

September 28, 2022

Hello Soulard School Community,

As we get further into another school year under the covid pandemic, we are updating and revising our covid prevention and response measures based on CDC and City of St. Louis Department of Health recommendations issued in August.

The document below is our Reopening Plan. This is a document required under state and federal law) and outlines all aspects of our covid mitigation processes. Prior to issuing the final version of this document later this month, we consulted with all our school stakeholders - surveying staff, students and parents for feedback to this revision to our Reopening Plan.

Changes for Fall 2022 to highlight include:

- Removal of differentiation between vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals, per CDC recommendations.
- End of test-to-stay program for unvaccinated exposed individuals
- New "red/yellow/green" metric for masking and other covid precautions based on schoolwide case rates

Thank you for your feedback and support!

Sarah Christman, Executive Director
Shenika Bishop, Principal
Eleanor White, Communications & Operations Director
Amy Cross, SEC Program Director
Jay DeLong, TSS Board President

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1. Classroom Assignments and Schedules

All classes will be housed in their usual locations for the 2022-23 school year.

- Junior Pre-K (Sprouts) - class of 11 students and 2 teachers at 1111 Victor building
- Senior Pre-K (Quietude) - class of 16 students and 2 teachers at 1110 Victor in Quietude classroom
- K - 5th grade - classes of 20-24 students and 2 teachers each in 1110 Victor classrooms
- Most Extended Core classes will meet at Gene Slay's Girls and Boys Club, while others may meet in the kitchen, outdoors, or the classrooms.

2. Learning Expectations for Families and Staff

It is our plan to provide daily in-person learning and instruction, and students are expected to be in school on time, ready to learn unless they are ill.

If covid or covid exposure causes individual students to need to quarantine, the school will work with the family to find ways to keep the student engaged and connected to class activities and learning.

If a whole class or larger numbers of students need to quarantine, the school will revert to a distance learning model during quarantine for the affected groups.

In order to ensure that quarantining does not disrupt learning more than necessary, classes will continue to integrate technology into in-person learning. Elementary students who need them will be provided with personal electronic devices (iPad Minis for K-1, Chromebooks for 2-5th). Classes, especially at the upper grades, will continue to use online learning platforms such as Google Classroom both in and out of the classroom.

Families will be asked to sign technology contracts ensuring that devices are kept safe and used for educational purposes only. In the event of a quarantine or other switch to distance learning, wifi hotspots will be issued to families that need them.

A. Online Learning Platforms

Platforms were chosen by our Curriculum Committee and administrator team in 2020 with the goal that learning could be fluid and flexible between in-person and distance learning and allow for continuity during closures. We will continue to use email, Seesaw, Google Classroom, and Zoom as our instructional and communication platforms. Seesaw will act as the K-2 instructional platform and Google Classroom will act as the 3-5th grade instructional platform. Whether in-person or distance learning, we will use a variety of instructional support apps. It is not expected that students work for extended periods of time on instructional apps. Classroom teachers will provide suggested usage times for instructional support apps to help ensure apps

are being used to complete assignments, review and reinforce skills. Please contact your child's teacher if you have concerns about the length or difficulty of an assignment.

B. Parent responsibilities during distance learning

In the event of a class quarantine, it is the expectation of the school that families will work to ensure that their child participates fully in all virtual learning activities. Teachers and other school staff will work with all families to ensure that students have the tools they need to remain connected.

C. Serving students and families with special needs

In the event of a quarantine, the school's Special Education Coordinator will work with the special education staff and classroom teachers to ensure that any students with IEPs or 504 plans have their educational needs met during distance learning.

The school administrative team, including the School Counselor, will work with families and classroom teachers to ensure that quarantining students have the tools and support they need to continue to participate in distance learning, including providing wifi hotspots for students who lack wifi in their home. Staff will work to identify any other barriers to distance learning and work to address these needs as applicable.

