



SUMTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

1345 Wilson Hall Road • PO Drawer 2039 • Sumter, South Carolina 29151-2039 • (T) 803.469.6900 • (F) 803.469.3769

March 16, 2021

Dear Sumter School District Families,

It is hard to believe a full year has passed since the beginning of the pandemic. I cannot thank you enough for your patience, understanding, and support as we work diligently to transition our students back to face-to-face instruction. The safety of our students and staff remains at the forefront of every difficult decision that has been made.

After consulting with our Reopening of Schools Taskforce and assessing the COVID-19 data in our community, all elementary, middle, and high schools will transition to five days of face-to-face instruction beginning Monday, April 19. Elementary schools will still begin four days of face-to-face instruction on Monday, March 22. Parents will continue to have the option for their children to remain virtual for the entire semester. Our schools will send direct communication to their families with more information.

In accordance with CDC guidelines, while the risk of exposure to COVID-19 in a school may be less when indicators of community spread are lower, this risk is also dependent upon the implementation of school and community mitigation strategies. Therefore, it is most important that we continue to observe the five strategies outlined by the CDC to help mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 in our schools:

- Universal and correct use of masks - Masks should completely cover the nose and mouth and fit snugly against the sides of the face without gaps.
- Physical distancing - Physical distancing (at least 6 feet) should be maximized to the greatest extent possible.
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette - Encourage frequent handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Everyone should cover their nose and mouth when they cough or sneeze.
- Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities - Routinely clean and disinfect facilities and surfaces and objects that are frequently touched.
- Contact tracing - Conduct contact tracing, in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with DHEC.
- As a reminder, students should not share supplies, masks, food, or water bottles.

Vision - Sumter School District will educate all students to embrace diversity, act responsibly, and contribute positively in a competitive, global society.

Mission - The mission of Sumter School District is to equip students to be responsible, successful, and productive citizens in a global society.

Sumter School District is an equal opportunity employer.



Administrative Office

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Now more than ever, we need to ensure children are sent to school symptom free. We ask you to partner with us by asking the following questions:

- Is your child experiencing shortness of breath or difficulty breathing?
- Does your child have a loss of taste or smell?
- Does your child have a new or worsening cough?
- Does your child have a fever?
- Is your child experiencing two or more of the following symptoms: fever, chills, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea/vomiting, or diarrhea?

If you answered yes, please do not send your child to school.

Thank you for your patience and ongoing support as we work diligently to transition our students back to face-to-face instruction. As a team, we will continue to monitor the data and mitigating factors to help ensure the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff. We are stronger together!

For the children,

Dr. Penelope E. Martin-Knox
Superintendent

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