

## **Guidance on Maintaining Healthy Spaces in Plan C: Remote Learning 2.0**

(i.e., Social Distancing, Visitors, Face Coverings, Handwashing, Hand Sanitizing Stations, Health Screenings, Cleaning & Disinfecting, Water Fountains, & Shared Items)

As part of the district's Return to Learn Plan, we are constantly monitoring North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) updates and adjusting our plan as needed. In response to the most recent NCDHHS update received, the following guidance is designated to promote a safe and healthy work environment:

### ***Social Distancing***

All distinct buildings are taking actions to ensure that spaces support health and safety. These actions include:

- Access within the building will be limited to the extent to meet social distancing requirements;
- Floor/wall decals will be installed to ensure 6 ft distancing in offices, breakrooms, restrooms, and areas where staff may congregate;
- Administrators will review their buildings to design a flow pattern that helps promote social distancing Changes to foot-traffic flow through buildings and on site pathways;
- Arrange furniture to encourage social distancing. This action may require that some furniture be marked or removed, and that protective barriers be installed; and,
- Discontinue in-person activities that involve bringing people together in large groups.

Information signage (to include bilingual signage) **must** be posted at building entrances, restrooms, breakrooms, areas of congregation, and throughout the building to reinforce good social practices.

### ***Visitors***

Only essential visitors will be allowed in district campuses in an effort to protect the health and safety of our community by minimizing the number of people on sites.

- All efforts will be made to keep necessary visitors to a minimum, including the use of virtual or telephone meetings with families and guests.
- Visitors will be by appointment only and visitors shall remain in their car until the time of their appointment.

### ***Face Coverings***

Face coverings, of your choice, are **required** for all employees, visitors, and students when they are or may be within six feet of another person including:

- Inside school buildings and anywhere on grounds, including outside.
- While traveling on buses or district transportation vehicles which transport more than one person.
- A face covering must be secured safely over the nose, mouth, and under the chin.

- 5 masks will be provided to all staff members upon return to work.
- It is recommended that staff also provide their own masks to ensure proper fit.
- Disposable masks (adult and pediatric sizes) will also be available at the front office.
- Face coverings are not required for individuals who:
  - Cannot tolerate a face covering due to developmental, medical, or behavioral needs
  - Cannot wear one due to sincerely held religious belief
  - Cannot remove the mask by themselves
  - Are “actively” eating or drinking
  - Are “strenuously exercising”

### ***Handwashing***

Handwashing is one of the best ways to protect yourself and your family from getting sick. The CDC recommends everyone wash their hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Restrooms and classrooms will be stocked with adequate supplies.

### ***Hand Sanitizing Stations***

Washing hands with soap and water is the best way to get rid of germs in most situations. If soap and water are not readily available, individuals are encouraged to use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer (containing at least 60% alcohol). Schools will provide hand sanitizing stations at every designated entrance and exit, in the cafeteria, in every classroom, and on every bus and transport vehicle. District buildings will have hand sanitizer available at the main entrance.

### ***Health Screenings***

Health Screenings, including temperature checks, will be required daily for anyone entering a district building or vehicle:

- Staff will continue to self attest daily to a symptom screening and temperature check.
- Visitors will be required to self screen, including a temperature check, upon entering the main office.
- Staff will be encouraged to monitor their symptoms throughout the day and take leave if they demonstrate symptoms. Again another cultural shift for our staff who are committed to our mission of supporting students and often work through feeling under the weather.
- Refer to [StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit](#) and the [Reference Guide for Suspected, Presumptive, and Confirmed Cases of COVID-19](#).

### ***Cleaning and Disinfecting***

Buildings will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected throughout the day and every evening.

Multiple times a day, custodians will perform the following duties, among others:

- Cleaning and disinfecting water fountains.
- Clean and disinfecting bathroom surfaces; monitoring hand soap; and, products.
- Wiping and disinfecting touch points in hallways, common areas, and classrooms, if applicable. (Our disinfectant is an EPA-approved disinfectant for COVID-19.)
- Adequate supplies, for those specific spaces and equipment, will be available in all areas to support cleaning/disinfection.
- Our main focus at this time is ensuring that staff onsite are and remain safe and healthy by providing training and having access to supplies.

### ***Water Fountains***

In response to COVID-19, staff will be prohibited from drinking directly from the water fountains.

Water sampling will be conducted prior to August 10th in all district buildings.

All staff are encouraged to bring their own reusable water bottles. Water bottles can be filled in water fountains.

### ***Shared Items***

To protect the health of staff and students, the sharing of equipment and supplies shall be kept to a minimum, including only essential items.

- All shared items shall be quarantined for 72 hours if possible; if not quarantine time is not possible, items shall be cleaned and disinfected (with an approved disinfectant) prior to reuse.
- Books and soft items can be lent out, upon report they shall be quarantined for 72 hours. 72 hour quarantine of books is an effective way to disinfect after being handled by staff or students. No attempt should be made to disinfect books.
- Communication will be required for families to ensure they feel safe using the books and to discourage them from attempting to clean books at home. When students, staff, and families understand what we are doing to mitigate risk, they will (hopefully) be less likely to attempt their own disinfection methods at home.
- Staff Safety- Staff should wear a face mask and avoid touching their face when moving items into quarantine. After handling books, they would wash their hands for 20 seconds following CDC guidelines. Handwashing is recommended over hand sanitizer because the former removes dirt and oils and the latter does not. Dirt and oils can be transferred to books and damage them.

- If a dedicated quarantine space cannot be established, staff can place books in bags/totes until the quarantine period is over so that staff do not accidentally hand the items. It is not advised to tightly seal the bags/totes because this can create potentially-damaging microclimates within the container.