3. Family Out-of-School Choices

As a community we are constantly working to make our school and community stronger and safer. In this current time, that commitment to each other extends further than ever. In creating these plans, we are continuing to balance student, staff and community safety against the need to engage and educate our children.

Our teachers and staff are on the frontlines of a pandemic with our students. The success of these plans not only falls under the responsibility of the school, but is directly tied to each and every community member. Individual choices outside of school time will play a significant role.

We are asking our community to prioritize the health and safety of our staff, students and their families by getting vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19, and making out-of-school time choices that reflect [CDC guidelines](#) and [AAP recommendations](#). This will decrease the risk of exposure and transmission, as well as demonstrate care and consideration for those returning to the building this fall.

4. Covid School Safety Plan

The following document was approved by the City of St. Louis Department of Health on **** (pending) ****.

The following plan is submitted as a way to effectively manage the pandemic in our school

setting. Acknowledging that COVID-19 is still in our community and can pose varying levels of risk to students and staff members, this plan was created to easily pivot among mitigation strategies based on the number/percent of active covid cases in our school.

Students may choose to continue masking at any time they feel it is needed; however, all students will need to bring a mask to school each day to be used in certain situations. The school will also provide disposable masks to students in emergency situations.

How will the school gauge the school's community covid level?

The school will look at whole school counts/rates of positive covid cases in a 10 day period, in relation to the total number of staff and students (200 people). City/county and classroom levels will also be considered.

Who is affected by the covid mitigation measures?

Staff, students, contractors, volunteers and visitors will all be asked to follow policy rules regarding masking, distancing, etc.

What are testing and reporting protocols? How is information conveyed to families?

See chart below for summary of who tests when. Individuals can test at school, at home (parents submit photo of results) or at a clinic/testing site (parents submit test results).

Positive test results from tests administered at school will be reported to the state Department of Health and Senior Services per their guidelines. When the school learns of a positive case that results in potential school-based spread, the school will notify the City Department of Health.

The school will notify by email all families in a class where an individual tests positive and there is a potential for exposure. The school will also provide a draft copy of the Reopening Plan to all families for comment prior to adopting it, and again to them after it is finalized. In accordance with federal guidelines, the plan will also be posted on the school's website and is reviewed and updated every 6 months.

The following criteria will guide decisions that are based on covid-19 cases in the school:

Level	School Positivity Rate	# Active Cases in 10 day period
Green	<4%	<8
Yellow	4-8%	8-16
Red	>8%	>16

Green: <4% positivity rate (8 or fewer cases among all TSS/SEC staff and students)

- Masks optional for everyone throughout the building unless they have a recent

exposure

- Teachers and parents will be notified of a positive case in their classroom. All students in the classroom will be considered exposed and wear a high-quality mask for 10 days and get tested on day 5 after exposure.
- Parents will be asked to monitor their children for symptoms. If a child experiences any symptoms, they should stay home and get tested. The school will make tests available to families when possible.
- Students exposed at home to parents or siblings with COVID-19 will stay home for five (5) days and wear a high- quality mask for ten (10) days and get tested on day five (5) after exposure. If students become symptomatic following a household exposure, they will be required to isolate for five (5) days, returning on day six (6) if symptoms are improved and they are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medication. If symptoms have not improved or they remain febrile, students will isolate through day ten (10).
- Individuals with a [moderate or severe illness](#) due to COVID-19, or who are immunocompromised, need to isolate through day 10.
- Classes will sit in the lunchroom only with members of their own classes.

Yellow: 4-8% positivity rate (8-16 cases within the school)

- Masks required for ages 5 and up throughout the school building except when eating and drinking.
- Visitors to the building may be limited:
 - Elementary parents drop off/pick up students at front door/driveway only
 - Tours rescheduled/moved to virtual format
- Assemblies and other large group activities moved outside, postponed or otherwise reconsidered
- Lunch schedules will be evaluated and some classes may eat lunch in classrooms to allow for greater social distancing

Red: >8% positivity, (more than 16 active cases within the school)

- Lunch in classrooms

- Consider temporary closure or switch to distance learning for all grades
 - If close, all students/staff test to return

General Reminders

Isolation (across all levels): All students/staff who test positive for COVID-19 must isolate for at least 5 days. After 5 full days, they may return to school if they have been fever free for 24 hours without the use of medication and if symptoms are improving. They must wear a mask at all times (except when eating) through day 10.

