



# **SAINT LOUIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS REOPENING PLAN 2021-2022**

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# Introduction: Superintendent's Message

In school year 2021-2022, Saint Louis Public School (SLPS) students will make a formal return to the classroom, a goal we have been pursuing almost from the time of the closures in March 2020. In addition to the core subjects, we have developed enhanced resources and support to help aid in each school's response to and recovery from the impact of the pandemic.



COVID-19 continues to present many challenges, but we have also learned from it. We have learned to more quickly adapt, innovate and creatively push to make the impossible possible. Months after schools were closed abruptly by state order, we now know that we have the ability to deliver quality education even during times of crisis. We are now putting that knowledge into action.

This document outlines the SLPS plan for welcoming teachers and students back to class for the 2021-2022 school year. This version, initially created by the Restart Task Force, picks up where the initial Restart Plan left off last year and provides the details on how we plan to start school at this time. Our plan reflects resiliency as we acknowledge the need to remain fluid as we continue to monitor the pandemic's pattern in our community.

The Task Force was comprised of administrators, union leaders, school leaders, parents/guardians, strategic partners, board and community members. Their Plan relies heavily on recommendations and guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the St. Louis City Department of Health (DOH).

The committee identified five key areas of focus as we move forward:

**Governance: The health and safety of staff and students is always our chief priority.** Accordingly, the committee reviewed District processes, policies and procedures making adjustments, as needed, to ensure the greatest measures of safety. As examples, the District assembled a Restart School Task Force, implemented COVID-19 testing and vaccination events, developed a District-based Contract Tracing Team and established a COVID-19 dashboard ([slps.org/dashboard](https://slps.org/dashboard)).

**Facilities and Operations:** The Restart Committee and our Operations team established what we call, “confidence cleaning.” This involves more frequent and visible cleaning schedules and procedures including high-touch areas throughout the day. We have significantly increased the number of custodians to ensure we can adhere to this rigorous schedule in all schools.

The District provides PPEs (i.e. masks, gloves, hand sanitizers) to all schools and staff (including bus drivers and food service staff). In addition, social distance signage and seating capacity within classrooms are available to schools. The District will be providing air purifiers in recovery rooms and some common spaces within schools.

**Wellness:** The pandemic has been disruptive for us all, but particularly for families who were already struggling and suddenly lost the stability of school, family income and/or, access to needed resources. The Task Force reviewed and adjusted procedures to recommend full-time nurses, counselors, and social workers, who are equipped to support the individual needs of each child during this time. In response, the District increased the number of nurses and counselors and added reading specialists as needed.

**Instruction:** Acknowledging the need for flexibility in the present school environment, the Task Force recommended a plan for harnessing technology and human talent to integrate in-person learning, virtual learning and a combination of both in service to students. Even in an in-person setting, “Blended Learning” will serve our students well in the 2021-2022 school year.

**Technology:** Bridging the gaps in equity and access, the committee recommended one-to-one technology for the upcoming school year. The result is that today, every student, Pre-K through 12th grade, has an iPad or laptop for learning. Hotspots are also available to students who need internet access.

**Supporting students with disabilities:** The district supports all students with disabilities through both school based supports and accommodations. Students with disabilities may also qualify for a 504 or an IEP(Individualized Education Plan). We work to ensure that all students receive the support they need with respect to their disability and approach each student on a case by case basis.

As the rate of COVID-19 transmission crests and falls in our community, DOH guidelines will change, and our plan will be revisited. We will continue to diligently follow the science as we work to maintain our healthy school environments. Our overarching goal is to keep you—parents/guardians, staff, students and community—informed every step of the way.

Now, more than ever, it is important to stay in contact. If you are a District family or staff member, please check to make sure the contact information we have for you is current.

In addition to a website refresh with updated format and function and expanded content, you can keep current through our social media posts, robocalls and our parent newsletter, The District Digest. We encourage you to “opt in” to receive important text messages by texting “YES” to 67587. Finally, you may download our District App by searching for Saint Louis Public Schools in the App store.

We are, indeed, all in this together. Your thoughts, suggestions, and concerns are important to us, and our collective efforts are vital to every child’s success.

Thank you for your support of Saint Louis Public Schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kelvin R. Adams', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Dr. Kelvin R. Adams**

Superintendent of Schools  
Saint Louis Public Schools



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# Top 10 Guiding Principles For Restarting School

The following principles will guide the overall District planning to restart school, recognizing that each school building has unique characteristics and varies in size and capacity.

- 1** Ensure the highest levels of **safety** for all, with an emphasis on physical and emotional health and wellness.
- 2** Prioritize student **wellbeing** and **cultural responsiveness**.
- 3** Ensure **equity** and access in planning and resources to reach every student.
- 4** Honor **parents/guardians' choices**, circumstances and concerns.
- 5** Recognize the impact of **changing societal realities**, including pandemic fluctuations or spikes, racial injustice, the November election climate, and other external forces impacting the community.
- 6** Respect that routine and predictable home-school **communication** is critical to relationship building and to establishing a positive school culture and identity.
- 7** Meet students where they are by **addressing individual academic needs**.
- 8** **Empower professionals** to guide effective learning and planning.
- 9** Frame curriculum, planning, and teaching to achieve in-depth learning and authentic engagement through effective **blended learning models** for success in school and at home.
- 10** Reconsider **policy** and regulations, as necessary.



# St. Louis City Department of Health Guidelines

**S**ince March 2020, education executive administrators across the City of St. Louis and city government officials (Mayor's representative, Director of Health) have met weekly to establish consistency among all City of St. Louis school systems.

As a result, the following guidelines were established to support and maintain safe and healthy environments for staff and students. The following information is based on scientific evidence, and will change over time.



## Requirements 2021-2022

In order to protect the health of students and staff, each St. Louis City school district must:

- Have an infectious disease plan
- Establish a process by which each school in a particular jurisdiction keeps and maintains accurate records of anyone who has been inside a building
- Comply with the Missouri Revised Statute Sections 167.181 and 19 CSR 19c-20-28, which govern immunization of students
- Maintain a 3 foot radius (at a minimum) around each student's desk in the classroom
- Conduct daily health and temperature screenings for students and staff at the beginning of each school day
- Minimize contact and social mixing during school hours
- Consult and obtain approval from the City of St. Louis Department of Health prior to planning any school assemblies
- Work with the City of St. Louis Department of Health to ensure COVID-19 testing is available and obtained by all staff prior to returning to work
- Require face coverings for all staff, students (all Pre-K through 12th grade in St. Louis City) and visitors while in the school building, and while riding school buses
- Students with medical conditions that prohibit them from being able to wear a face covering will be exempt as long as they present documentation from their medical providers.
- Establish an isolation area within each school, where we can effectively separate ill persons from the school's general population
- Require temperature and health screenings, and the wearing of face coverings for all essential visitors (e.g. parents/guardians, health officials, business officials and vendors who provide essential services for the schools)
- Prohibit non-essential visitors at this time
- Avoid any in-person field trips during the fall semester of the 2021-2022 school year in accordance with the Missouri statutes (19 CSR 20-20.020) governing communicable disease reporting requirements
- Establish protocols for loading and unloading buses to minimize person-to-person contact

# Immunizations

**A**s we work to maintain healthy environments, it is more important than ever that parents/guardians obtain the appropriate immunizations for their children. Missouri laws mandate that, before coming to school, students must be immunized against childhood diseases or exempted as required under the rules and regulations for the Department of Health and Senior Services. St. Louis families who need assistance obtaining immunizations should contact their medical provider or the City of St. Louis Department of Health ([health@stlouis-mo.gov](mailto:health@stlouis-mo.gov)).



