

SOCDS Health Policies Fall 2022

SOCDS is committed to the health and safety of our children, families, and staff as we enter this next phase of COVID. SOCDS will rely upon the South Orange Maplewood Health Department (the towns have combined the departments) for guidance on handling any potential cases.

These policies will likely evolve over the school year as the virus and the interventions change. All feedback is appreciated.

For health of all children, families, and staff, only children who are symptom free should attend school, regardless of the underlying condition. Symptom free means that your child has no fever and is acting like themselves with their full range of energy

Response to a classroom exposure is NO LONGER dependent upon your child's vaccination status. It is recommended that you vaccinate your child, however there will be no difference in the requirements to quarantine with a potential exposure. SOCDS will communicate ALL exposures to ALL families with information about specific classroom or enrichment exposure.

The approach for close contacts and quarantining.

1. **Classroom exposure:** Students and staff will not need to quarantine.
SOCDS will communicate ALL exposures to ALL families with information about specific classroom or enrichment exposure.
2. **Family member exposure** (tests positive): If someone in the household (including caregivers) tests positive, the SOCDS child will need to quarantine regardless of family or child immunization status. The child will be able to test out of quarantine as follows.

Testing out of quarantine:

Day 0 is the first day that the child can isolate from the positive family.

1. Quarantine from school for 5 days,
2. Test negative (PCR or rapid) on Day 3, or 4, or 5
3. Remain symptom free (no fever and acting like themselves with full range of energy)
4. Return on day 6.

If additional family members test positive, then your child's Day 0 may need to reset to that potential close contact.

SOCDS Child is Positive or has Symptoms

If your child tests positive, then they must isolate:

1. Day 0 is the day of positive test or first day of symptoms
2. Once your child is symptom free for 24 hours and has been isolated for at least 5 days, you can test out of quarantine (see above) but must wear a **N95 mask for five additional days.**
3. If symptoms persist or testing positive after Day 10 we will consult your child's doctor as well as the Town Health Officers

SOCDS Mitigation Efforts

SOCDS Air Quality

SOCDS continues to benefit from the upgraded HVAC system which includes good air circulation, great filters, and a UV light on the system in the main house. In the back building we have two air purifiers and the ability to keep windows open.

Access to SOCDS Grounds and Classrooms Policy

SOCDS will require all adults to wear a mask in the building.

Access to the classrooms will be limited to emergency first responders or repair personnel during the school day, and everyone must wear masks.

Health Screening Policy

South Orange Country Day School staff will visually inspect your child and take their temperature before your child enters the classroom.

Upon entry to the classroom, everyone will wash their hands with soap and water.

Any child who has a fever will not be allowed to enter the building and must stay home until they are fever free without medication for 24 hours. If your child exhibits two or more symptoms related to COVID (temperature > 99.5, cough, shortness of breath, chills, headache, muscle pain, nausea, diarrhea, sore throat, rash, flu-like symptoms, new loss of taste or smell, congestion, runny nose, muscle aches or pains) you will need to contact your child's doctor and follow their advice for returning to school. COVID testing is a common first step to rule out the virus.

If your child exhibits these symptoms in the morning or the night before, please keep your child home and call/email the school so that we can track the symptoms as well and agree upon next steps.

Mask Wearing Policy

Mask wearing will be required as per the South Orange Health Department. As the community transmission rates reduce back to moderate/low we will be able to move to a child mask optional strategy. Teachers will continue to wear masks regardless of vaccination status or community spread levels.

Travel Restrictions

There are no formal travel restrictions. However, if you and your children attend an event with a lot of interaction with people without masks, and the community transmission rates are high, I encourage you to keep your child home and test them on day 3 of your return. I know this is an inconvenience and everyone is trying to balance work and life, but I do think these extra days and testing will help reduce the spread within SOCDS.