are encouraged to visit <https://www.scph.org/covid> and [akronchildrens.org](http://akronchildrens.org) for more information about COVID-19 vaccine availability in our area and frequently asked questions. At this time, Summit County Public Health, is offering a home-based vaccination service (330) 923-4891:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScnlaAjZ0qCf3R39agMnl2NAM9GQpWLTfG6YRkaRFtz61ksUw/viewform> (subject to change).

### **Assessing for Symptoms**

Daily health checks are an important initial step to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Daily health checks (temperature check and symptoms check) are expected to be completed at student residences prior to arriving at school. Follow the CDC guidelines on watching for symptoms:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>.

### **Watch for Symptoms**

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19: • Fever or chills • Cough • Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing • Fatigue • Muscle or body aches • Headache • New loss of taste or smell • Sore throat • Congestion or runny nose • Nausea or vomiting • Diarrhea

**Any student or staff with a fever over 100.0° is to stay home.**

Any student or staff that has the following symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home from school:

- Any of the following symptoms: shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing, fever, (measured or subjective), chills, rigors, muscle soreness, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, and/or GI Issues (nausea and vomiting or diarrhea).
- People who exhibit the COVID-19 like symptoms while at school will be required to go home and contact their primary care providers, or a COVID testing site, to be assessed for COVID-19 and, if positive, follow protocols for contact tracing and quarantine provided by the Summit County Public Health Department.
- Modified quarantine procedures will continue as Ohio schools begin the 2021-22 school year. Please refer to: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/covid-19-fact-sheet-k-12-exposure-and-quarantine.pdf> , or contact the Summit County Public Health Department at (330) 923-4891.

Our school administration will consistently work with the Summit County Public Health Department and the Ohio Department of Health to stay current with any updated recommendations. We will use the advice of our medical partners to update our procedures including:

**Washing and Sanitizing Hands to Prevent Spread**

Good personal hygiene such as washing hands is an effective layer of protection against contracting the COVID-19 virus. All classrooms and the hallway will have dispensers with hand sanitizer at least 60% ethyl alcohol. Additional hand washing opportunities will be given to increase opportunities for students to wash hands without the need to use the restroom areas when congested. Students will continue to be permitted to use their personal hand sanitizers. Some examples of when washing and sanitizing hands should occur is when entering a classroom, before and after lunch, breaks, use of the restroom, etc.

**Cleaning and Sanitizing School Environment Classroom**

Every area of our school (i.e., classrooms, restrooms, hallways, cafeteria, kitchen, offices, etc.) will be deep cleaned each school day. Each student, upon request, will be given spray sanitizer (at least 60% ethyl alcohol) and wipes/towels to sanitize any personal space before use. Students will share resources only after materials are cleaned after each use.

To improve air quality, the owner of our building, Cuyahoga Falls City School District, has equipped Schnee Learning Center with the addition of bipolar air ionization to the ventilation system. Reports on the system suggest it should be highly effective in the mitigation of airborne viruses. The building has been receiving repairs and upgrades throughout the summer months.

**Practicing Social Distancing**

Physical distancing will be done to the extent possible. This includes classrooms and restrooms. In order to assist in physical distancing within the school building, activities and movements may be altered. This may include student movement patterns in the hallways and the design of class changes, cafeteria use,

and other activities. As we progress throughout the school year, these processes and procedures may need to evolve.

As a general rule, visitors to the building will be very limited. Food Service must alter practices, also. All food, including condiments, must be served to students by a staff member.

### **Face Covering Policy**

Face coverings are **highly recommended**. Face coverings include masks that cover the mouth and nose. Face shields that extend below and around the face are acceptable face coverings. All Schnee Learning Center staff members were provided the opportunity to receive vaccinations in partnership with Cuyahoga Falls School District and Drug Mart. Both staff and students will have the option to wear a provided face covering. At this time, the decision for students to wear face coverings is a parental decision and, therefore, the school will not look to enforce the wearing of face coverings by individual students. **Again, while face coverings are *optional at this time*, the Board strongly recommends staff and students wear face coverings.**

### **Schnee Learning Center School Year**

We begin the 2021-2022 school year with the intention of using our approved calendar and normal school day start and ending times. Students are required to attend school 5 days per week (Monday through Friday) following the adopted calendar.

**Students first day of school: Thursday, August 19, 2021**

**School time: 8:10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

**• *The best educational setting for students is in the school building. Per an Ohio Department of Education mandate, remote learning is not an option that Schnee Learning Center will be offering at this time.***

- Appropriate accommodations will be made for students with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies.
- Student attendance will be monitored closely. We understand that there is a need for increased communication and understanding to address potential concerns with COVID-19 and variants.

As we return to school, we must be flexible and adjust to changes. Although this is a comprehensive document, it is not all-encompassing. Once again, if health information, recommendations, or mandates change, the Board of Directors will adjust protocols to increase safety measures for students and staff.

### **Hybrid Information**

If needed to increase social distancing, minimize interaction, or increase other virus reduction strategies, the school could move to a hybrid schedule, if possible, before going to total remote learning.

### **Mental Health Services**

Schnee Learning Center will continue to employ a full-time Ohio Department of Education licensed School Counselor, and we will continue to partner and contract with Child Guidance & Family Solutions to provide regular services of a State of Ohio Certified Therapist/Case Manager.