## Temperature Checks and Other Screenings

Temperature checks of students at the beginning of the school day are required at this time. Although, only a minority of children who have COVID-19 will have a fever, it is equally important that students with other communicable diseases be excluded from school.

Additionally, parents are encouraged to check for symptoms of illness and fevers (no temperatures above 100.4°) daily to reduce the chance of students coming to school ill.

All staff must complete a standardized self-assessment screening before reporting to work. The screening asks if the individual has experienced fever, cough, chills, shortness of breath, muscle pains/aches that cannot be explained by other activities, (i.e. exercising, recent trauma, etc.), sore throat or loss of taste or smell not associated with preexisting medical condition(s).

The staff member must not be permitted to work if he or she answers “YES” to any of the screening questions.

SLPS has implemented reporting and coverage protocols for staff who develop symptoms during the workday.

## When Someone Is Sick

In our society, we often find dedicated individuals who have fallen into the habit of coming to work when sick.

The pandemic has demonstrated the importance of changing that mindset. We will continue to communicate to staff and students that staying home when sick is a far better way of protecting yourself and others.

To that end, perfect attendance awards have been eliminated in favor of more performance-related recognitions (reading books, turning in assignments on time, good behavior, etc.). In addition, we have reviewed all SLPS Human Resources policies to ensure they are not punitive to persons who develop illness and are unable to perform their job duties.



When a staff person is identified with symptoms:

- Isolate the individual immediately. If he or she is medically unstable, send that person home immediately or, call 911.
- Advise the staff member to contact his or her healthcare provider if symptoms are

present or if there was a, “YES” answer to any screening questions. The healthcare provider will be able to determine whether the symptoms are a result of COVID-19 infection or if there are other health issues.

When a student is identified with symptoms:

- Isolate the student immediately.
- If the student is not medically stable call 911. Only trained staff should provide lifesaving care (e.g., CPR).
- The school nurse or health official must contact the student’s parents/guardians as soon as possible. If medically stable, the student must still be monitored while in isolation until a parent/guardian arrives.

- Please consult the local public health agencies to determine when persons infected with COVID-19 should be allowed to return to school. Currently, the minimum is 10 days when a person is COVID-positive. For more information, please review the City of St. Louis Infectious Disease Control Administrative Guidelines and Procedures.

## Social Distancing

Social distancing is proven effective in stopping the spread of COVID-19. Here are some of the social distancing strategies we are implementing in our schools:

- Class size: modify class sizes as required to comply with social distancing requirements.
- Cafeteria: stagger lunch periods and use alternative locations for lunch to ensure social distancing can occur during lunch periods.
- Checking parents or others in or out during the school day should be done in a contained area (such as a vestibule). Ask others to wait outside so there are a limited number of individuals in the contained area.

For additional information, please review the City of St. Louis Guidance on Social Distancing in Schools.



# Face Coverings

**S**taff and students must be instructed on the proper manner in which a face covering should be worn. Efforts should be made to destigmatize the wearing of face coverings. Staff members and students Pre-K through 12th grade must wear a face covering when in the school building and when riding school buses. Face coverings are not required when providing outdoor instruction and students and staff are able to maintain the recommended physical distance (3 ft.) from others. Face coverings may be removed during lunch, so individuals can complete their meals. Reusable face coverings are made available for all students and staff.



# Gloves

Gloves are necessary for healthcare workers, such as school nurses, who will be working with sick or suspected sick individuals. Our practice is to change gloves between patients and sanitize hands before and after serving a patient.

In addition, as a safety precaution, facility management and cleaning staff will use gloves when using cleaning products.



# Hand Washing

Allow time for hand washing. Hands are to be washed frequently including before and after eating or participating in group activities



# Restroom Usage

Limit the number of students in the restroom at one time. Try to implement scheduled restroom breaks so each grade/class can go at a specific time and avoid mixing classes.

Mark spaces outside restrooms to provide visual cues to ensure social distancing while waiting. The District has provided signs to help even our youngest students navigate the new protocols.



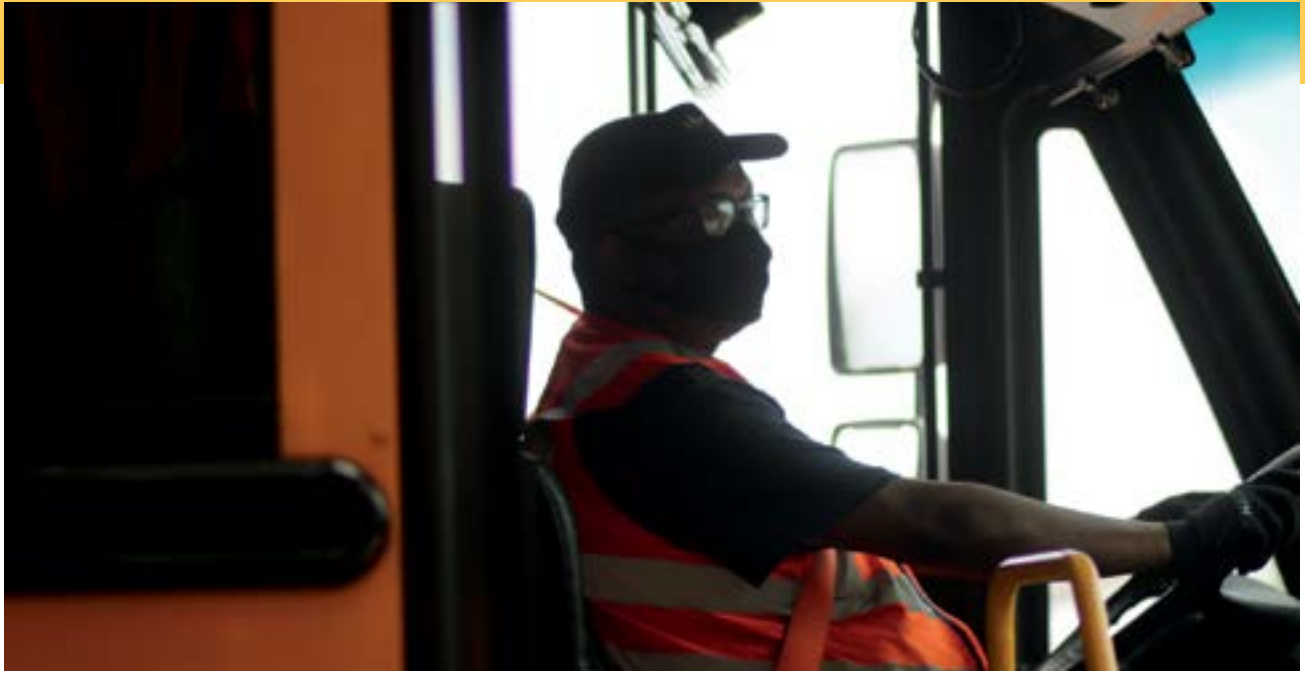
# Cleaning and Disinfecting

**T**he Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has provided information regarding cleaning and disinfecting spaces. These guidelines can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>

A few basic recommendations from the CDC include:

- Wear disposable gloves to clean and disinfect.
- Clean surfaces using soap and water, then use disinfectant.
- Practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces.
  - Surfaces and objects in public places should be cleaned and disinfected before each use.
  - High touch surfaces include: tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, sinks, etc.
- Disinfect using EPA-registered household disinfectants (<https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/about-list-n-disinfectants-coronavirus-covid-19-0>), properly diluted bleach solutions, or alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol.





