

# SEAPCO

## Back to School Plan

### 2023-2024



#### DISCLOSURE

The contents of this Back-to-School Plan are subject to change based on Federal, State, or Local guidance and/or conditions. Any changes will be communicated via email, posted to the district website, or via phone message if appropriate.

## **Introduction**

The safety and security of our students and staff has been and will continue to be the top priority of SEAPCO. We understand that students learn best when in person; therefore, we will begin the 2023-24 school year with students attending full days, five days a week. Based on the most recent CDC/IDPH guidance, which recommends implementing layered prevention strategies to prevent the spread of COVID-19, we have revised the following plan to ensure that our students can achieve to their fullest potential while providing a safe learning environment during the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

## **Mitigation Measures**

### **COVID-19 Vaccinations**

Achieving high levels of COVID-19 vaccination among eligible students as well as teachers, staff, and household members is one of the most critical strategies to help our school communities safely resume full operations. Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. People who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are at low risk of symptomatic or severe infection. A growing body of evidence suggests that people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are less likely to have an asymptomatic infection or transmit COVID-19 to other-people who are not fully vaccinated. If you or your child is eligible for a vaccination, please consider getting him/her vaccinated as soon as possible

### **Vaccine Status**

Vaccines are highly recommended, however, we will not be collecting information regarding staff or student vaccination status this school year. This does not preclude the possibility of this question being asked, depending on the circumstances.

## **Masks**

Masks are an effective way to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, and are recommended but not required. Masking may move from **recommended** to **required** within the building based on levels of infection within our school and as best practices warrant the move.

## **Physical Distancing**

The CDC recommends schools maintain at least three feet of physical distance between students in classrooms. We will strive to maintain at least three feet distance to the greatest extent possible while indoors; however, there may be activities where maintaining three feet will be difficult.

## **Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette**

We will continue to promote frequent handwashing and/or use of hand sanitizer. We will also continue to reinforce proper respiratory etiquette such as covering coughs and sneezes.

## **Cleaning and Disinfecting**

Classrooms will be sanitized daily using sanitation sprayers and E15 solution. Drinking fountains, water bottle filling stations and door handles will be disinfected daily. Students are encouraged to bring a personal water bottle to be kept at school.

## **Symptom Screenings and Staying Home When Sick**

There will be no screening or self-certification for symptoms at school this year. By sending children to school, parents and guardians are certifying that their children are symptom free. We expect all staff and students to stay home when they are sick. Parents and guardians must keep their child home if he/she exhibits one or more of the following COVID-like symptoms: fever (100.4 degrees or higher), new onset of moderate to severe headache, shortness of breath, new cough, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, new loss of taste or smell, fatigue from unknown cause, or muscle or body

aches from unknown cause. Any student or staff member exhibiting these symptoms while at school will be sent home.

### **COVID-19 Positive Staff/Students**

SEAPCO will follow the recommendations of the CDC and IDPH regarding COVID positivity. Staff/students who test positive for COVID-19 must stay home from school for 5 days from the onset of symptoms. Staff/students may return to school after the 5th day provided they are symptom free. An administrator or the nurse will be in contact with parents during this period. We ask that anyone returning at this time wear a mask for an additional 5 days to reduce the spread of COVID-19. If the student is unable to wear a mask, they may be excluded for the full 10 days.

### **Notification of Exposure to COVID-19**

Staff or students who test positive or are symptomatic for COVID-19 must isolate per CDC/IDPH guidelines listed above. Staff or parents of students in close contact with a known positive will be notified that they were near someone who tested positive.

## **Learning and the School Day**

### **Remote Learning**

For the 2023-24 school year, SEAPCO will be following the recommendation of the Illinois State Board of Education and their continued call to provide full-time in-person learning. There is no plan for remote learning.

Student absences due to COVID-19 will be treated as normal absences. Student work will be sent home and the teacher(s) will work to recoup any lost learning upon the student's return. Students will be given two days for every day missed in order to complete work.

## Students with Disabilities

Parents of students who need accommodations, modifications, or assistance related to COVID-19 safety protocols, disabilities, underlying medical conditions, or weakened immune systems should contact their student's case manager to discuss his/her need(s).

Students who are medically fragile and unable to attend school for an extended period of time will need to follow the procedures for home/hospital services pursuant to [105 ILCS 5/14-13.0](#). Medically fragile students are at an increased risk of severe illness or live with someone at an increased risk of severe illness. For the 2023-24 school year, students who are medically fragile (or live with someone who is) and have a verified doctor's note will qualify for service under Home/Hospital Tutoring. An IEP will be developed to address each student's individual needs, including 5 hours of tutoring per week if appropriate.

If, due to a disability or significant health reason, a student cannot safely wear a mask while in school, please contact the program director for appropriate documentation requirements.

## Starting the School Day

All students will follow the start and end times listed below for each program. SEAPCO Academy students will be dropped off up front and the others at the East Side door.

Program	Start Time	End Time
<a href="#">SEAPCO Academy</a>	8:30 am	3:00 pm
<a href="#">RISE</a>	7:55 am	2:15 pm

## **Lunch**

Students will continue to eat lunch in the same areas. SEAPCO Academy in the gym, RISE in the cafeteria, and DC in the classroom. All lunch seating will continue to provide for 3 - 6 feet of distance.

## **Visitors**

Visitors will be limited or not allowed during school hours until community spread of COVID-19 is low.

## **Curriculum Based Instruction and Field Trips**

Curriculum Based Instruction and Field trips that align with instructional outcomes and/or are an extension of the learning environment will be permitted.

## **Mitigation Levels**

SEAPCO will use the following Mitigation Levels to outline how our day-to-day operations will function over the coming school year. Please note that changes in our mitigation levels will be dependent upon analysis of positive COVID-19 cases.

### **Mitigation Level 1 - Minimal**

**New Positive cases not exceeding five (5) percent of students/staff district-wide during a one week period:**

- Masks are optional
- Physically distance to the greatest extent possible.
- Isolation of students who test positive for COVID-19
- Restriction on visitors to the school buildings

## **Mitigation Level 2 - Moderate**

**New positive cases exceeding five (5) percent of, but not more than ten (10) percent of students/staff district-wide during a one week period:**

- Masks are recommended.
- Physically distance 3 feet to the greatest extent possible.
- Isolation of students who test positive for COVID-19
- Isolation of students who are symptomatic of COVID-19 until the symptoms cease or negative test
- Self-certification and parental certification to screen for symptoms.
- Restriction on visitors to school buildings
- Field trips and some programs may be canceled or postponed.

## **Mitigation Level 3 - Substantial**

**New positive cases exceed ten (10) percent of students/staff district-wide during a one week period:**

- Masks are required
- 3 feet between students in all circumstances.
- Isolation of students who test positive for COVID-19
- Isolation of students who are symptomatic of COVID-19 until the symptoms cease or negative test
- Implementation of remote learning may be necessary based on the impact on each classroom
- Classes, activities, and programs will be moved outside to the greatest extent possible.
- Self-certification to screen for symptoms required for entry.
- Visitors not allowed in school buildings
- Field trips and some programs will be canceled or postponed.

**For program specific questions, please contact your SEAPCO Administrator;**

**SEAPCO Academy, Brooke Mair (697-0880 ext. 211), [bmair@seapco.org](mailto:bmair@seapco.org)**

**SEAPCO RISE, Polly Greenway (697-0880, ext. 202), [pgreenway@seapco.org](mailto:pgreenway@seapco.org)**