



THE **S**CHOOL FOR **C**HILDREN
WITH **H**IDDEN **I**NTELLIGENCE

COVID-19 Restart & Recovery Plan

This is a “LIVE” document, in which changes are made frequently.

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www.schischool.org

Foreword

This **COVID-19 Restart & Recovery Plan** describes the procedures that will be used by the SCHI School to ensure the safe, in-person delivery of services to our students. This plan is meant to address the extraordinary circumstances critical to minimize the risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus.

SCHI POLICY: SCHOOL YEAR 2020-2021

Last Updated September 14, 2020

The policy below was guided by the New Jersey Department of Education's (NJDOE) "Restart and Recovery Plan for Education." Minimum standards and Critical Areas of Operation from the document are addressed in the policy below.

All policies are based on guidelines from the NJ Department of Health (NJDOH) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC), and are subject to change based on guidance from state and local guidelines.

GENERAL HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDELINES

- SCHI will comply with the Center for Disease Control, state and local guidelines to promote general health and safety throughout the school.
- SCHI will provide accommodations, such as remote learning, for students at higher risk for severe illness.
- SCHI will provide accommodations – when possible – such as telework, for staff at higher risk for severe illness.
- SCHI will promote behaviors that reduce the spread of COVID-19, such as social distancing, frequent handwashing and the use of face coverings.

CLASSROOMS AND THERAPY ROOMS

A. CLASSROOMS

- Staff and students will maintain social distancing within classrooms to the maximum extent possible
 - Students will sit six feet apart when possible.
 - Older students who are sitting in desks, will have desks spaced at least 6 feet apart.
 - If students are sitting at tables, they will only sit on one side of the table, facing **one** direction.
 - Teachers will avoid activities that involve the students getting in close physical contact.
- Classes will be kept together to include the same group/cohort of students/staff each day. Student and staff groupings will be as static as possible.
- SCHI will ensure that indoor facilities have adequate ventilation.
- Disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer will be available in every classroom and throughout the building.
- Items that are not easily cleaned, sanitized, or disinfected will be avoided.
- Staff will limit use of shared supplies and equipment and disinfect shared items between use (ex. electronic devices, toys, books, or other games or learning aids).

- SCHI will provide face shields, face coverings, and gloves to staff as well as students.
 - All staff members must wear a mask throughout the day unless it will inhibit the individual's health.
 - Students are required to wear a face covering if deemed safe and appropriate.
 - Reusable face coverings should be washed often.
- Staff and students will perform hand hygiene at a minimum of 1x per hour.
 - Hands should be washed with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
 - If hands are not visibly soiled, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol can be used.
 - Staff members should ensure students are performing proper handwashing.
 - Hand hygiene should take place:
 - Upon arrival at school
 - Before and after meals and snacks
 - After going to the bathroom
 - Before leaving the building
 - After blowing nose, sneezing or coughing into tissue
 - When hands are visibly soiled.

B. THERAPY ROOMS

- Therapy supervisors will work to ensure that therapy gyms do not exceed a capacity where social distancing will be difficult.
- Items that cannot easily be disinfected (ex. cloth items) will be removed.
- Therapy equipment and surfaces will be wiped down after each student use.
- Disinfecting wipes and hand sanitizer will be available throughout the therapy rooms.

TRANSPORTATION

- Social distancing will be practiced to the maximum extent possible on buses.
- The bus driver and any bus-aides will wear a face covering at all times.
- Students who are able, will be required to wear a face covering while on the bus.
- School buses used to transport students will be cleaned and disinfected after each transport.
- When possible, barriers should be installed that separate the bus drivers from the students.

STUDENT FLOW, ENTRY, EXIT, AND COMMON AREAS

A. STUDENT FLOW, ENTRY AND EXIT

- Staff and students will be screened for COVID-19 and history of exposure upon arrival. Student arrival and dismissal will be staggered to ensure staff and students can safely enter and exit the building without crowding.
- Signage will be posted around the school to remind staff and students to remain six feet apart.

- Face coverings are required (unless deemed unsafe or inappropriate) at all times.