## Bus Transportation

When possible, we will assign seats by cohort (same students sit together each day) which will help with contact tracing. All students riding District transportation must wear a face covering to reduce the potential for COVID-19 transmission.

## Recess

Recess activities must be limited to activities that permit social distancing. Students DO NOT need to wear masks outside.

## Sports

A separate document will be provided that contains recommendations for organized sports.



# Facilities And School Operations

## Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Classrooms and communal areas are equipped with hand sanitizing supplies and disinfectant. Handwashing stations have been established in schools as needed.
- Custodial staff are responsible for ensuring spaces are kept clean and disinfected. They routinely disinfect high-touch-point areas, such as doorknobs, rails, and light switches. (The District has invested in electrostatic sprayers, foggers, and sponge applicators, for on-the-spot disinfecting.)
- We appreciate it when our staff assists in this effort by cleaning and disinfecting communal areas, including eating spaces, conference room tables, and chairs, after use.
- Facilities coordinate schedules and deep clean classrooms, offices, and common areas. Areas suspected of contamination will be closed until proper cleaning is complete.
- Maintenance teams are committed to completing all safety work orders, ensuring that critical air conditioning, plumbing, and electrical systems are maintained.
- Heating systems will be prepared for start-up.
- Maintenance work orders include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - Replace air filters (per DOH and manufacturers' recommendations) and safe procedures for handling and disposal of filters.
  - Make necessary repairs and prioritize plumbing concerns.
  - Make necessary repairs to ensure mechanical systems are operating properly.
  - Upgrade exterior and interior lighting.





# School Facility Reopening Guidelines

Schools will adhere to the following guidelines:

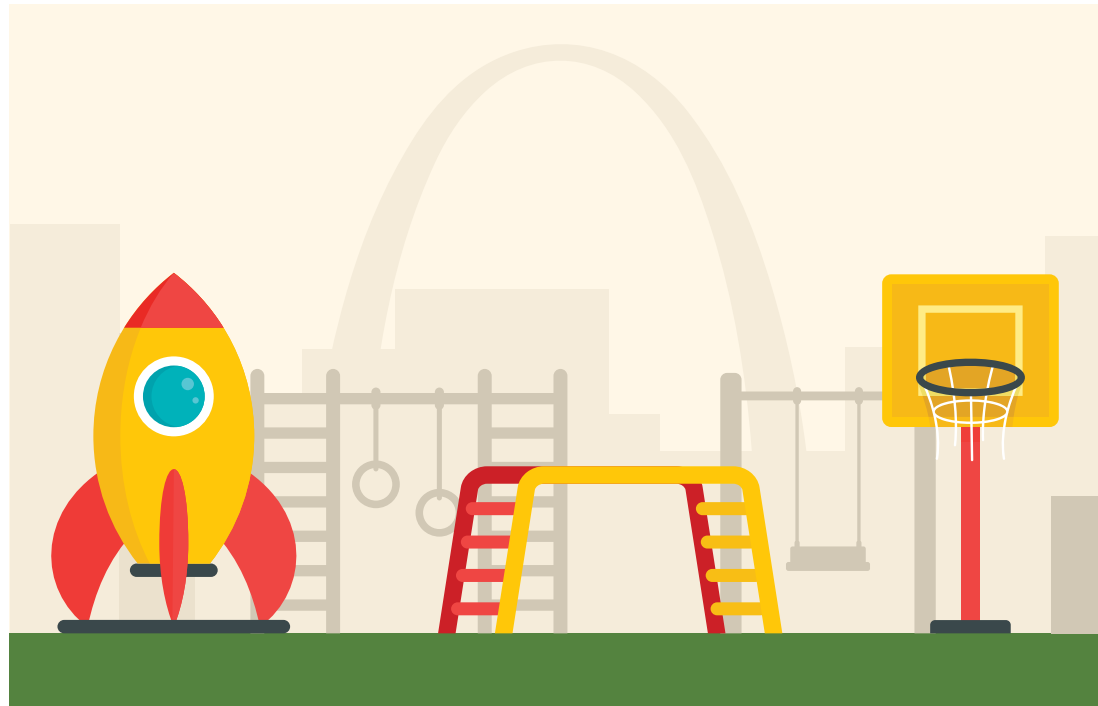
## Classrooms:

- Restrict or reduce large group activities to abide by social distancing guidelines.
- At a minimum, maintain a 3-foot radius around each student's desk in the classroom.
- Assign seats; students sit and move in cohorts (set groups) when social distancing is difficult.
- Minimize the sharing of materials and supplies.
- Avoid close physical proximity in cases of increased exhalation, such as singing or exercise. When possible, hold these activities outdoors with students properly spaced out.
- Establish one-way paths of travel to minimize physical contact and reduce face-to-face interaction. When possible, move classes in cohorts (same groups).
- Utilize outdoor spaces when possible.
- Post signage that encourages social distancing, mask wearing, and frequent handwashing.
- Post routine cleaning checklists where they can be easily viewed.
- Routinely disinfect and clean high-touch point spaces and surfaces. Encourage students to clean up after instruction to make this easier.
- Adhere to room capacity and occupancy limits to promote social distancing.



## Common Areas:

- Set up common areas, such as teachers' lounges, libraries, and conference rooms, to allow for social distancing.
- Post floor markings and signage to direct traffic flow (provided by the District).
- Please clean surfaces after use of shared equipment, such as copy machines, microwaves, refrigerator handles, telephones and elevator buttons.



## Playgrounds:

- Students DO NOT need to wear masks outside.
- Limit the size of groups participating; stick to cohorts.
- Establish daily routines for cleaning playground equipment. Children of all ages can help if provided easy instructions, such as color-coding.
- Keep clean, unused equipment separate from used equipment. Educate children on how to care for equipment when they start and end play.
- Have all students wash their hands after recess.

## Cafeterias:

- Face masks may be removed during lunch to eat.
- Consider the advantages of having some students eat in their classrooms. (Additional cleaning considerations will be provided.)
- Create separate lunch periods to minimize the number of students in the cafeteria.
- Utilize other spaces for lunch/break times and utilize outdoor spaces when possible.
- Create an environment that is as safe as possible from exposure to food allergens.
- Encourage students and staff to wash hands or use hand sanitizer before and after eating.



