



School Year Information for Employees 2021-2022

Employee health and safety continues to be a top priority as we return to more normal school operations.

Please follow the guidelines below. These plans are designed to be in alignment with our student protocols. Our plans for this year strike a sensible balance that emphasizes student success at school while also being mindful of the steps we need to take to keep our school environments safe.

Q Are there currently any Emergency Orders in Florida or in Santa County involving schools and COVID-19?

A Yes

Q What safety measures will be in place to start the school year?

A Our schools will continue to implement the following prevention strategies:

- Schools will routinely clean classrooms and high-traffic areas.
- Employees should practice routine handwashing throughout the day.
- Employees should stay home if they are sick.
- Employees may wear masks or facial coverings as a mitigation measure.
- Signs will be displayed as a reminder to follow mitigations strategies such as social distancing, use of hand sanitizers and hand washing.
- COVID-19 contact tracing will occur as required by the Florida Department of Health.

Q Will masks be mandatory in schools?

A No. Employees are welcome to wear a mask if they choose.

Q Will wellness/temperature checks be taken daily upon arrival to school?

A No. Employees should continuously monitor their health for possible signs of illness. Employees should remain home if exhibiting any COVID-19 or other symptoms of illness.

Q What are the COVID symptoms?

A Fever greater than 100.4°, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath or difficult breathing, headache, body or muscle aches, new loss of taste or smell, nasal congestion/runny nose.

SYMPTOMATIC EMPLOYEES WITHOUT CONTACT TO A POSITIVE CASE

Q What will happen if an employee exhibits COVID-19 symptoms?

- A Like last year, employees who are ill should not come to work, monitor their health, and contact a health care provider if necessary. **The employee will be able to return to school once they are symptom free without medication for 24 hours. EXCEPTION: If the employee experiences a loss of taste or smell, they should contact their healthcare provider and follow Department of Health guidance for isolation.**

If the Florida Department of Health mandates through a lawfully issued order that an employee isolate or quarantine, the School District will follow the legal requirements of the order.

Q What are the protocols for Close-Contact Symptomatic or COVID-19 positive employees?

PROTOCOLS FOR CLOSE-CONTACT SYMPTOMATIC OR COVID-19 POSITIVE EMPLOYEES

Employees experiencing any symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or who have received a positive diagnostic test for COVID-19 should **notify your administrator and not report to work until:**

- The employee receives a negative diagnostic COVID-19 test and is asymptomatic, OR
- Ten days have passed since the onset of symptoms or positive test result, the employee has had no fever for 24 hours and the employee's other symptoms are improving: OR
- The employee receives written permission to return to school from a medical doctor licensed under chapter 458, an osteopathic physician licensed under chapter 459, or an advanced registered nurse practitioner licensed under chapter 464.

Q What are the protocols for employees with exposure to COVID-19 who are asymptomatic?

PROTOCOLS FOR EMPLOYEES WITH EXPOSURE TO COVID-19 (community/school/home contact)

Employees who are known to have been in direct contact with an individual who received a positive diagnostic test for COVID-19 **may continue to work as long as they are asymptomatic.**

- If employees are **asymptomatic**, they may choose to quarantine and return to work on day 8 after last contact. Possibilities of remote work should be discussed with the school/site administrator.
- If an employee becomes symptomatic following exposure to an individual that has tested positive for COVID-19, the employee should follow the procedures set forth in the Close-Contact Symptomatic Exposure section, above.
- An employee who has received a positive diagnostic test for COVID-19 in the previous 90 days and who is known to have been in direct contact with an individual who has received a positive diagnostic test for COVID-19 may not be required to isolate/quarantine if asymptomatic. This also applies to employees who are fully-vaccinated for COVID-19.

OTHER COVID-19 INFORMATION

Q Will the district have designated codes for COVID-19 leave?

A Yes. We will continue to utilize COVID leave codes in AESOP. Currently, the district will not be reimbursing leave for COVID-related reasons. However, these codes will be utilized to help us keep track of our status in Santa Rosa County Schools.

Q Will I be required to provide documentation for COVID-19-related leave?

A Not at this time. However, employees are encouraged to keep all records related to COVID and leave.

Q What if an employee wants to try and work remotely?

A Contact your site administrator for further guidance.

Q Will schools continue to provide extra cleaning of classrooms and other areas?

A Yes. We will retain some of the protocols put in place last year to help keep our schools as clean as possible. If a positive case is identified, the classroom and /or classrooms of the positive case will be deep cleaned.

Q What other measures are being continued?

A Hand sanitizer will be available in every classroom and other shared areas. Water bottle filling stations will be available in schools. Proper handwashing will continue to be emphasized again this year, especially with our younger students. Air purifiers will continue to be used in large open spaces like libraries and cafeterias.

We will all continue to be mindful of our surroundings and be prepared to adjust our routines if needed. Please contact your site administrator for more information.

For the latest COVID-19 vaccine and testing information in Santa Rosa County, including locations, visit <https://www.santarosa.fl.gov/793/Latest-COVID-19-Update> and <http://santarosa.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/infectious-disease-services/covid-19/index.html>.