

# Stone Creek Charter School

## COVID-19 Mitigation Protocols 2021-2022

### (Updated August 31, 2021)

This guidance is intended to assist staff at Stone Creek Charter School in operating as safely as possible during the presence of COVID-19 in our community. This guidance is provided with recommendations from Eagle County Public Health & Environment (ECPH), Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE), and Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The guidelines adopted are not to supersede applicable federal, state, and/or local ordinances for public, private, charter, or parochial K-12 school operations or State of Colorado (CDHS and CDPHE) licensing requirements.

## GENERAL GUIDELINES

Schools, educators, parents, and students must balance all of the needs of our students in order to achieve wellness and create a productive learning environment. With this in mind, the state has let all statewide school-based health orders and mandates expire and instead has adopted a guidance model designed to empower local public health and local leaders to protect their communities using the mitigation strategies most appropriate to local conditions. ([Practical Guide for Operationalizing CDC's School Guidance](#) (CDPHE) and the [Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#) (CDC) ).

Staff, students, and parents are asked to be vigilant in protecting yourself, your family, our school, and our community. Unvaccinated Coloradans remain vulnerable to new variants, especially the [Delta variant](#), which is far more contagious than previous variants and has more severe health outcomes for younger people. We ask that all staff, students and parents commit to high quality health habits:

1. I will wash my hands often
2. I will practice good respiratory etiquette, covering my cough or sneeze, and washing my hands after
3. I will try to maintain 3 feet of distance between myself and others
4. I will stay home when I am sick and keep other members of my family home if anyone in the household has COVID-19 like symptoms
5. I will get tested immediately if I have symptoms

## COVID-19 Screening Criteria

- Staff will self-screen for [COVID-19 symptoms](#) (Table 1) as needed. Employees should stay home if they are showing symptoms or signs of illness.
- Parents will screen for [COVID-19 symptoms](#) ([Spanish Version](#)) (Table 1) prior to children coming to school. Children should stay home if they are showing symptoms or signs of illness.
- These guidelines are in addition to regular school guidelines for other illnesses
- **If symptoms resolve within 24 hours:** students and staff may return to school without seeking medical evaluation or testing. No health care provider note or testing is necessary to return to school.
  - **Siblings of children with Covid-19 symptoms should stay home until the symptomatic person receives a negative COVID-19 test or symptoms resolved within 24 hours.**
- **If symptoms continue or worsen after 24 hours:** students and staff should seek medical evaluation and/or testing as recommended.

- Students and staff must remain at home and not return to school for 10 days in the absence of a negative COVID-19 test or alternate diagnosis.

Table 1: General Symptom Screening Criteria for Staff/Student

One of the Following
Fever (100.4° or higher), feeling feverish or chills
New or unexplained persistent cough
Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing*
Loss of taste or smell
Headache
Sore throat
Vomiting
Diarrhea

## School Exclusion Guidelines

- **Known or Suspected Exposure to COVID-19:** Any unvaccinated student or staff (regardless of symptoms) that is a close contact (having 6 feet or less of distance for greater than 15 minutes) or household member of someone diagnosed with COVID-19 should NOT go to school and should [isolate](#) & [quarantine](#) according to public health, CDC, and CDPHE recommendations.
- **Household Member Seeking/Awaiting COVID-19 Testing:** All unvaccinated household members should stay home from work/school if anyone in the household is seeking and awaiting COVID-19 testing or test results.
- In general, any staff or student with COVID-19 like symptoms will need to stay home and isolate for 10 days from the start of symptoms regardless of COVID-19 testing unless an alternative diagnosis with a negative COVID-19 test is determined.