## Waiting Areas:

- Establish a waiting area outside school buildings for parents/guardians to stay when dropping-off, picking-up, and visiting their child(ren) for essential reasons.
- Designate staff to greet parents/guardians and students. Develop and share instructions with families as to how students should line.

## Buses:

- All students, **regardless of age**, are required to wear face masks to board and ride the school bus.

## Visitors/Partners:

- Only essential visitors and District partners (volunteers/mentors and representatives of organizations that provide support to students) with appointments are allowed access until further notice. Exceptions may include other District staff, visiting students, contractors, and parents/guardians. All visitors are to complete a health screening prior to entry.

up to be health screened upon arrival to school.

- Display social distancing requirements and signage about wearing face masks. The District has created a series of age-appropriate signs to help schools communicate safety messages.

- If possible, parents/guardians are strongly encouraged at this time, to transport their student(s) to reduce the number of passengers on each bus.

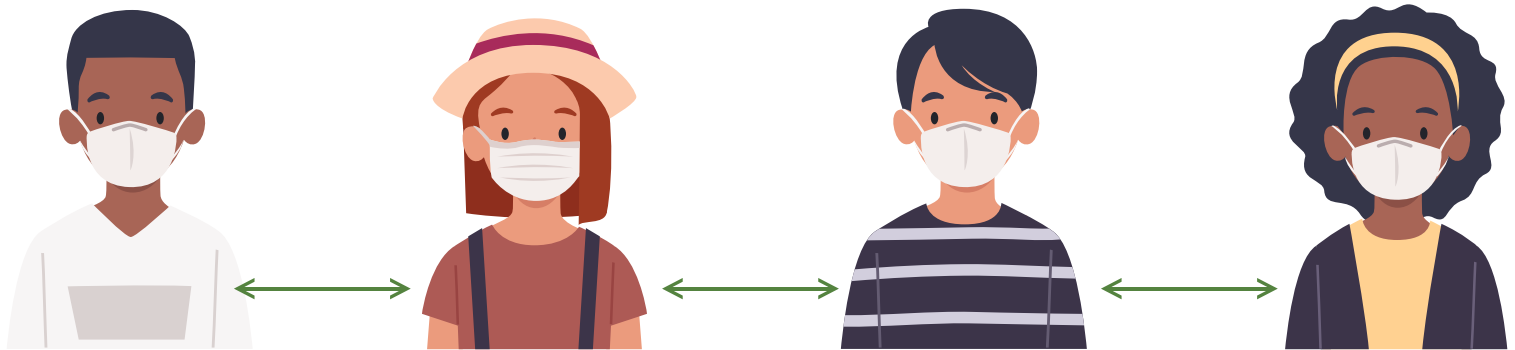
- Partners will work with District liaisons to make arrangements to support schools.

- Direct contact between District staff/students and visitors will be minimized or performed at an appropriate distance.

# Wellness

## Review of Student Health Guidelines:

- All students in Pre-K through 12th grade are required to wear a mask.
- All students, regardless of age, must wear a face mask on the school bus.
- All students and staff will have a health screening upon arrival to school each day.
- Parents/guardians should keep their children at home if they are ill or have a fever.
- Social distancing will be practiced to the extent possible in classrooms and all common spaces of the school building.
- Students will remain together in the same groups as much as possible during the day.
- Elementary and middle school students may have breakfast and lunch in the classroom.
- Visitors will be limited in the school building, and all visitors are required to wear masks and to submit to screenings.
- Parents/guardians coming to pick up or drop off students are asked to remain outside the building. Please make sure the area includes signage regarding social distancing.



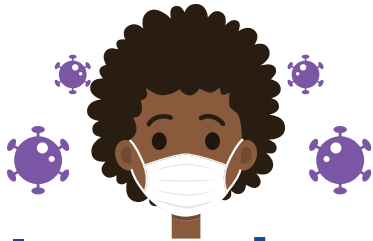
## When a Student is Identified with Symptoms:

- Immediately isolate the student from other students and staff.
- If the student is not medically stable, call 911. Only trained staff should provide lifesaving care (e.g., CPR).
- The school nurse or health official must contact the student's parent/guardian as soon as possible. If medically stable, the student must still be monitored while in isolation until his or her parent/guardian arrives.

The District has established a contact tracing team. These persons can advise, but please check with local public health agencies to determine when a student infected with COVID-19 should be allowed to return to school. Currently, the minimum is 10 days when a person is COVID-positive. For other communicable diseases, school health should review the City of St. Louis Infectious Disease Control Administrative Guidelines and Procedures.

# Face Masks

The District will supply face masks to students at the beginning of the school year. Bandanas and scarves may not be worn as masks. Students may not wear any clothing or mask with “indecent or offensive” messages or those promoting bad behaviors (i.e., alcohol or tobacco) that may cause a disruption:



- Offensive, vulgar, or profane language
- Violent or racist images
- Drugs or alcohol
- Depicting sexual images
- Tobacco use
- Inciting illegal activity

# Immunizations

Missouri Statute 167.181 mandates that students must be current in traditional immunizations, not COVID vaccines, before attending school. Exemptions can be granted for a student for religious or medical reasons, as required under the rules and regulations for the Department of Health and Senior Services. Families in the City of St. Louis who need assistance obtaining immunizations for their child should contact their medical provider or the City of St. Louis Department of Health at [health@stlouis-mo.gov](mailto:health@stlouis-mo.gov). SLPS students are required to have current immunization records on the first day of school, **August 23, 2021**. Please check our website for news of District-sponsored special immunization/vaccination events.

# Recommendations for Staff: Toddlers and Children

- Toddlers cannot always verbalize how they feel. Staff should be attentive to behavior changes and other cues in the child. For example, if the child is lethargic and not eating, notify the parent/guardian who may then wish to contact the child’s pediatrician.
- Set clear behavior expectations with descriptive instructions and visuals.
- Provide positive attention and feedback during activities, such as greetings upon arrival, health screening, cleaning toys and washing hands for lunch.
- Provide Information: ask children what they know about COVID-19 and discuss with them what they can do to protect themselves and their loved ones, such as their toys, pets, parents/guardians, or friends.
- When a child shows challenging behavior, try one or more of the following strategies:
  - Distraction: help the child calm down by asking about a favorite food or place.
  - Concentration: ask the child to name animals in alphabetical order—alligator, bear, cow, dog, etc.
  - Validate and Reassure: example: I know this is new, but this mask will help keep you well. All super heroes wear them!
  - Return Control: example: do you want to read your temperature for me?



## Adolescents:

- When an adolescent (12-18 years of age) shows challenging behavior, remain patient, tolerant, and provide perspective. Some tips:
  - Listen and validate his or her emotions. Example: I understand you are afraid or disappointed.
  - Invite him or her to talk and provide perspectives if appropriate. Discuss a solution, if necessary.
- Encourage sharing and discussion among students about their knowledge, experience, feelings, and actions related to COVID-19. Agree on some ground rules, and create a safe space for such discussions.