Parent Responsibility

Parents must continuously monitor the health of their child(ren) especially looking for symptoms of COVID-19:

Fever or chills	New/worsening cough	Fatigue
Shortness of breath	Muscle/body aches	Headache
Congestion/runny nose	Sore throat	Nausea/vomiting
Diarrhea	Loss of taste/smell	

As per our regular health protocols as stated in the handbook, students should NOT be in school until they are symptom-free of fever, vomiting or diarrhea without the aid of medications for 24 hours.

Parents must inform the school of a positive covid-19 test result for their child(ren) or someone living in their household.

Exceptions

Due to the fluid nature of the COVID-19-19 pandemic, this policy is subject to modification at any time.

Soulard School Covid Quarantine/Isolation Policies - September 2022

Pre-K and Elementary Students*

	Exposure	Home exposure	Positive test
Students (Pre-K and Elem.)	<p style="text-align: center;">NO QUARANTINE</p> <p>Test when learn of exposure and on day #5, monitor for symptoms, mask for 10 days after exposure</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">5 DAY QUARANTINE</p> <p>Home for 5 days regardless of tests/symptoms, test to return, mask for 10 days after family member's positive test</p> <p>If additional family members become sick, 5 day clock would reset after each one.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">5 DAY QUARANTINE</p> <p>If no symptoms: Return after 5 days. Mask for 10 days from positive test.</p> <p>If symptoms: Return after 5 days if feeling better (fever free 24+ hours). Mask for 10 days from positive test/symptom start.</p>
Staff members, volunteers or contractors	<p style="text-align: center;">NO QUARANTINE</p> <p>Test when learn of exposure and on day #5, monitor for symptoms, mask for 10 days after exposure</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NO QUARANTINE</p> <p>Test when learn of exposure and on day #5, monitor for symptoms, mask for 10 days after exposure.</p> <p>If multiple household members sick, school may ask to quarantine.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">5 DAY QUARANTINE</p> <p>If no symptoms: Return after 5 days. Mask for 10 days from positive test.</p> <p>If symptoms: Return after 5 days if feeling better (fever free 24+ hours). Mask for 10 days from positive test/symptom start.</p>

*Individuals who have tested positive for covid in the past 90 days and recovered would not have to test, and may not need to quarantine depending on circumstances.

5. Covid Testing and Vaccinations

The school currently receives free rapid covid antigen tests from the Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services and the St. Louis City Department of Health. These tests have been designated for use to test students and staff members who display covid symptoms or have covid exposures. Additional tests may be available for families to test at home. The Communications & Operations Director received training from the MDHSS in how to administer, read and report these tests to state and local health agencies.

Under school policy set by The Soulard School Board of Directors, all staff hired after 9/15/21 are required to be fully vaccinated. Staff hired before that date are also required to be vaccinated, but are allowed religious or medical exemptions.

Any substitute teachers, parent or community volunteers, student teachers or others working in the classrooms or closely with students (including kitchen volunteers) are required to be fully vaccinated, with no exemptions/exceptions. Parents visiting the building for meetings, picking up/dropping off their children, or attending a field trip where they are not in close proximity to other students (i.e. not driving other students) are not required to be vaccinated.

Safe covid vaccines are now available for all age groups, including toddlers, children and adults. The school encourages all families to get their children vaccinated, and will continue to track the vaccination status of students. The school will continue to provide information to families about vaccine events and vaccine safety. At this time, the school does not have a vaccination policy for students.

