



Synergy Public School

"LEADING THE WAY"

**SAFELY
RETURNING
TO SCHOOL
2021-2022**



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INTRODUCTION

Synergy Public School is excited to welcome back students for in person learning for the 2021-2022 school year. We believe that in person learning is critical for academic and social emotional growth and is the best option for our families and students. Our highest priority is to provide all students with a safe, caring and healthy learning environment.

The following Safely Returning to School Plan outlines the mitigation strategies and procedures for the school campus. Our team is committed to staying current on all guidance from federal, state and local health organizations, including the Arizona Department of Health and the CDC guidelines, to ensure the most up to date information is used in the decision making

These procedures are subject to change throughout the year based on current recommendations or guidelines from the CDC and the Arizona Department of Health. Any changes to this plan will be shared with families and other stakeholders in a timely manner.

We look forward to a great school year and working alongside each of our families and staff members to continue leading the way in providing an outstanding educational experience for all students.



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HEALTH SCREENINGS

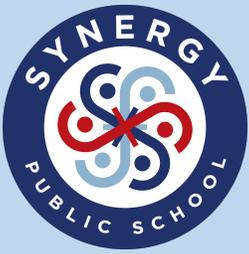
Home

- All Synergy parents will be the first point of screening. Families will be asked to assess their children at home prior to coming to school. If the child has symptoms of illness the student should not come to school.
- Parents will be asked to self-report symptoms to the school by calling the front office to report the absence and provide staff with student symptoms. If the student has symptoms of COVID-19, a positive test for COVID-19, or was exposed to someone with COVID-19 within the last 14 days please make the office aware of this information. (All federal and state privacy and confidentiality acts will apply)
- Office staff will document symptoms in health/absence log.
- If your child has a contagious condition, such as strep throat, pink eye, stomach virus, etc., please treat this so that it is no longer contagious before sending your child to school. Students should remain home until they are 24 hours free of any fever or vomiting without the use of fever reducing medication.
- If a parent administers any type of fever reducer or medicine for illness to a student prior to the school day starting, the parent **MAY NOT** send the student to school. (Tylenol, Ibuprofen, Cough Medicines etc.)

COVID-19 symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Symptoms include:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Look for emergency warning signs for COVID-19. If someone is showing any of these signs, seek emergency medical care immediately:



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- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Bluish lips or face
- Call your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.

School

- Teachers will monitor students throughout the day. If a student exhibits symptoms of illness, they may perform a temperature check. If the student has a temperature of 99.9 or higher the student will be sent to the office with a pass. **All privacy and confidentiality policies will be strictly followed.** (Note: Temperature checks will not be performed immediately after recess, P.E, or any other physical activity that could raise the student's external temperature. Students need to rest and cool down before a temperature check).
- The office will conduct an additional temperature check and notify the parent to pick up the student from school if the student has a temperature of 100 degrees or higher or is exhibiting symptoms of sickness.

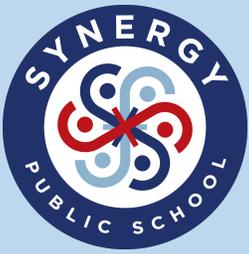
PARENTS AND VISITORS

- It is highly recommended that all parents and visitors wear a face mask or cloth face covering when on campus.
- Visitors will not be permitted within classrooms.
- Parents will be encouraged to contact the school via phone or email if they have any specific issues or questions rather than coming to the campus.

FACE COVERINGS/MASKS

Students

- Synergy Public School highly recommends the use of face coverings for students. Face coverings will be required until September 29th. Parents will be notified of any changes to the face mask/covering policy.
- Students will not be required to wear face coverings during recess, P.E. or lunch.
- In the event a student comes to school without a face mask, Synergy will provide the student with a disposable face mask.



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- If a mask becomes a problem, distraction or the student is not wearing it properly, the teacher will provide the student a reminder and then inform the parent the child is not properly using the mask.
- Parents will be responsible for cleaning masks each day and for sending their student to school with a clean, fresh mask if they choose to wear a mask.

Staff

- Synergy Public School highly recommends the use of face coverings for staff. Face coverings will be required until September 29th.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Movement Around the School

- Floor markings and arrows throughout the building will provide direction for student and staff movement in the school. All classrooms will move clockwise around the courtyard when going to specials or recess, ensuring that student lines will not cross one another.
- Students will be expected to walk in straight lines with their hands behind their backs.

Communal Spaces (Cafeteria, Playground, Courtyard)

- Students will eat both breakfast and lunch in their classroom at their assigned seat. (Students will resume breakfast and lunch in the cafeteria in January 2022. Classes will be assigned seats/rows during breakfast and lunch to limit the mixing of students.)
- Classrooms will follow a playground rotation schedule. Each classroom will be assigned a play area on the playground which will rotate each day. Structured activities in those areas will be used when feasible to help distance students. (Indoor recess will take place in individual classrooms on heat advisory and rainy days. When feasible, students will not be combined with other classes during this time.)