## Crisis Intervention Team:

The District has established a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), which is staffed by District social workers. The team advises and assists the principal and school staff during a crisis. CIT operates within an intervention-facilitation crisis model, which is a process designed to:

- Help individuals within the system to normalize or return to the pre-crisis state.
- Help individuals grow from the crisis, for example to learn new methods of coping and feel stronger and better about themselves.

## Trauma Training:

Staff have the opportunity to participate in trauma training throughout the school year, facilitated by District partners Alive and Well and Children's Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis.

## Resources for Support Services:

- Social-Emotional Helpline staffed by District clinical social workers. For more info, please call 314-345-6900.
- Trauma Workshop for Parents/Guardians: Fall 2021 and Spring 2022. For more info, please call 314-345-5656.
- Parent/Guardian Call Center to answer questions and provide resources: Beginning August 2021.
- Additional support services resources at [www.slps.org/resources](http://www.slps.org/resources)

# Instruction and Technology:

The District's 2021-2022 Reopening Plan recognizes there will be unique situations that require responsiveness and flexibility to mitigate the impact of a classroom, school or district closure may have on teaching and learning. In the event of a quarantine or closure, we stand ready to provide uninterrupted quality and effective learning and teaching.

## Blended Learning Instructional Framework

In response to the pandemic, as well as to re-imagine the possibilities for student learning, SLPS will continue Blended Learning, an integration of in-person and virtual/on-line learning, as the core instructional framework starting with the 2021-2022 school year. This ensures that teachers and students will be prepared for online learning and effective instruction, should an emergency closure occur. This model:

- Supports student-centered learning in a flexible environment.
- Provides cohesive learning experiences that can be tailored for in-person learning, online learning, or a combination.
- Supports the need for flexibility in enrollment options for families, while ensuring high-quality, standards-based learning content is available, regardless of the physical setting.
- Makes all content available online. This is an ideal choice to ensure social distancing in school, support virtual learners, and support schools on hybrid schedules.
- Creates a seamless transition to intermittent virtual learning and supports continuous learning for students in the event of a District or school closure.
- Is innovative and disrupts systemic inequities in traditional classroom instruction.

For more information, visit:  
[www.blendedlearning.org](http://www.blendedlearning.org)

## One-to-One Technology for All:

To ensure an equitable instructional model to help students learn in all settings and to support Blended Learning, by September 3, 2021, all SLPS students will have personal devices to support learning both in school and at home. The distribution is handled as follows:

- Pre-K to Grade 8: iPads.
- Grades 9-12: Dell Latitude 3310 Laptops.
- Wireless hot spots provided to families who need them to ensure equitable access to the internet.
- Acceptable-use policies for student technology have been updated to reflect the implementation of one-to-one technology and the Blended Learning model.
- For students with limited technology/ internet access (while away from school), Continuous Learning Kits (CLKs) area available. CLKs are standards based learning guides developed by grade-level, and are available each month of the school year.





## Enrollment Options for Families

In-person and online enrollment through Edmentum will be available for all SLPS schools. Principals and staff will support families as they make decisions about student learning for the coming school year.

Prior to the start of school, families interested in online learning through Edmentum will select the instructional format below.

For more information on Edmentum and other programs made possible through the Missouri Course Access Program (MOCAP), please visit our website at [www.slps.org/Edmentum](http://www.slps.org/Edmentum).

Applications are required and parents will find the form online. They may also call 314-345-4470 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

### Online (Edmentum)

- Families choosing this option will remain in online for the quarter.
- Available for any student K-12th Grade.
- Self-driven learning experience administered exclusively online from website-based content that the student may access at any time. All courses and grade-level standards required by Missouri DESE are offered.
- Students enrolled at bricks-and-mortar school, but online learning through Edmentum offers a standards-based curriculum with a support facilitator. There is minimal connection to an SLPS facilitator, physical school, or support services.

## Intermittent Online (Edmentum) Learning

In the event of a school closure, it may be necessary for individual schools or the District as a whole to return to online learning. In this event:

- Students will continue learning at home with their classroom teachers.
- Instruction will include synchronous (live) meetings in small and large groups, independent work, and asynchronous (recorded) class activities.
- The expectation is that all students will be participating in class every day. Attendance may include participating in a live class lesson or online discussion, submitting a written assignment or commenting on a discussion board, or logging time in a District-sponsored individual practice, e.g., IXL, Achieve 3000.





# Online Learning Platforms

For the 2021-2022 academic school year, Saint Louis Public Schools will continue to implement “**Blended Learning**” as the core instructional framework. Blended learning is any formal education program in which a scholar learns at least in part through online learning, with some element of scholar control over time, place, path, and/or pace. Blended learning is an innovative instructional platform ideal for one-to-one learning environments and supports the shift to standards-based instruction and grading practices.



## Rationale for Blended Learning:

- Blended Learning supports scholar-centered learning in a flexible environment and provides cohesive learning experiences that can be tailored for in-person learning, virtual learning, or a combination of both. This model ensures high-quality instructional content is available, regardless of physical setting of learning.
- Blended learning is available digitally, making this an ideal choice to ensure social distancing in schools, and to support intermittent virtual learning. Additionally, in the event of another district or school closure, Blended Learning creates uninterrupted, continuous learning for scholars.

## Accountability

- Teachers/classrooms maintain daily schedules and post updates building wide.
- Teachers of Record (TOR) are facilitators of standards-based instruction utilizing a Blended Learning framework and the Blended Learning Lesson Design tool to help plan instruction.
- TOR must maintain an online classroom presences utilizing the District’s platform, Microsoft Teams. Assignments, digital files and the Class Notebook are updated regularly.
- All assignments, instructions and resources for the entire week of instruction are posted and uploaded no later than the start of the school day, Monday morning of each week.
- All teachers maintain an up-to-date web-page for all information needed to introduce the teacher as well as to provide information and a list of resources in support of the lessons.
- All TORs maintain an online gradebook in Tyler 360 (SIS).

# Early Childhood Education

**S**chools and teachers must balance concerns about the virus with developmental considerations. To mitigate risk, the following strategies are recommended for those who work with our younger students:

- All staff will wear personal protective equipment, including masks.
- Classes will remain together in their classroom (cohort), as much as possible, to minimize crossover among children and adults within the school. The size of the cohort may vary.
- Teachers will primarily stay in one classroom with one group of children.
- The use of shared classroom supplies, centers, and sensory tables will be discontinued.
- Hand washing breaks will be observed throughout the day.
- Families are asked to review proper personal hygiene techniques with their children daily.
- Classroom staff will help ensure that frequently touched surfaces (e.g., bathrooms, door handles, light switches, and chairs) are cleaned and disinfected throughout the day.
- Toys will be sanitized after use. Cloth toys and hard-to-clean toys will be removed from the classroom.
- At rest time, cots will be spaced out at least 3 feet apart.
- Area rugs are to be removed from classroom.
- Group learning will still occur, yet children will be spaced out to the degree possible.
- Education and play will be more individualized and with smaller groups. Social engagement will be encouraged through physically distanced activities, even on the playground.
- Children will be provided individual cubbies/storage space for personal items.
- Parents/guardians and visitors will not have access to classrooms.
- Modified drop-off/pick-up procedures will be communicated to families .
- If possible, families should designate the same parent/guardian or individual to drop off and pick up the child every day. Encourage parents/guardians to avoid designating those considered high-risk, such as grandparents who are over 65 years of age.