6. Daily Procedures

A. Pick Up/Drop Off

Arrival

1. Screening - Families are asked to assess their children's health prior to drop off. Students who are ill, or who have family members with covid or are waiting on covid tests should stay home. The school will not conduct in-person health screenings or temperature checks unless a student/staff member is feeling ill.
2. Entry locations - 7:00-8:15:
 - a. Families participating in beforecare can use key card at McGurk's Room (kitchen) door to drop off students in beforecare. Must sign in.
3. Entry locations - 8:15-8:30:
 - Elementary walkers: main entrance on Victor. Starting 3/28/22, parents have the option of walking kids to the classroom door. Please schedule all parent/teacher conversations - pick up/drop off is not the best time, as teachers are supervising students.
 - Elementary car riders: driveway

- Sprouts Jr. Pre-K: Sprouts rear entrance
 - Quietude Sr. Pre-K: Use key card at McGurk's Room (kitchen) door to walk students to class.
4. Tardy/late students:
 - a. Elementary students arriving after 8:30am ring the bell at the Victor St. entrance.
 - b. Parents should wait until the student is admitted to the building.
 - c. Elementary students arriving after 8:45am will be marked tardy.

Dismissal

1. Sprouts Jr. Pre-K:
 - a. Parents pick up at the Sprouts back door at designated time.
2. Quietude Sr. Pre-K:
 - a. Parents use key card to enter McGurk's Room door and pick up children from classroom door.
3. Elementary:
 - a. Aftercare students will be walked to aftercare by a classroom teacher or aftercare staff member.
 - b. Students going to Gene Slay's Girls & Boys Club for aftercare will be picked up from the classroom by a TSS staff member and walked across the street.
 - c. Parents picking up at 3:30pm can park and walk up to the Victor St. door and wait outside, or drive through the driveway. Please schedule all parent/teacher conversations - pick up/drop off is not the best time, as teachers are supervising students.
 - d. At Victor St. or the driveway, parents will display a sign with their child's name or otherwise identify the student they are picking up, and the staff member working driveway will call that student from class using walkie-talkies.
 - e. Students not picked up by 3:45pm will be taken to the hallway outside the office and parents contacted. Fees may be assessed for late pick ups (see Parent Handbook).

B. Lunch and Snacks

The Soulard School's lunch and Nutrition/Culinary Arts program are unique and integral to our philosophy. We want to maintain as much of the integrity of this program as possible despite covid restrictions.

We will continue to offer healthy, balanced, from-scratch meals for pre-k and elementary students and staff throughout the 2022-2023 school year, with optional brown bag days on Fridays. We will strive to practice the highest standards of food safety during lunch preparation. The CDC says COVID-19 is not a food-borne illness, but we want to limit all possible avenues for germs to be spread through our community.

The school will provide a morning snack at school due to our generous produce donation from Tom Lange Produce. Daily snacks will consist of a fresh fruit/vegetable and a grain or protein (i.e crackers, popcorn). Handwashing and hygiene will be enforced before and after any food is consumed. Elementary students may bring a healthy afternoon snack from home, while pre-k families will take turns providing pre-k afternoon snack.

Sarah Kate Buckles, Culinary Arts Teacher, and William Dement, Culinary Arts Assistant, will continue to create an environment that is as safe as possible from exposure to food allergens. They have updated Serv-safe food safety certifications and will be up-to-date on all the St. Louis Health Department recommendations for schools.

Parent and grandparent volunteers may help in the lunchroom if they are fully covid vaccinated and trained by the Culinary Arts staff, and wear masks throughout their work.

Under normal conditions this year, all classes (except Sprouts) will eat in the lunchroom over the course of 3 lunch shifts. If covid numbers increase in a class or within the school as a whole, some/all classes may be asked to eat lunch in their classroom for a period of time. Lunch and all required utensils, paper products and garbage containers will be delivered by cart to the classrooms for students and staff. Kitchen staff will deliver, retrieve, sanitize and dispose of all lunch items.

When in the lunchroom, meals may be pre-plated at tables or may be self-serve. We will be able to practice table manners and social skills and build our community in this way.

