

An Important Reminder about Strategies & Protocols

The following reminders are an important factor in keeping students and staff safe in our buildings.

- Stay home if you are sick.
- Students who are assigned to and utilizing the bus transportation provided by the district are required to wear a face covering, regardless of vaccination status, for the duration of the trip to and from school. Students who refuse to wear a mask on the bus may be denied boarding or asked to exit the vehicle. Drivers will also wear personal protective equipment while operating the vehicle. Students who forget a mask will be given a mask by the bus driver, and that mask is expected to be worn while on the bus and in school.
- Similar to the bus, all students and staff, regardless of their vaccination status, must wear a face covering over their nose and mouth while they are inside the building. The only times they may remove the face covering are when they are using the water fountain or eating lunch (additional details about lunch are below).
- Students shall wear their school ID on a district-issued lanyard around their neck.
- Students will need to have personal hand sanitizer with them as part of their school supplies.
- Students shall maintain social distancing in the hallways.
- Locker use and water fountain use will be allowed this year.
- Lunch will be available for purchase through Quest Food Service. Lunch periods are 25 minutes long.
 - Students must make every effort to practice social distancing of at least 3 feet at cafeteria tables. While there will not be assigned seats, students will be expected to follow the instructions about seating provided by the individuals who are staffing/supervising the space.
 - Students will be permitted to lower or remove their face coverings while they eat. However, if they need to leave their seat during lunch (e.g., throw out garbage, use the restroom, etc.), they will need to put their face coverings back on. They will also need to put their face coverings back on before leaving their seat/lunch space to go to their next class.
- Any student may give consent to participate in the SHIELD screening and testing program that the district is tentatively scheduled to roll out on September 8. However, all unvaccinated students must take part in this program if they want to participate in activities, athletics and marching band. Additional information about SHIELD will be forthcoming.
- We are working closely and collaboratively with the DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) on the quarantine procedures for students who are deemed to be a close contact to someone who tests positive or is probable for COVID-19. At this time, DCHD recommends the following for schools:

- Close contacts complete at least a 10-day quarantine period and ideally a full 14-day quarantine period. Both options require that additional criteria be met with daily symptom monitoring and continued masking for COVID-19 through Day 14. DCHD has the sole discretion for determining how long someone must quarantine, and will make those decisions on a case-by-case basis.
- Fully vaccinated people who remain asymptomatic and those who had a documented COVID-19 infection within the past 90 days are excluded from quarantine. However, those who are fully vaccinated should get tested three to five days after the known exposure and wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days after exposure or until they receive a negative test result.
- People who are not fully vaccinated and were exposed to an infected individual inside or outside of the classroom setting are considered a close contact if they were within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.
- Students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) in an indoor classroom setting are not considered a close contact or required to quarantine if everyone involved correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time. This does not apply to adults in an indoor classroom setting or situations in which masking protocols were not followed. In those cases, the 6-foot protocol (i.e., within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) will be used to determine close contact and quarantine.
- DCHD has not approved the use of testing to keep students and staff in school who are deemed to be a close contact or are part of an outbreak (two or more cases linked epidemiologically that do not share the same household and are not listed as close contacts of each other outside the outbreak setting), but are exhibiting no symptoms of COVID-19 and have not tested positive for the virus. The organization does not view it as an acceptable process for exempting an individual from quarantine.
- In the event a student needs to quarantine or isolate, members of the student support team will reach out to parents/guardians directly about creating a plan to help ensure that the child's academic, social and emotional needs are met during this time period. Please note that there will be no classroom instruction conducted via Zoom for students who have to quarantine or isolate.
 - South's student support team includes Ms. Megan Parker, who is the coordinator, and Ms. Ruth Bowhay, who is one of our school social workers. Students who have to quarantine or isolate will receive a communication from one of these individuals.
- As part of our ongoing commitment to maximize the benefit of in-person school, students will be expected to keep their cell phones silenced and out-of-sight during all academic classes unless given explicit teacher permission.

If your child is fully vaccinated and you would like to file that information with Hinsdale South, please bring a copy of the vaccination card to the Health Services Office on campus or email a copy of the vaccination card or record to southhealth@hinsdale86.org. While providing us with this information is not mandatory, having it will help streamline the contact tracing process and make it easier to identify those who will need to quarantine should we experience a positive case. Please note that, *if you are using an iPhone to send a picture of the vaccination card, the image format needs to be changed from HEIC (High Efficiency) to Most Compatible. The majority of the devices we use in our district are PCs, which cannot read the HEIC format.*

We recognize the tremendous impact the pandemic has had on people's mental health and well-being. That is why we will have additional support in place for our students, and have created a screening process we can use to connect those who need additional assistance with our intervention team. We also understand and appreciate that you know your child best. With this in mind, we encourage you to contact their counselor or social worker if you would like one of them to do an individual check-in /wellness check with your child within the first few weeks of school. You can make this request by contacting your child's [school counselor](#) or [social worker](#) directly.