# Special Education

Students who qualify for special education services based on their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) will continue to receive services through the preferred instructional format. Depending on a student's IEP needs, we acknowledge that it may be difficult for school staff to both follow social distancing protocols and meet the goals established to serve the student educationally. Staff will work with families to ensure that student IEP needs are addressed while maintaining safety for all.



## Role of Teachers and Instructional Expectations

Flexible enrollment options for families will directly impact the day-to-day role of teachers. Depending on grade level, school size, and enrollment data at each school, a teacher of record may be assigned to support students in the following ways at the principal's discretion:

Supporting In-Person Students	
Student-to-teacher ratio will be based on the ability to meet social distancing	All learners will participate in in-person instruction in a traditional school building.

The following outlines what teachers should expect for the 2021-2022 school year:

- All teachers are expected to report to work in-person in accordance with the District's 2021-2022 academic calendar. This expectation includes teachers delivering instruction to in-person learners and teachers delivering instruction to virtual learners as needed.
- All teachers are facilitators of standards-based instruction utilizing a Blended Learning framework.
- All teachers are virtual teachers in that instructional content is posted online on the teacher's web-page and on Microsoft Teams classroom every week for all learners to access virtually.

- Staff members with health concerns related to work may be eligible for accommodations pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Requests for ADA accommodations must be made by completing paperwork available from the Employee Relations Department. A portion of that paperwork must be completed by a physician. Requests for accommodations in the performance of job duties for the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year must be completed and submitted by August 2,

2021. Contact [ERStaff@slps.org](mailto:ERStaff@slps.org) for a copy of the paperwork required.

- All teachers of record are expected to maintain an online gradebook in the Student Information System (SIS).
- Preparation expectations for all teachers (in-person, virtual, or combination) are the same.
- All teachers (regardless of enrollment group) will adhere to the building certificated staff schedule.

The following table outlines how teachers will deliver content based on enrollment group. Synchronous refers to learning as part of a class and asynchronous is learning outside of class.

Instructional Design Components	In-Person Learners
Design standards-based units of study based on SLPS Continuous Learning Curriculum.	Teachers design units of study that include synchronous and asynchronous lessons, discussion, collaboration, performance tasks, assessments, and project-based learning utilizing a Blended Learning Framework.
All lessons posted (website and teams) by Monday morning each week.	All student work independently on asynchronous digital content in class.
Teachers develops synchronous instruction for direct instruction lesson components.	Students participate in-person from socially distanced seating.
Connections, collaboration, and discussion.	Online discussion tools for asynchronous and synchronous learning
Interventions	Teacher/staff/aide provides in-person and virtual interventions as needed
Assessment	Students performance tasks and unit assessments, STAR, Scantron, MAP, EOC (TBD).

## Extracurricular and Athletic Activities

Before and after-school activities will be limited until further notice. School leaders will determine which activities are essential. Partners must receive approval from school leaders or Central Office staff prior to conducting any activities. School leaders are encouraged to continue to maximize virtual before and after school opportunities to support engagement, attendance, and maintain normalcy for students in all grades.



## Employee Guidelines

**A**t the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year, all District employees returned to physical work locations and school sites. SLPS recognizes the important of balancing the restart of school and the necessity of mitigating risks for staff and students who returned to school. The following guidelines outline the District's precautionary measures to ensure employees returned in District buildings safely.

### COVID-19 Testing

In cooperation with the mandates of the DOH, all SLPS employees, onsite partners, and contractors were tested for COVID-19 prior to reporting to school at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year. Testing was available on-site at the District and at other DOH-approved locations at no cost to the individual. Written verification of a negative test was required before reporting to any District school or facility to restart school.

- Employees who tested positive were not allowed to return to work without the completion of a 10-day isolation and a release signed by an appropriate healthcare provider
- Employees who refused to be tested or provide test results to the District were subject to discipline up to and including dismissal
- School-based employees who tested positive at the beginning of the school year were able to complete some Professional Development training remotely, and thereafter used their own sick/PTO time for absence pursuant to Board Policy

Since the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year, the District continues regular antigen testing at multiple SLPS sites for any staff or student displaying COVID symptoms.

In addition, vaccinated staff and students with a known COVID exposure are counseled to obtain PCR testing after their exposure, per current CDC guidance.

### Employee Vaccination Policy

In August 2021, following full FDA approval of the Pfizer vaccine, the Board of Education of the City of St. Louis passed a mandatory vaccination policy, requiring all SLPS employees to get fully vaccinated by an October 15th deadline, unless they received an approved exemption. Use vacation, sick, or personal time off unless he or she applies, and is approved for paid leave under the Family First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA).



## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

SLPS will provide appropriate personal protective gear to all staff and students as needed. PPE must be used in accordance to aforementioned guidelines.

## Health Screening Process

All persons entering SLPS facilities must comply with the daily health screening protocol:

- Temperature check
- A brief pre-established health interview and follow up questions
- Persons with a temperature of 100.4°F (38°C) or above, or who answer, “yes” to any of the screening questions, will be denied entry or, taken to an isolation room for further assessment.

## When a Staff Person Is Identified with Symptoms:

- Immediately isolate the staff person from others in the designated isolation room
- If the staff person is identified with symptoms, send the individual home immediately, if they are medically stable. If the staff person is not medically stable, call 911

Staff persons who are symptomatic or, answered YES to any screening question must be advised to contact his or her healthcare provider

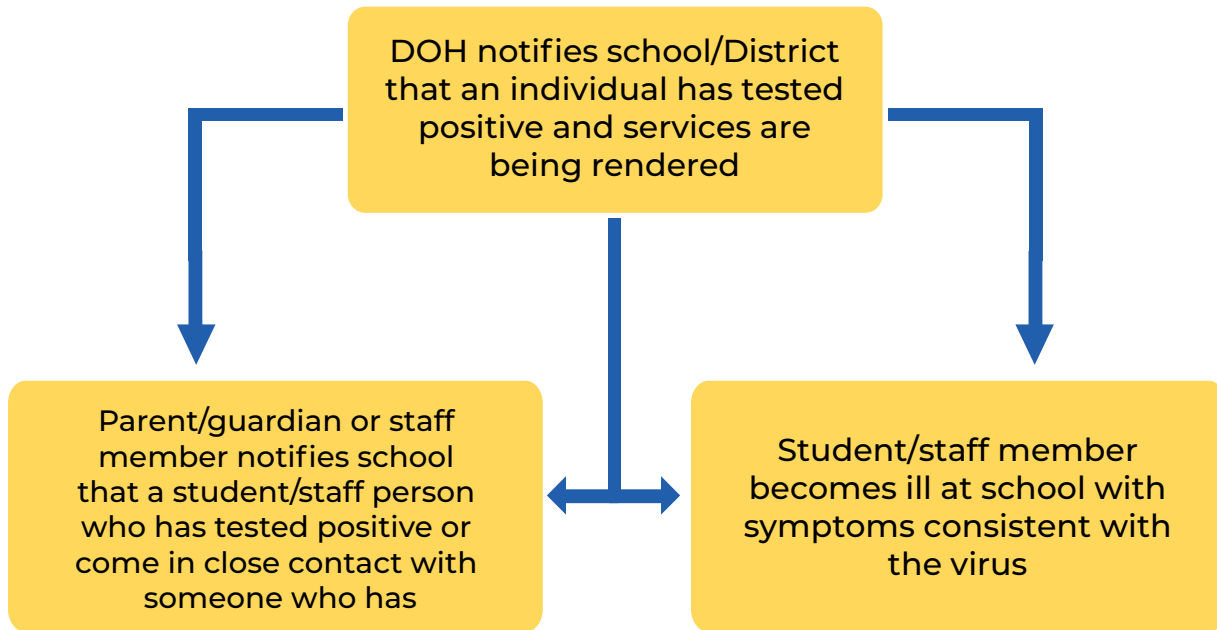
## Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