B. COMMON AREAS

- Large group gatherings will be minimized.
 - Students will eat all meals and snacks in their classroom, so as not to gather in large groups.
 - Students will be assigned rotating recess times, so as to not gather in large groups.
- A limited number of classes may use shared rooms in the building at one time (such as gyms, OT rooms, life skills, pool areas, etc.). After use, the room will be thoroughly disinfected before it is used again.
- Social distancing will be maintained in all shared rooms.
- When possible, special area teachers will travel from class to class; students will not travel through the hallways, so as to limit exposure to any other students.
 - If students need to travel to a different classroom or gym for therapy or other necessary activities, the used room should be disinfected between student uses.

SCREENING, PPE, AND RESPONSE TO STUDENTS AND STAFF PRESENTING SYMPTOMS

A. SCREENING

- Staff and students will be screened for symptoms and history of exposure.
 - Staff and students should stay home if they have had potential exposure to COVID-19. Local Health Department guidance will be followed to determine when staff or students can return to school after a potential exposure. Potential exposure includes:
 - Recent close contact (being within 6 feet for at least 10 minutes) with a person with COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
 - Travel to an area with high levels of COVID-19 transmission in the past 14 days.
 - Staff will visually check students for symptoms upon arrival. Individuals who have a positive COVID-19 test result, or symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and **have not had a medical evaluation or a negative COVID-19 test** will be denied entry and sent home.
 - See “Protocols for Suspected or Confirmed Cases” for details regarding specific symptoms and when isolation or exclusion from school would be necessary.
 - All staff and students will have their temperature checked upon arrival. Students arriving by bus or car will have their temperatures taken prior to exiting their vehicle.
 - Students with an alternate diagnosis explaining symptoms will follow SCHI’s policy for exclusion for that diagnosis.
 - If a student or staff member is displaying a symptom related to a chronic diagnosis, a worsening of that regular symptom from baseline would be a concern (ex. a change in a cough from baseline in an individual with a chronic cough).

- Staff and parents/caregivers will be made aware of all COVID-19 related symptoms and are required to notify the nurse of any signs/symptoms of COVID-19 or positive test results, as well as report any known history of exposure
- Staff or students who feel unwell or are experiencing signs/symptoms of COVID-19, may not return until they meet the necessary criteria for returning to school (detailed in “Protocols for “Suspected or Confirmed Cases”).
- The school nurse will be notified of any signs/symptoms of COVID-19 and document observations, as well as actions taken.
- Staff and student attendance will be monitored for COVID-19 related absences.
- Local health authorities will be notified of any confirmed cases and provided guidance will be followed.

B. PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

- Staff will be trained in appropriate use of PPE, including face coverings, as well as the importance of regular hygiene practices.
- Face Coverings:
 - School staff and visitors are required to wear face coverings.
 - Students are required to wear face coverings at all times, if deemed safe and appropriate.
 - One would be exempt from wearing a face covering when:
 - It would inhibit the individual’s health
 - The individual is in extreme heat outdoors
 - The individual is in water or a lifeguard on active duty
 - The student has a documented medical condition or disability that precludes the use of a face covering
 - If or when anyone has trouble breathing, is unconscious, or is unable to remove the face covering without assistance.
 - The individual is eating or drinking
 - The individual is engaged in high intensity aerobic or anaerobic activities.
 - The individual is in gym or in music class that is well ventilated and physical distance of six feet can be maintained.
 - Wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition to operate equipment or execute a task.
- Staff are required to wear gloves when:
 - Handling or serving food to students
 - Attending to personal care
- Staff members must perform hand hygiene before and after attending to any personal care in addition to wearing gloves. Staff must thoroughly disinfect changing surfaces after use.
- Staff will wear disposable gowns provided by SCHI when they are likely to come in contact with bodily fluids. Gowns should be changed or removed after interacting with any student.

C. RESPONSE TO STUDENTS OR STAFF PRESENTING SYMPTOMS

- Staff and students with signs or symptoms related to COVID-19 will immediately be isolated in a designated room until they can be sent home.
- Staff and students will be readmitted in accordance with the Department of Health guidelines.
- Communicable Disease Service guidance will be followed if there is a confirmed case, and illness reporting is necessary.
 - Contact tracing (including records of groups/cohorts, assigned staff, and daily attendance) will be utilized to identify “close contacts.”
 - The local health department, staff and students will be notified of possible cases of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality.
 - Staff and students will be readmitted in accordance with the Department of Health guidelines for schools.
 - Please see SCHI document “Protocols for Suspected or Confirmed Cases” for further details addressing any suspected or positive cases.