## Isolation/Quarantine Guidelines (Exposures Outside the School Setting)

- Unvaccinated students/staff who are close contacts, or known exposure of someone with known or suspected COVID-19 outside of school will be considered high risk and required to quarantine (*Table 2*)
- Fully vaccinated students/staff who are close contacts, or known exposure to persons who have tested positive for COVID-19 AND are symptom free may attend school but should:
  - Wear a mask indoors and get tested 3-5 days after last exposure
  - If the test is negative = may stop wearing a mask if they choose but should continue to wear a mask in facilities where it is required
  - If the test is positive = stay home and isolate from others in household
  - If no test is done - they should wear a mask for 14 days

## Isolation/Quarantine Guidelines (In-School Exposures)

- Close contacts (If masks are required)
  - Given the reduced risk of transmission through mask wearing, class contacts who are wearing a mask at the time of the exposure will not be required to quarantine (unless deemed necessary by Eagle County Public Health).
  - Any student/staff with an approved mask exemption (whether medical or religious) who

is not wearing a mask in a classroom setting, and therefore may have been exposed, will be required to quarantine (*Table 2*).

- A “Low Risk Exposure” letter will be sent to parents of classroom contacts after an exposure. This letter will address symptom monitoring and recommended testing after an exposure.
- Close contacts (If thresholds are met and masks are not required)
  - If fully vaccinated and asymptomatic, does not need to quarantine but should:
    - Wear a mask and get tested 3-5 days after exposure
    - If test is negative - may discontinue wearing a mask
    - If test is positive - stay home and isolate from household
  - If fully vaccinated and symptomatic, stay home, wear a mask and get tested
  - If not vaccinated, asymptomatic, and wearing mask during exposure; does not need to quarantine but should continue to wear a mask and get tested 3-5 days after exposure
  - If not vaccinated and not wearing mask during exposure, must complete a quarantine (*Table 2*)
- Classroom or larger quarantines may be required if an outbreak occurs in the school. An outbreak is defined as five or more positive, probable, or suspected cases of COVID-19 from unrelated household members occurring in a 14 day period within a classroom. SCCS will work with ECPH to determine case definitions and outbreaks.
  - Remote learning may be necessary for short periods of time during an outbreak or increased incidences of COVID-19 directly impacting staffing levels in individual classrooms and/or buildings.

Table 2: Quarantine Guidelines

Length of Quarantine	Is Testing Required?	Who Should Use this option
14	No	People who have regular close contact with high risk individuals. This includes people who live or work in residential or congregate living facilities.*
10	No	This quarantine period is appropriate for most people who do not have contact with high risk individuals.
7	YES	People who do not have contact with high risk individuals and have a negative test collected 48 hours before quarantine is discontinued (on day 5 or later).

## Transmission Mitigation Strategies

### School Mask Requirements

- Masks are required for anyone 2 years and older in school settings / child care centers as of 8/16/21: [Public Health Order](#)
  - In-school masking thresholds:
    - Option 1: 80% of school (including staff and students) are fully vaccinated
    - Option 2: Community disease rate remains <50 cases per 100,000 for 7 consecutive days
  - If either of these thresholds are met by the school or community, masks will be optional and remain highly recommended for anyone 2 years and older who are not fully vaccinated
    - If these thresholds are NOT met by the school or community, masks will be required by all staff and students regardless of vaccination status
- If transportation is federally funded, masks are required. Masks are highly recommended for all passengers/drivers for all other transportation.
- When students/staff are not required to wear a face mask, SCCS will create an accepting environment for parents, students, and staff who choose to protect themselves with masks even when they are not required.
- Students and staff that are exhibiting any COVID-19 like symptoms will be removed from groups and isolated in a designated area in each building. Staff will be sent home and students picked up immediately. Adults in contact with a symptomatic individual will be limited to 1 designated individual in the building and both student and staff will be masked during care.

### Hand Washing/Hand Sanitizer

- Students and staff will wash hands upon arrival, after using restrooms, after returning to the building from outside activities, and when hands are visibly soiled.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in classrooms and throughout the building for use by students and staff where handwashing facilities are not available.

