



South Side COVID Update 2021-2022



We are excited to welcome your children back to campus on August 16, 2021! As a result of in person learning, South Side Bee Branch School District will be following the guidelines provided by the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) in planning for the 2021-2022 school year.

The district's goal is to ensure students are on campus, learning from their teachers, and socializing with their peers, in a safe and healthy environment. Students learn best when on campus receiving direct instruction; therefore, we want to keep students and teachers on campus as much as possible. Because of the guidelines referenced above, the district's best chance at avoiding a mandatory mass quarantine event due to probable close contact is requiring face coverings when social distancing is not possible. We want to keep students and teachers on campus as much as possible. The recommended guidance for ensuring that students can stay on campus includes socially distancing (6 feet or greater from others) and wearing a facemask when not possible.

Face Coverings

Face covering will be required for all staff and students when on school buses and in facilities when social distancing is not possible. Wearing masks when not able to socially distance is our best practice to keep students in school. Masks requirements will be re-evaluated on an ongoing basis and communication between district leaders will be open in determining changes/adjustments needed.

Weekly Masks Information

The district will post weekly updates regarding the requirement of masks in the district. The district will use data from <https://achi.net/covid19/> to determine the risk level for the school district. Weekly masks status will be posted to the district website and other social media resources by 5:00 p.m. each Sunday. An informational phone message will also be sent out every Sunday by 7:00 p.m.

If the risk is at high or above, the district will require masks on buses and in facilities when social distancing is not possible. If the risk is moderate or below, masks will be optional on buses and facilities. Social distancing will still be practiced throughout the district.

Virtual Learning for Quarantined Students

Teachers are incorporating their learning management system (LMS) into their daily curriculum. All students in the district have an assigned chrome book or iPad to complete their assignments while at home.

K-6 is treating quarantined days like a school day. The quarantined students are expected to be on scheduled zoom meetings. This will be the time to ask questions and get direct instruction. Emailing your teacher or other classroom communication methods can also be used for questions about daily assignments. Teachers will answer these when time permits.

7-12 will be using their LMS in daily instruction. When a student is quarantined, the daily assignments will be available through individual classroom's LMS. Students will contact their teachers through email or other communication methods used in the LMS. The teacher will respond back to questions when time permits.

Probable Close Contact (PCC) Determination

The CDC defines close contacts as people being within six (6) feet of another person for a total time of 15 cumulative minutes within a 24-hour period.

Quarantine Guidelines

People identified as a PCC will be in quarantine for 10 full 24-hour periods from the last contact of the positive case. The PCC will be allowed to return on the 11th day.

A shorter period of quarantine is allowed after seven (7) full 24-hour periods pending a negative test prior to returning to on-site learning. The negative test has to be taken five (5) full 24-hour periods after the last date of contact with the positive case.

Factors that will allow a PCC not to be quarantined:

- Individuals who have tested positive within the last 90 days and recovered fully. The individual does not have to be tested or stay home, unless they develop symptoms.
- Individuals exposed to a positive COVID-19 case do not have to be quarantined due to close contact if both people are correctly wearing a face covering.
- Individuals fully vaccinated do not have to quarantine unless they develop symptoms. This is in effect two (2) weeks after the last round of vaccination.

Screening

South Side Bee Branch will be asking the parents to screen their children before sending them to school in the morning. The staff is also asked to screen themselves with the following guidelines:

- Have you had a fever of 100.4 or greater within the past 24 hours?
- Have you had a cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, or loss of taste and smell?
- Have you been in contact with a person known to be infected with COVID-19 within the last 10 days?

Physical Distancing

South Side Bee Branch is committed to utilizing all of our space to ensure that social distancing can be achieved when feasible. It is the goal of SSBB to uphold the distancing guidelines, while

not putting the student's educational experiences at risk. The teachers will distance their seating arrangement or be located in place that accommodates the number of students in their class.

Cafeteria

It is the goal of the district to create an environment that is socially and physically healthy in our cafeteria. Kindergarten classes will have their lunchtime in a designated area to allow our cafeteria spacing to accommodate a 1st-3rd grade lunch period, 4th-6th lunch period, and a 7th-9th lunch period. The 10th and 11th grade students will be provided lunch in the gymnasium. This will provide them proper spacing to meet social distancing standards. The seniors will eat lunch in the administration building to provide them with proper social distancing. Virtual students have the opportunity to pick-up lunch from the cafeteria at 12:30 each day. If you are virtual and would like to participate in this service, please contact Mrs. Mary in the cafeteria via phone by 8:30 each morning. The contact number is 501-654-2242 ext. 507.

Sanitization

Cleanliness is a priority to the district as students and staff return to school in the fall. Hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, and Lysol spray are distributed throughout the district for the use of staff and students. Buildings will be cleaned throughout the day by custodians and teachers to ensure students are entering sanitized areas. Buses will be sanitized after each use.

Point of Contact (POC)

The district's nurse, Mrs. Stacey Brown, will serving as the POC for the 2021-2022 school year. Contact her by email at sbrown@southsidebb.org or by phone at 870-221-3106 with information or questions about COVID-19.