

## Covid Safe School Plan for In-Person Return to School

At SBHS we are really focused on Covid prevention and have proactively taken measures to keep our students and staff safe. We've installed bipolar ionization filtration technology in our HVAC system throughout our campus. In addition, each class and office space is equipped with portable medical grade HEPA air purifiers along with hand sanitizer dispensers, wipes and disinfect spray.

We've implemented a schoolwide "COVID-Safe" campaign that reinforces hygiene standards such as mask-wearing, handwashing, temperature checks, social distancing and staying at home if you don't feel well. Over 90% of our staff are vaccinated and we encourage families with students 12 and older to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Unvaccinated staff are required to have weekly Covid testing.

According to the CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention), "Regular testing, along with COVID-19 vaccination, helps protect students, staff, family members, and others who are not currently vaccinated against COVID-19 or are otherwise at risk for getting seriously sick from COVID-19. Testing programs help keep students in the classroom and allow them to take part in the other activities they love." In addition, SBHS is following the guidance from the Strong Schools NC Toolkit.

SBHS Board requires that students, parents, and employees practice safety protocols to mitigate the spread of Covid 19 while at school. These practices include

- a. proper masking that covers the mouth and nose at all times when indoors and around others
- b. proper handwashing and sanitizing
- c. temperature checks before boarding school buses or entering school building;
- d. siblings sit together on school buses
- e. K-5 students eat meals in their classrooms; 6-11 students pick up meals in the cafeteria and may choose to eat outside or in the cafeteria while socially distanced;
- f. students are not allowed to talk while eating.
- g. social distancing to the greatest extent possible while interacting with others
- h. staying at home when sick

If a student tests positive for Covid or comes in close contact with someone who tested positive, the parent or guardian of the student must inform the school nurse and teacher immediately and follow SBHS nurse recommendations, including quarantining and submitting negative PCR Covid results of tests done. Number of tests and time gaps between tests will be recommended by SBHS nurse. Such student will only return to school with written clearance from SBHS nurse. If required to quarantine, student will receive excused absence for school days missed with verification from school nurse and approval of principal in writing.

### **What is the school's protocol for letting parents know when someone tests positive in the school?**

Our protocol when someone tests positive for COVID is to contact the family of anyone who was within 3ft or less of the COVID-positive person for longer than 15 minutes cumulatively over a 24-hour period. Those persons must take a COVID test and can only return to school after submitting hard copy results of negative test(s) requested by SBHS nurse. We also check in with those individuals to monitor their symptoms while they are at home and provide remote instruction for students during quarantine if allowed by the parent.