### Cleaning/Sanitizing/Disinfecting Guidelines

- Buildings and bathrooms will be cleaned by custodial staff twice daily.
- Additional [UV Light technology](#) to sanitize each classroom after traditional sanitation protocols will be utilized for a predetermined amount of time after an outbreak occurs in a building.
- Frequently touched surfaces (e.g., playground equipment, door handles, sink handles, drinking fountains) will be cleaned and/or sanitized within the school at least daily or between use as much as possible.
- Use of shared objects (e.g., gym or physical education equipment, art supplies, toys, games) will be limited when possible or cleaned between use.
- Any soiled surface will be first cleaned with soap and water and all visible dirt will be removed.

- Disinfecting of surfaces contaminated with bodily fluids will be done immediately by building staff. If bodily fluids are present in bathrooms, the bathroom will be closed to students/staff until it can be disinfected.
- Isolation areas will be disinfected with RTU disinfectant after a student or staff leaves the area. Staff will allow as much time as possible to disinfect the area to allow respiratory droplets to dissipate.
- All surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected after a sick individual or person known to test positive for COVID-19 has been identified in a classroom.
- All cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting materials will be stored according to manufacturer's guidelines and out of reach of students. SDS sheets will be available in the building office and anywhere cleaning materials are stored.

## **Cohorts**

- Students will remain with their individual classroom cohort throughout the day.
- Students will only eat lunch with their individual cohorts in their classroom.
- Social Distancing of 3 feet between individuals will be maintained to the best ability of the lead teacher.
- Each child's belongings will be separated from others' and in individually labeled containers, cubbies, or areas.

## **Ventilation**

- Ventilation systems will be in proper working order per OSHA guidance.
- Outdoor circulation will be increased, as weather permits, by opening classroom windows and doors.
- Standard household fans used in classrooms will be placed with air being directed away from students/staff.
- HEPA air filters are allowed in classrooms

## **Visitors and Volunteers**

- Visitors and volunteers will be welcomed into buildings on a limited basis. As much as possible visitors will only be allowed in the front office.
- Visitors will be required to wear a mask while on school property (this includes indoor and outdoor areas).
- Visitors/volunteers should wash their hands or use hand sanitizer available upon arrival and as needed throughout their visit.
- If a visitor/volunteer has any symptoms of illness, they should reschedule their visit. Any visitor/volunteer that becomes symptomatic while at the school should leave immediately.

## **COVID-19 Illness and Reporting**

Although these operational guidelines are focused on limiting the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses in the school, these illnesses can still be prevalent in the community and have the potential to impact the school setting.

## **Ill/Injured Areas**

- Each building will have a designated area for treating injuries/illness that are not COVID-19 related.

- Separate isolation areas will be designated in each building for any individual exhibiting COVID-19 like symptoms.
- A designated restroom within 50 feet of the designated treatment and isolation areas is required in each building. This is to be used exclusively for ill/injured students and/or staff.
- Each campus will maintain documentation for ill/injured students and illness logs will be kept according to specific public health & environment regulations.

### **Illness Consistent with COVID-19**

- **Screen** students and staff throughout the day for COVID-19 like symptoms. Individuals who screen positive for symptoms consistent with COVID-19 will be isolated as previously stated.
  - **All reports of COVID-19 positive test results in students and/or staff will be reported to the school nurse and Eagle County Public Health Disease Prevention (ECPH)**
  - School Nurse: [nurse@stonecreekcharterschool.org](mailto:nurse@stonecreekcharterschool.org)
  - ECPH: [diseaseprevention@eaglecounty.us](mailto:diseaseprevention@eaglecounty.us); 970-235-0187

### **RESOURCES**

- Practical Guide for Operationalizing CDC's School Guidance;  
<https://covid19.colorado.gov/practical-guide-for-operationalizing-cdc-school-guidance>
- Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools;  
[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html#anchor\\_1625661937509](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html#anchor_1625661937509)