

# Edgefield County School District

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**2023-2024**

## Return to Learning Guide

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# Health and Safety Requirements

The Edgefield County School District (ECSD) is providing the following set of directives and guidance for student and staff health and wellness. ECSD will continue to follow the guidance of local and state health authorities, and the South Carolina Department of Education as we continue into the 2023-24 school year.

The following guidance is information the ECSD Wellness Task Force gathered from CDC, DHEC and AccelerateED. It is intended to assist schools in complying with requirements to help ensure employee and student safety during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This guidance is specific designed and created for the schools in the Edgefield County School District. This guidance does not address extracurricular activities, such as youth sports, which are addressed [Return of High School Sponsored Team Sports Guidelines](#).

ECSD recognizes the need to be proactive with regards to the upcoming school year to keep students, staff and faculty safe and healthy as much as possible. As the science of COVID-19 evolves, the document will serve as a living document in what is still a very fluid situation, and will amend to the changing dynamics of this pandemic. Further, the trajectory of disease in our state and nation may require changes to our district's response and what our return to school looks like. ECSD Wellness Task Force will update this guidance periodically and work with schools to keep them informed of any changes.

# General Guidance

To mitigate the spread of the COVID-19, admittance into all facilities will not be allowed to students, staff, vendors, parents and guardians, guests on-site if they:

- Are showing [Symptoms of Coronavirus](#)

## **Each School and Facility are required to:**

Ensure staff are trained in health and safety protocols for their school, including how to screen for symptoms, maintaining physical distance, wearing appropriate PPE, frequent cleaning and handwashing, and what to do if someone develops signs of COVID-19

Communicate regularly with families and staff, and emphasize the importance of staying home when sick and best practices in hygiene.

Monitor student and employee attendance and absences. Follow the district's leave policies and practices to support employee absences.

# Arrival and Dismissal

- Schools will establish arrival and dismissal procedures to minimize crowding including drop-off and pick-up points. Special transportation and bus riders will be prioritized to decrease foot traffic.
- School based teams are encouraged to establish a rainy-day plan. All arrival and dismissal plans will allow for social distancing where possible. Students will be supervised by staff throughout dismissal. Students will be required to wear their face covering during dismissal.
- Schools will clearly communicate to families regarding times when supervision is available and when students are permitted on campus.
- Administrators will create protocols for all late arrival and early pickup.

# Health Screening at Entry

Check for signs of illness for all staff and students at entry each day as we enter the building and classroom setting with the direct support of teachers.

Staff and students with any COVID-19 symptoms will be removed from the student population, isolated to the greatest extent possible and sent home per most current CDC guidelines.

See the school nurse for any questions.

# Hygiene Practices

Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Children and adults should wash hands when they arrive at school, before meals or snacks, after outside time, after going to the bathroom, after nose blowing or sneezing, and before leaving to go home. Help young children to make sure they are doing it right.

Teach children (and adults) not to touch their eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

If soap and water are not readily available, use alcohol based hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol. Supervise use of alcohol based hand sanitizer for young children.

Cover coughs or sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. Clean hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer.

# What to do if Someone Develops Signs of COVID-19

To prepare for the potential of student or staff showing symptoms while at school, schools should have a response and communication plan in place that includes communication with staff, families and the local DHEC.

If a student or staff member develops signs of COVID-19, separate the person from others, with supervision at a distance of six feet, until the sick person can leave. Students in the classroom will be removed so that the classroom can be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

The person with symptoms should follow CDC and DHEC guidance on what to do if you have symptoms for COVID-19. Ask the employee or student's parent or caregiver to inform the school nurse right away if the person is diagnosed with COVID-19.

# **Procedures for a Positive Case of COVID-19**

When a positive case of COVID- 19 is reported to the school, the school nurse will review the case, consult with the county health department, determine home isolation timelines, and notify those who may have experienced exposure. If a possible case of COVID-19 is discovered, the same protocol will apply. Individuals with pending lab results for COVID-19 will not be allowed in school until the results are received or recommended number of days for recovery by CDC occur from first symptom. The school nurse will seek guidance from the county health department if a shutdown of a classroom, school, or the district is recommended.