Classroom Cohorts

- Students will remain with their classroom cohort for the school day with the exception of SFA reading groups and the Junior High schedule.
- Students will not be mixed among other students or classrooms unless absolutely necessary. The school will do everything possible to keep from splitting classes or doubling classes.



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- Students will remain with their classroom on the playground when feasible.

Recess Procedures

- Morning and afternoon recesses will be staggered when feasible, ensuring only one grade level at a time is on the playground.
- All classrooms will follow a daily playground rotation schedule. Each classroom will be assigned a play area on the playground which will rotate each day.
- Indoor recess will take place in individual classrooms on heat advisory and rainy days. Students will not be combined with other classes during this time when feasible.

Gatherings, Visitors, Field Trips

- School events, including parent leadership, family nights, or afterschool club activities, will take place with proper health and safety precautions.
- School fieldtrips will take place with proper health and safety precautions.

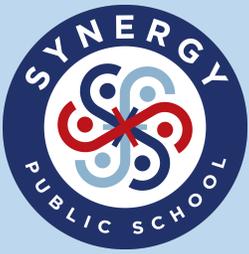
Dismissal Procedures

During the first weeks of school, dismissal rules and expectations will be taught. These expectations will be retaught when necessary throughout the year.

- Students will remain in their classroom for dismissal.
- Parents will remain in their cars in the drive up line.
- Teachers will teach students specific procedures for behavior during dismissal.
- All students must have a yellow dismissal tag.
- Students will be called by name when their parent is in the pickup line and the student will leave the classroom and go to the Northeast courtyard door.
- Assigned teachers will walk to students to car.

FOOD SERVICE

- Breakfast and lunch will be delivered to the classroom each day. Breakfast will begin at 7:30 a.m.
- Students will be served at their assigned seat by the teacher.
- Students will receive hand sanitizer when entering the classroom in the morning and before eating at lunch.
- Teachers will wear gloves when distributing food and will immediately sanitize their hands after removing the gloves.
- Students will dispose of their food when called by the teacher to do so.
- Tables will be cleaned when food service is complete. (Lysol wipes or approved disinfectant spray and paper towels will be used to sanitize the area).
- Hand Sanitizer will be given upon the completion of breakfast and lunch to all student.



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PROMOTING HEALTHY BEHAVIORS

- Educating staff and students on healthy behaviors that reduce the spread of illness is a top priority of Synergy Public School.
- All classrooms will begin the year teaching uniform, school-wide, standard healthy practices. Teachers will use a wide variety of techniques including videos, lessons, and demonstrations.
- All classrooms will discuss health office procedures and what to do if the student is not feeling well or someone in the classroom becomes sick.

Hand Hygiene, Respiratory Etiquette, and Face Coverings

- All students will be taught the proper handwashing techniques.
 - Using soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
 - How to get all parts of your hands clean.
- Students will wash their hands after using the restroom.
- Teachers will dispense hand sanitizer to all students each time they enter the classroom. (In the morning, after specials, after recess)
- Teachers will teach all students procedures for using hand sanitizer when they re-enter the room.
- Teachers will teach students proper ways to sneeze/cough and how to dispose of tissues.
- Students and Staff will wash their hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer after sneezing/coughing and disposing of tissues.
- Students will be taught how to properly wear cloth face coverings.
- Students will be taught the procedures for storing their face masks when they are not wearing them.
- Students will be reminded not to touch their face when wearing their mask and to wash their hands frequently.
- Teachers will educate students on how to properly use the water fountains. **The school highly recommends students bring their own water bottles daily.**

Shared Objects

- All students will have their own supplies. Sharing of supplies will be highly discouraged.
- All elementary students will have an individual seat sacks to store their workbooks, folders, water bottles and supplies.



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CLEANING AND DISINFECTING

School Cleaning & Sanitizing

- Teachers will sanitize classroom surfaces throughout day and at the end of the school day. Teachers will be provided effective disinfecting wipes and supplies for cleaning.
- Electrostatic sprayer will be used to spray common areas routinely.
- Frequent cleaning and sanitizing of high touch points occurs throughout the day, including restroom stalls, dispensers, doors, counters, handles and knobs. Custodial staff will check these areas throughout the day to ensure cleanliness. Additional cleaning and sanitization process will occur each night.
- The front office staff will use provided cleaning and disinfectant product to frequently disinfect front desk counters and other lobby surfaces.
- All cafeteria lunch tables will be cleaned and sanitized between lunch periods. At the conclusion of lunches, the cafeteria tables will be moved and the floor will be cleaned and sanitized
- Windows will be cleaned on a rotating schedule throughout week.

Evening Cleaning Schedule

Synergy employs a janitorial cleaning service for evenings to maintain our standards of cleanliness

- All Bathrooms will be cleaned and disinfected nightly.
- All school trash will be taken out.
- All Floors will be vacuumed and mopped.
- Front Office and Administration offices will be vacuumed, wiped down, and mopped.
- Classroom sinks will be cleaned and disinfected.