Individual therapy and support for staff is available through the District’s Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provided by United HealthCare: 800-622-7276.

# SLPS Contact Trace Back

The process by which those suspected of having had contact with a COVID-19 positive or suspected positive individual are notified and treated.

## Notification may come in these forms:



- Parents or staff may not to return to school without a physician's release. They are advised on how to obtain a COVID-19 test

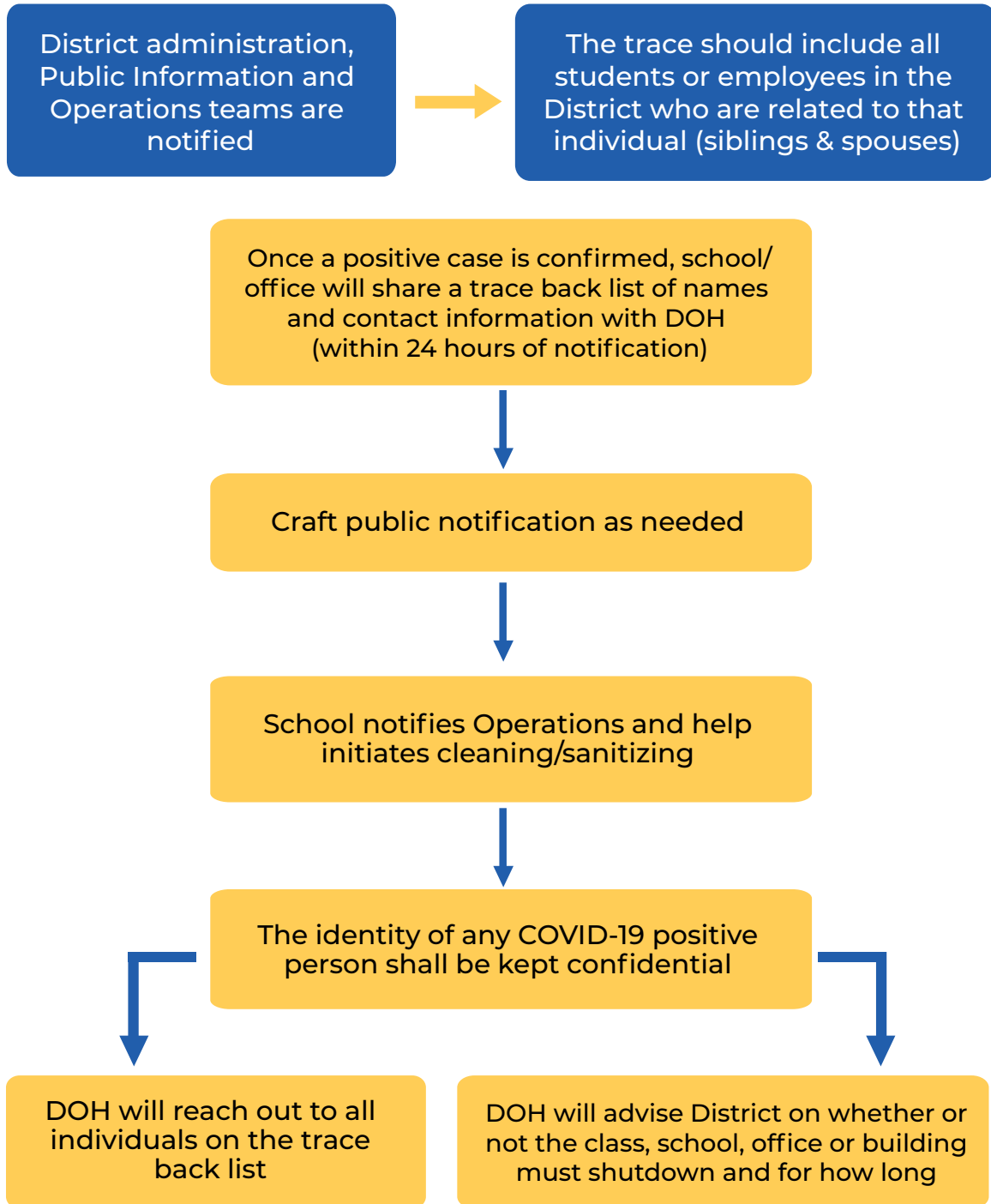
- Student or staff member is advised not to return to school until cleared by a physician
- The individual is advised on how to obtain a COVID-19 test

## Schools can support the trace back process by:

- Tightening the circle of exposure for all by maintaining small and consistent groupings of students and teachers
- Avoiding moving staff members between schools as much as possible

- Limiting gatherings of students and staff (presently, no more than ten)
- Posting all COVID-19 safety guidelines in the school or office

# Trace back begins:



Students/staff who become ill are advised on how to obtain a COVID-19 test. A release from a medical professional is required for return.





# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Q: Are daily health screenings required?**

**A:** Yes. Students will have their temperatures taken at the beginning of each school day. Parents are encouraged to ask their children about any symptoms and take their temperatures before sending them to school. All staff must complete a standardized self-assessment screening before reporting to work. Staff persons should stay at home if they are sick.

## **Q: Are parents permitted inside schools?**

**A:** Yes, we welcome parents/guardians. We ask you to please call ahead if possible. Contact your school principal for more information.

## **Q: Are visitors allowed in schools?**

**A:** Only essential visitors with appointments are allowed access at this time. Visitors are required to conduct a health screening prior to entry. If approved, direct contact between staff and visitors will be minimized or performed at an appropriate distance.

## **Q: Will students be allowed to alternate between the in-person and online learning models?**

**A:** Families that select online (Edmentum) learning may switch to in-person learning prior to the start of each quarter. Families that select self-guided online instruction through Edmentum will remain in this enrollment option for the entire semester.

## **Q: Will my student be able to study virtually?**

**A:** In 2021-2022, we are returning to in-person learning because it is imperative that we stave off any further learning loss and provide the stability of services and support our students need. No matter how robust the virtual learning platform is, most students perform better when inside the classroom.

