

## ***Frequently Asked Questions for Parents/Guardians***

### **Are Face Coverings required in school?**

Face coverings are **optional** for students and staff in schools and while participating in extracurricular/athletic activities. The South Western School District will respect each person's individual decision on whether they choose to wear a face covering or not, regardless of their vaccination status.

### **Are masks required on the bus?**

The current CDC order requires passengers on public transportation to wear a face covering. School buses have been identified as public transportation. Therefore, it is the district's expectation all students and staff will wear a mask for the duration of their trip on district provided transportation. The South Western School District will not deny a student entry on a bus if they do not wear a mask. Drivers will have masks available for any student who asks for one.

### **Will visitors be allowed in South Western School District buildings?**

Yes, family members, visitors and other guests will be permitted to enter our buildings for the purpose of attending events and activities. Face coverings will be optional and the district will respect every person's decision to wear, or not wear, a face covering regardless of their vaccination status.

### **What happens if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19?**

If the district learns of a student or staff member testing positive for COVID-19, school administration will notify the parents/guardians of the students who are considered close contacts in the same classroom, bus, cafeteria or extracurricular/athletic activity etc. Notification of the families will be made via email from the building principal. We are asking our families to check their email on a regular basis.

### **Will my student have to stay home if we are notified of a positive case of COVID-19 in their classroom, bus, extracurricular activity, etc.?**

If your student is considered a close contact to a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, the parents/guardians of the students will be asked to closely monitor their student for symptoms of COVID-19. If a student is considered a close contact we are encouraging our families to contact the student's health care provider for additional guidance should they develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19 that are not explained by another reason. Please visit the Pennsylvania Department of Health's [website](#) for additional information on COVID-19 symptoms.

If your student is NOT exhibiting symptoms consistent with COVID-19, parents/guardians can choose to have their student attend school as normal. Due to the potential exposure, the district is recommending (not requiring) close contacts to wear a face covering for the next 14 days as an added precaution.

If a family chooses to keep their student home for quarantining purposes or as a result of the student developing COVID-19 symptoms, we ask that you inform your building office as soon as possible.

**What should I do if my student tests positive for COVID-19?**

If your student tests positive for COVID-19 we are asking each family to notify the main office of your student's school building as soon as possible. We also ask our families to provide a physician's note or notification of a positive test to the school building office. Additionally, your child will be required to isolate for a period of ten days from the date of symptom onset or from the date of the positive test result if the student is asymptomatic.

Please contact your building principal where your student attends to discuss the instructional options available to your student during their isolation/quarantine.