CONTACT TRACING

- A “close contact” is defined as anyone who was within 6 feet of an individual who tested positive for a period of at least 10 minutes.
- Please refer to document “Protocols for Suspected or Confirmed Cases” for detailed protocol addressing contact tracing.

FACILITIES CLEANING PRACTICES

A. ROUTINE CLEANING/DISINFECTING

- Custodial staff will disinfect all touch points throughout each day, such as handrails, door handles, drinking stations, and shared desktops.
- Shared rooms will be thoroughly disinfected before and after each class use.
 - Guidelines regarding disinfection will be posted by all shared areas (such as the playground, pool area, auditorium, and multipurpose room).
 - Staff will routinely clean and disinfect surfaces and frequently touched objects.
 - Bathrooms will be sanitized daily and between uses as much as possible.
- Commonly used/shared surfaces must be wiped down throughout the day. Disinfectant cleaners/wipes will be provided to teachers and staff.

B. CLEANING/DISINFECTION AFTER A SUSPECTED OR CONFIRMED CASE OF COVID-19

- Cleaning and disinfection should be done regularly. If cleaning and disinfection is done daily, then additional cleaning is not necessary unless the COVID-19 positive case is in school on the day he/she tests positive.
- If the COVID-19 positive person is in school the day that he/she tests positive:

- Close off areas used by the sick individual, and do not use before cleaning and disinfecting. If possible, wait 24 hours or as long as possible before cleaning and disinfecting to avoid unnecessary exposure to respiratory droplets while cleaning.
- Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area (unless contraindicated due to a safety or health concern).
- Cleaning staff should clean and disinfect all areas used by ill persons.
- The area can be used again once it is appropriately cleaned and disinfected.

MEALS

- Students will eat all meals and snacks in their classroom, so as not to gather in large groups
- Staff obtaining food for their classes, should remain a minimum of six feet apart while in the cafeteria.
- Staff must wear gloves while handling or serving food. Staff should wash hands before donning gloves and after removing them.
- Staff and students are encouraged to perform proper hand hygiene before and after eating meals.
- Disposable food service items will be used as much as possible.

RECESS/PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- If two or more groups are using a shared area at one time, they must stay a minimum of 6 feet apart at all times.
- Students will be encouraged to handwash after use of any shared areas.
- Playground equipment will be disinfected after each class use. Social distancing should be maintained to the maximum extent possible during recess.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND USE OF FACILITIES OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS

- All applicable social distancing and hygiene protocols will be adhered to during any extra- curricular activities.
- Any external organizations that may use the SCHI facilities, must follow above guidance on health and safety protocols.
- Nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations will be limited.
- Cross-school transfer for special programs will be limited.

PROTOCOLS FOR SUSPECTED OR CONFIRMED CASES OF COVID-19:

Last Updated August 14, 2020

All protocols below are subject to change based on guidance from the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH).

At this time, the NJDOH provides health recommendations based on regional COVID-19 transmission risks. SCHI administration and nurses will closely follow the Local Health Department's (LHD) recommendations, based on regional transmission risk, to determine the appropriate course of action for suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19.

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS:

Symptoms of COVID-19 include the following:

- 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

Students with the following symptoms will be isolated and excluded from school:

- At least **two** of the following symptoms: fever (measure or subjective), chills, rigors (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or runny nose; **OR**
- At least **one** of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, new taste disorder.

SUSPECTED CASE

- Staff or students presenting with symptoms that necessitate exclusion during school will be isolated immediately.
 - o Symptomatic individuals will be questioned about potential exposure.
 - o Symptomatic individuals will be referred to their healthcare provider for an evaluation. COVID-19 testing is recommended.
 - o SCHI will instruct the symptomatic individuals to follow the NJDOH and LHD recommendations for appropriate course of action. See "COVID-19 Exclusion Table" below.

- When COVID-19 risk in Ocean County is defined as high by the NJDOH, the LHD will be notified of staff or students who are ill and have potential COVID-19 exposure, or if there is an increase in the number of individuals with similar symptoms.
- Areas used by the symptomatic individual will be closed off until they are cleaned and disinfected.