Nutrition classes will include meal planning lessons, outdoor instruction in growing herbs and vegetables, and grade standard nutrition instruction, as well as food preparation and cooking.

C. Recess

Every class will have one or more recesses. Whenever possible, these will be outside.

Recess schedule 2022-23:

- Jr. Pre-K: On their own playground, typically 1 hour a.m. and 1 hour p.m.
- Sr. Pre-K: On the main school playground, Typically 1 hour a.m. and 1 hour p.m. Pre-K recess will not overlap with elementary recesses.
- Kindergarten, 1st: Grade level recesses, 30 minute lunch recess and 30 minute afternoon recess on school playground
- 2nd - 5th: Grade level recesses, 30 minute lunch recess on school playground or Gene Slay's Girls & Boys Club field.

TSS Playground Recess Schedule

9:00-10:00 - Pre-K morning recess
11:00-11:30 - Kindergarten, 2nd grade lunch recess
11:30-12:00 - 1st grade, 3rd grade lunch recess
1:45-2:30 - Pre-K afternoon recess
2:30-3:00 - K/1st grade afternoon recess
4:00-5:00 - Aftercare

GSGBC Field Recess Schedule

11:00-11:30 - 4th grade lunch recess
11:30-12:00 - 5th lunch recess

All classes will wash hands after recess, and select playground equipment will be sanitized as needed. Sunlight also contributes to breaking down any coronavirus on outdoor surfaces.

Students are given the option of removing masks when going out for recess. Students are provided with paper bags for mask storage if needed.

Classes may also opt to use outdoor space for instruction and lunchtimes, weather permitting, as this allows for lowered risk of coronavirus spread.

D. Before and Aftercare

The school offers before and aftercare for families who require this service for their work schedule. If we have more students enroll than we have space and staffing to accommodate, we will contact families and work to further prioritize families who need this program most.

We will work to keep groups of students separated by age when indoors, but it will be impossible to keep them in their class cohorts. Before and aftercare will be conducted outside as much as possible to lower risk of spread across age groups, so students should dress accordingly.

E. Building and Physical Plant

The school contracts with a company to provide nightly cleaning of all classrooms, offices, bathrooms and hallways. A separate company provides clean floor mats, kitchen linens and paper products weekly.

We have installed UV lights for all HVAC systems throughout the school to sanitize the air as it travels through those systems. In addition, each classroom has an air purifier running during the school day. We will also continue to increase air circulation by opening windows and running fans as much as possible.

7. Frequently Asked Questions

What happens if covid cases increase or decrease dramatically in our school or community?

After several years of pandemic life, we are ready to continue making adjustments to our policies as needed. If rates increase, we can revisit prior policies and rules, including masking guidance and quarantine periods. If rates decrease, we can continue loosening restrictions. As always, we will seek community input on these changes.

What if masks are optional, but our family wants our child to continue wearing one?

Students, staff and visitors are welcome to continue wearing masks during the school day. We are asking that families establish mask practices with their children and provide extra masks in their child's backpack. If classes are in "mask optional" mode, teachers will not be providing mask reminders or providing extra masks for students in most circumstances.

If the school and the CDC aren't differentiating between vaccinated and unvaccinated, should I still get my kids vaccinated?

Yes! Even if the vaccines can't prevent all cases of covid, they are demonstrated to reduce the chance of severe complications. Furthermore, even though most kids experience only mild/short symptoms, they still can spread the illness to others in their family and our community who are more susceptible to serious illness. Please do your part and get your children vaccinated and get your boosters as well.

I have more questions! What now?

Elementary academics - shenika.bishop@soulardschool.org Principal

Elementary special education/student needs - debbie.hilliard@soulardschool.org SpEd Director

General logistics - eleonor.white@soulardschool.org Communications & Operations Director

Big picture school questions - sarah.christman@soulardschool.org Executive Director

Early Childhood, Before & Afterschool - amy.cross@soulardschool.org Program Director