## **Q: Will all SLPS students receive iPads or laptops?**

**A:** Yes. Students in Pre-K to eighth grade will receive iPads. Students in grades 9-12 will receive Dell Latitude 3310 laptops. Wireless hot spots will be provided to families who need them to ensure equitable access to the internet.

# Definition of Terms

**F**or the purposes of this body of work, it is important to clearly define the terms that may carry a different meaning in a generalized setting, but carry a specific meaning in education.

**Blended Learning** is a method of instruction that integrates technology and digital media with traditional, instructor-led classroom activities, giving students and teachers more flexibility to customize the learning experience. Blended Learning is the instructional approach for districts with one-to-one technology, where all students engage in digital content blended with (or as part of) their traditional learning experiences. ([www.blendedlearning.org](http://www.blendedlearning.org)).

**Online Learning** (Edmentum) is the ability to access and engage with instructional resources online. This may include live lessons, computer-mediated software, synchronous and asynchronous content. Virtual learning relies entirely on the use of technology for student learning, communication, and engagement. Effective virtual learning integrates asynchronous instructional design with synchronous instruction and engagement.

**Asynchronous Learning**, sometimes called location independent learning, is an instructional design structure in which students engage with instructional resources at different times and locations. Asynchronous instruction organizes activities and resources aligned to a learning target for students to work through independently. Asynchronous instructional design focuses on rigor, personalization, and alignment to standards.

**Synchronous Learning** is a pre-scheduled/pre-arranged time where all students and their teacher are logged into a shared virtual application (or in person) to engage in real-time learning. During synchronous engagement, teachers facilitate instruction, collaboration, and support for students through virtual, face-to-face interaction. It allows students to engage with their teacher during class meetings, whole group and small group instruction and collaboration, and it provides social/emotional connectedness.

**Hybrid** refers to a school's scheduling configuration in which a student's learning may take place in a physical school building part of the time and in another setting (e.g., home, library, daycare) the other portion of the time.

# Acknowledgments

In 2020-2021, the Saint Louis Public Schools (SLPS) District organized the Restart School Task Force to help determine the safest ways to reopen schools to in-person instruction. The Task Force included members reflective of a variety of stakeholder groups including all District departments, board members, school leaders, American Federation of Teachers St. Louis Local 420, parents/guardians and community partners. Their recommendations continue to serve us well as we move into the second year of pandemic learning and weigh updated information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the St. Louis City Department of Health (DOH). We know the importance of getting our students back in school in order to guard against learning loss that can come along with distance learning. Despite the robust virtual learning plan offered last year, we know that most students learn best in the safety and stability of a teacher-led classroom setting. That is why the District has remained proactive in efforts to return to school.

Over the past year, we have gradually opened school with elementary students returning to Instructional Support Centers (ISCs) in October 2020 and high school students following in January of 2021. Most recently, we successfully hosted in-person Summer School. It is our hope that we have demonstrated to our community that with all protocols remaining in place, we have the ability to restart safely. The preceding built on the Task Force's initial plan to create this updated document outlining the framework for reopening 60 SLPS schools for the 2021-2022 school year.

## Restart Task Force 2021-2022

**Governance:** Dr. Kelvin R. Adams, Superintendent of Schools

**Instruction:** Dr. Marion Smith, Jr. Deputy Superintendent of Academics

**Facilities and School Operations:** Square Watson, Deputy Superintendent of Operations

**Technology:** Cheryl VanNoy, Deputy Superintendent of Accountability, Assessment and Technology

**Wellness:** Dr. Michael Brown, Deputy Superintendent of Student Support Services

# Subcommittees and Members

## Governance

Pamela Bell	Executive Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent
Jane Donahue	President, St. Louis Public Schools Foundation
DeAndre Davis	Director, Safety and Security
George Edwards	Administrators Association - Local 44
Susan Reid	Principal, Compton-Drew Investigative Learning Center
Dr. Joyce Roberts	President, Board of Education of the City of St. Louis

## Instruction

Reggae Anwisye	SLPS Parent
Beth Bender	Associate Superintendent, Career and Technical Education SLPS
Addie Bond	Parent
Terrance Bullock	Coordinator, Academic Operations
Angela Glass	Principal, Mann Elementary
Kathy Gregory	SLPS Teacher, AFT St. Louis - Local 420
Jere Hochman	Network Superintendent, Middle Schools
Sara Martens	Director, Academic Instructional Coaches K-12
David Merideth	SLPS Parent
Natasha Mitchell	Interim Director, Virtual Learning
Kimberly Moody	Director, Curriculum and Instruction K-12
Kay Royster	Reading Specialist
Teron Sharp	Athletics Director

## Facilities and School Operations

Addie Bond	SLPS Parent
Carron Johnson	SLPS ICA, AFT St. Louis - Local 420
John Moore	SLPS Teacher, AFT St. Louis - Local 420
Susan Reid	Principal, Compton-Drew Investigative Learning Center

## Technology

Angela Glass	Principal, Mann Elementary
Jonathan Griffin	Principal, Carnahan High School of the Future
Jay Hartman	Executive Director, Consortium Partnership Network
David Lashbrook	Network Administrator
David Merideth	SLPS Parent
Natasha Mitchell	Interim Director, Virtual Learning
Victoria Shearing	Principal, Cleveland NJROTC Academy
Fred Steele	Principal, Collegiate School of Medicine and Bioscience
Samona Walker	Lead Instructional Specialist

## Wellness

Mackenzie Alberti	Partner, ABCToday, Big Brothers/Big Sisters
Reggae Anwisye	SLPS Parent
Andrew Donovan	Principal, Dewey Elementary
Jana Haywood	Principal, Clyde C. Miller Career Academy
Emily Johnson	Partner, Little Bit Foundation
Megan Marietta	Manager, Social Work Services
Myra Pendleton	Director, Performance Management
John Pimmell	Partner, Little Bit Foundation
Dorothy Rohde-Collins	President, Board of Education of the City of St. Louis
Surilla Shaw	Coordinator, School Nurses

## Project Managers

Tyler Archer	Interim Principal, Nance Elementary
Jingxin Bao	Intern, Harvard University
Angelia Rougeau	Assistant Principal, Collegiate School of Medicine and Bioscience

These guidelines were created in partnership with the City of St. Louis Department of Health (DOH) in order to establish and maintain safe and healthy environments for staff and students upon the resumption of in-school activities. At this time, that includes wearing masks, social distancing and limiting guests inside our schools. SLPS staff are expected to adhere to all guidelines and stay current on changes as they are communicated. All guidelines are subject to revision by DOH at any time to maintain safety for staff and students.

# Four Easy Ways To Stay Connected:

1

**Update** your phone number, email address and mailing address with the District.

2

Opt-in to **text messages** from the District by texting **YES** to **67587**.

3

Sign-up to receive **The District Digest**, a newsletter for families at [www.slps.org/districtdigest](http://www.slps.org/districtdigest).

4

**Download** the District app from the App Store or Google Play by searching Saint Louis Public Schools.