All nightly cleaning will be inspected at the start of each school day by maintenance staff to ensure thorough, effective cleaning and disinfecting.

MESSAGING

- Signs will be posted throughout the school to encourage safe and healthy practices. Handwashing signs will be located in restrooms.
- Video messages for healthy practices will be shown in the classroom and during weekly assembly meetings when applicable.
- Parent resources and information will be provided through monthly newsletters, parent leadership meetings and through school app.



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STAFF TRAINING

- All staff will be trained on all safety protocols at summer staff development
- Continually training will occur during professional development Wednesdays.

COVID ISOLATION PROTOCOLS

Student/Staff Exhibiting COVID Symptoms

Student or Staff members who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 (such as fever, cough or shortness of breath) will notify administration and will be immediately separated from other individuals and go directly to the health office. (Isolation Room)

- The parent will be contacted for the student to be picked up immediately. Parents are required to keep emergency information up to date with the Synergy front office.
- Staff will be sent home.
- Depending on the severity of the symptoms, parents or staff will be advised to seek medical attention.
- Students and Staff who have a virus or other medical issues not related to COVID-19 may return to school when 24-hours fever and symptom.

Positive COVID-19 Isolation Requirements

In the event a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, Synergy will follow the CDC's criteria for home isolation. The following is the CDC criteria for home isolation:

- 10 days since symptoms first appeared and
- Fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication, and
- Symptoms have improved

Family Member Positive COVID-19

- 10 days from the onset of symptoms if the family member lives with the student/staff

Exposure to Exposed Person

- No isolation necessary



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Fully Vaccinated Individuals

Vaccinated persons with an exposure to someone with COVID-19 do not need to isolate if they are fully vaccinated and show no symptoms of COVID-19. It is recommended that they are tested 3-5 days after exposure and wear a mask for 14 days in public or until they receive a negative result.

If the person experiences symptoms consistent with COVID-19, they should immediately self-isolate and be evaluated by their healthcare provider for COVID-19, including testing.

Persons who test positive for COVID-19 by PCR or antigen test should follow isolation guidance, regardless of vaccination status.

NOTIFICATION FOR COVID EXPOSURE

- All state and local laws will be followed in notifying required agencies, while maintaining confidentiality.
- Synergy is not permitted, due to HIPPA and FERPA Laws, to disclose the name or any other identifying information about a student or employee who tested positive for COVID-19.
- Individuals who have come in close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 will be notified by the school
- Decisions regarding the quarantine of classes or the school will be made by the Synergy leadership team in collaboration with local health agencies.

POSITIVE CASES ON CAMPUS

- Anyone who tests positive is required to isolate for 10 days from testing date or symptoms onset and may return to school after 10 days if they are symptom free for 24 hours without fever or pain reducing medication.
- Parents will be informed if their child was in direct contact with a person who has tested positive.
- Parents have the option to keep their child at home for up to 10 days after the direct contact. Parents will need to contact the front office to report absences each day.



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- If a parent is notified by the Maricopa County of Health regarding a direct contact and tell them they must quarantine, the school asks that families adhere.

DEFINITION OF CLOSE CONTACT

The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) follow CDC guidelines and define a close contact of a COVID-19 case as being any person "within 6 feet of a person with COVID-19 while infectious for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, regardless of whether masks were worn." [**Exception:** in the K-12 school setting, a student who was within 3-6 feet of an infected student is not considered a close contact if both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting masks at all times.]

<https://www.maricopa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/70111/School-Quarantine-After-Vaccination-Guidance?bidId=>

COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS

- Staff and families should self-report to the school if they or their student have symptoms of COVID-19, a positive test for COVID-19, or were exposed to someone with COVID-19 with the last 14 days. (All federal and state privacy and confidentiality acts will apply)
- The school will notify staff, families and the public of any school closures and any restrictions in place to limit COVID-19 exposure. Communication will take place through the school letters, website, Automated calls, school FLYER Connect app, and social media.
- All communication will be provided in both English and Spanish. Families using the school Flyer app will be able to translate messages into their home language.

MENTAL HEALTH FOR STAFF AND STUDENTS

- The school will provide families with education, resources and the indicators that students or family members are suffering from anxiety, depression, or lack of



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coping strategies. Information to parents will be provided through parent leadership meetings, written information flyers, and school app.

- The school will provide professional development to all staff on the indicators that students or staff members may be suffering from anxiety, depression, or lack of coping strategies.
- The school will promote healthy eating, exercising, self-care and sleep habits. (Wellness Policy)
- The school will ensure all staff members are familiar with resources including national Crisis Response Network and Arizona's Crisis Response Network (CRN). National Distress Hotline: 1-800-985-5990.

Despite all health and safety precautions and measures taken to mitigate the virus, Synergy Public School does not have the ability to control all variables including exposure to the virus and/or potential illness.

The above plan is subject to change throughout the year. It is meant to be a fluid plan. Any changes made will be shared with Governing Board Members and all staff.