CONFIRMED CASE

- Parents/caregivers and staff must notify the school if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19. SCHI will immediately notify the LHD of any positive cases and work with the LHD to determine if there is an outbreak.
- Symptomatic individuals with a confirmed case of COVID-19 should stay home until the following criteria (“COVID-19 Exclusion Criteria”) have been met:
 - o **10 days have passed since the onset of symptoms AND**
 - o **The individual has been fever-free for at least 24 hours without fever reducing medication AND**
 - o **The individual has had an improvement of symptoms**
- Asymptomatic individuals who test positive should stay home for 10 days from the day of the positive test result and follow guidance listed in the “COVID-19 Exclusion Table” below.
- Areas used by individuals with a confirmed case of COVID-19 will be thoroughly disinfected. Staff will wait as long as possible (ideally up to 24 hours) before disinfection to avoid unnecessary exposure to respiratory droplets. Areas must be closed off prior to disinfection.
- Frequently touched surfaces will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected

NOTIFICATION AND CONTACT TRACING

- The school nurse and administration will immediately notify local health officials and will follow the recommended course of action for any confirmed cases of COVID-19.
 - o Ocean County Health Department
 - Health Officer- Daniel Regenye: 732-341-9700
 - Emergency After Hours Contact 732-341-9700
- Contact tracing will be done, together with the local health department, to address close contacts of positive cases.
 - o “Close contact” is defined as anyone who was within 6 feet of the confirmed case for a period of at least 10 minutes.
- SCHI will communicate with staff, parents and students to notify them of possible COVID-19 exposure.
- Confidentiality of students or staff members will be maintained, as per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
- Individuals will be readmitted in accordance with the NJDOH guidelines for schools and guidance from the LHD.

COVID-19 Exclusion Table: Exclusion criteria for staff, students and close contacts

	Low Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk	Very High Risk
COVID-19 positive (viral test), symptomatic or asymptomatic	Exclude according to COVID-19 exclusion criteria Work with local health department to identify and exclude close contacts for 14 days from last exposure	Exclude according to COVID-19 exclusion criteria Work with local health department to identify and exclude close contacts for 14 days from last exposure	Exclude according to COVID-19 exclusion criteria Work with local health department to identify and exclude close contacts for 14 days from last exposure	Not Applicable (remote learning)
COVID-19 symptoms but not tested for COVID-19 and no alternate diagnosis	If no potential exposure to COVID-19 in the last 14 days, individual can follow NJDOH School Exclusion List If person has potential exposure to COVID-19 in the last 14 days, exclude according to COVID-19 exclusion criteria .	Exclude according to COVID-19 exclusion criteria	Exclude according to COVID-19 exclusion criteria Work with local health department to identify and exclude close contacts for 14 days from last exposure, or until symptomatic individual tests negative for COVID-19 or receives an alternate diagnosis from a medical provider	
COVID-19 symptoms and negative COVID-19 test	Exclude individual through 24 hours after their fever has ended without the use of fever reducing medications and other symptoms improve	Exclude individual through 24 hours after their fever has ended without the use of fever reducing medications and other symptoms improve	Exclude individual through 24 hours after their fever has ended without the use of fever reducing medications and other symptoms improve	
COVID-19 symptoms BUT with alternate diagnosis from a healthcare provider	Exclude individual based on diagnosis, using NJDOH School Exclusion List	Exclude individual based on diagnosis, using NJDOH School Exclusion List	Exclude individual based on diagnosis, using NJDOH School Exclusion List	
Close contact of COVID-19 positive staff or student or to someone with COVID-19 symptoms (high risk level only)	Close contacts of persons who test positive for COVID-19 should be excluded through 14 days from date of last contact.	Close contacts of persons who test positive for COVID-19 should be excluded through 14 days from date of last contact	Close contacts of persons who test positive for COVID-19 should be excluded through 14 days from date of last contact. Close contacts of an individual with COVID-19 symptoms should be excluded through 14 days from date of last contact, or until ill individual receives an alternate diagnosis or tests negative for COVID-19.	

(NJDOH Public Health Recommendations)

COVID-19 EXCLUSION CRITERIA

- **10 days have passed since the onset of symptoms AND**
- **The individual has been fever-free for at least 24 hours without fever reducing medication AND**
- **The individual has had an improvement of symptoms**

PROTOCOL FOR READMISSION (per NJDOH Guidelines)

- Individuals who are confirmed to have COVID-19 with a viral test may be readmitted when they meet the “COVID-19 Readmission Criteria” below:
 - o 10 days have passed since the onset of symptoms AND
 - o The individual has been fever-free for at least 24 hours without fever reducing medication AND
 - o The individual has had an improvement of symptoms
 - Individuals with a suspected case of COVID-19 (symptomatic without a confirming lab test) may be readmitted when:
 - o The individual receives a negative COVID-19 test, is fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medications, and other symptoms improve OR
 - o The individual receives an alternate diagnosis from a health care provider and follows the NJDOH School Exclusion List for that diagnosis OR
 - o The individual meets the COVID-19 Readmission Criteria (see above).
 - Individuals with COVID-19 symptoms (without a confirming lab test) may follow the NJDOH school exclusion list to determine readmittance, if:
 - o The NJDOH defines the Central East region of NJ as an area of low risk for transmission AND
 - o The individual has not had potential exposure to COVID-19 in the last 14 days
 - A close contact of a COVID-19 confirmed or suspected case:
 - o Low risk of transmission: close contacts of a confirmed case should be excluded from 14 days from the date of the last contact.
 - o Moderate risk of transmission: close contacts of a confirmed case should be excluded from 14 days from the date of the last contact.
 - o High risk of transmission: close contacts of a confirmed **or suspected case** should be excluded from 14 days after the date of the last contact, or until the ill individual receives an alternate diagnosis or negative COVID-19 test.
- ❖ Risk of transmission is determined weekly by the NJDOH.

Protocol for remote learning:

The remote learning option will be provided to any student that cannot attend in-person learning due to the exclusion criteria listed above or due to parental request as described below.

The remote learning option will mirror the procedures detailed in SCHI’s emergency health related school closure plan.

Specific to the unique scenario of school remaining open with students participating in remote learning option:

1. Schedule will mirror that of class’s in-person schedule; e.g. related services will be provided at the same times as if student would be present in-person.
2. Staff will be provided with a device to utilize in the classroom for student(s) to be able to join virtually from home.
3. Parents will be contacted to determine if they need a device and with details of daily schedule, as well as instructions for joining virtual sessions.
4. Teacher, 1:1 paraprofessionals (where applicable) and related service providers will log services provided daily.

5. Attendance will continue to be monitored daily via SCHI attendance monitoring system. 5-day absence letters will be sent as usual to district case managers.

Option for Remote Learning Assurance Statement

Any SCHI family that requests the option for a remote only delivery of instruction and services will be provided such an opportunity.

- Staff (IT Director/Teacher/Therapist) will ensure that all students **are provided** with and will have access to a technology device (tablet) and connectivity, **which will be provided by SCHI**, to the best of our ability.
- Provide students/parents with any/all necessary supportive materials via tablet and ensure connectivity.

At any time during the State of NJ's officially designated COVID pandemic period, even if SCHI is able to and/or does offer in-person, "on-campus" learning and therapy services, a student's family may request, in writing or via a phone call to the SCHI administration (Executive Director Mark Seigel, Assistant Director Yisroel Schwab, or Principal Benjamin Fox at the SCHI office number – 732.886.0900) that their child receive such services via a remote platform.

Upon said request, SCHI will immediately begin the process of providing the needed technological services and will set up a daily schedule that will be in accordance with all NJ DOE requirements for ensuring the SCHI student receives the required courses and services as per the student's IEP.

Such "at-home virtual schooling" will continue until the student is able to return to an "in-person at school" environment either due to an official NJ / US declaration of "the end of the pandemic" or due to the family's decision.

All SCHI families will be provided this option prior to SCHI's opening.



MARK A. SEIGEL, MBA, Executive Director

DATE: 8/14/2020 Updated:
September 14, 2020



ISRAEL SCHWAB, Assistant Director

DATE: 8/14/2020 Updated:
September 14, 2020



BENJAMIN FOX, Ed.M., Principal

DATE: 8/14/2020 Updated:
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