

# Spring Garden Waldorf School COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan

Revised 10/21/2020

## Introduction

In considering the return to campus during the current phase of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, it is important to balance the risk of direct infection and transmission of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, in the Spring Garden Waldorf School (SGWS) community with the challenges of school closure on our community's physical and mental health. As circumstances change in our local community related to the spread of novel coronavirus, so will our plans for delivering a Waldorf education. We must strongly consider the recommendations of our local public health officials as they are interpreting the data that represents the impact of COVID-19 infections in our community. Summit County Public Health (SCPH) has assured SGWS that they will provide weekly updates so that our administration can continue to make decisions in the best interest of our students and teachers. This document is intended to provide the details of the health and safety strategies that will be implemented when our school can reopen and provide guidance to the Spring Garden community during the COVID-19 pandemic. While we believe this plan reduces the risk of virus transmission, there is inherent risk in bringing a group of people together in a building at a one time and we cannot eliminate all risk. It is important to remember that this plan is subject to change as new information becomes available and mandates are put in place from national, state, and local public health officials or as SGWS Administrative Staff and Administrative Faculty deem necessary for the safety of the students, employees, and community.

## The Health and Safety Plan addresses the following areas:

1. Daily Health Assessments/Symptom Monitoring - **Updated 8/10/2020**
2. Illness and Absence - **Updated 9/8/2020**
3. Physical Distancing
4. Separating Classes/Cohorting
5. Face Masks - **Updated 9/24/2020**
6. Personal Hygiene - **Updated 10/21/2020**
7. Outdoor Learning
8. Shared Materials
9. Cleaning Protocols - **Updated 10/21/20**
10. Building Use and Access - **Updated 9/24/2020**
11. Mental Health Considerations
12. Distance Learning

## **1. Daily Health Assessments/Symptom Monitoring at School**

In order to prevent the spread of infection, students, teachers, and other employees who have signs or symptoms of COVID-19 or live with anyone who has been diagnosed with or is suspected of having COVID-19 should stay home. Furthermore, those same people should notify the school immediately upon learning that they have been exposed to COVID-19 in any other circumstance.

Following CDC and SCPH guidelines, parents/guardians are expected to screen their children for COVID-19 symptoms and check their child's temperature prior to coming to school each and every day. School personnel are expected to screen themselves for COVID-19 symptoms and check their own temperature prior to coming to work each and every day. Students and school personnel must remain at home if they have a fever above 100°F or experience any of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. Parents/guardians should have a low threshold for keeping their child home from school if any of the above symptoms are present.

Teachers and staff will monitor students for symptoms of COVID-19 throughout the day. They will have a low threshold to request assessment for students who develop persistent symptoms while at school unless the symptoms can be clearly attributed to another non-infectious factor or illness. If a student displays COVID-19 symptoms then the teacher will contact the office and they will be [assessed](#) in a designated sick room appropriate for COVID-19 isolation. (Click on the link for more details.) A parent/guardian will be called to pick up the student. While waiting to go home, ill students will wear a face mask and be cared for in the sick room monitored by school personnel utilizing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). The parent/guardian will be referred to seek advice from their child's healthcare provider (MD/DO, CNP, PA) and a written release will be required before returning to school. In the absence of a healthcare provider, the [ODH website](#) maintains a list of testing sites that can be searched by county or ZIP code.

SGWS employees displaying symptoms of COVID-19, unless clearly attributed to another non-infectious factor or illness, will be sent home immediately. School administration will contact Summit County Public Health for any confirmed case of COVID-19 that was present on school grounds to receive guidance and recommendations on further action.

Resources:

<https://www.scph.org/sites/default/files/editor/Coronavirus/Guidance%20for%20SC%20Schools%20080720.pdf>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html#clean>

[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html#anchor\\_1589932027380](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html#anchor_1589932027380)

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/schools/K-12-Schools-Guidance.pdf>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-testing.html>

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/testing-ch-centers>

## **2. Illness and Absence**

Any student or employee who has symptoms suspicious for COVID-19 (see section 1) or has been exposed to someone infected with COVID-19 must remain at home and not attend school. Despite the strategies SGWS enacts to mitigate risk of transmission, they will not completely prevent an employee or student from contracting an illness. Many illnesses overlap with similar symptoms to COVID-19. Due to the wide range of possible symptoms, it is expected that there will be an increase in absences from school and work. SGWS is instituting a requirement for parents/guardians to report the reason for all student absences from school.

Based on recommendations from Summit County Public Health (SCPH), the following steps will be required to help limit the spread of COVID-19 in our school community.

1. Student absence must be reported to the school office by phone or email on the morning of the absence. Please include the reason for the absence. When appropriate, SCPH recommends that ill students seek the advice of a healthcare provider to rule out COVID-19. Students must provide a release from a healthcare provider to return to school.
2. All confirmed cases of COVID-19 must be reported to the school. In turn, SGWS Administration will work with SCPH to support contact tracing. We will follow the guidance of SCPH regarding exclusion from school for quarantine or isolation.
3. Employees are expected to follow the same guidance by SCPH detailed above with the additional requirement of a written release from a medical provider to return to work.

### Reporting positive cases of COVID-19 in our school community:

Tracy Edwards, Director of Administration, is the primary point of contact for any COVID-19 concerns and will take questions and manage reporting to SCPH. If she is unavailable, please contact Susan Hudson. SGWS acknowledges that an individual's personal health information is private and will be kept confidential except when mandatory reporting requires consultation with SCPH.

Students and SGWS employees who have been diagnosed with COVID-19, through a lab test or clinical examination, should notify Tracy Edwards ([tedwards@sgws.org](mailto:tedwards@sgws.org)) no later than 24 hours after receiving a confirmed diagnosis.

Positive cases of COVID-19 in students, SGWS teachers, and staff members will be reported to Summit County Public Health Department within 24 hours of notification.

All parents, guardians, and employees will receive an SGWS email notification of a positive COVID-19 result in any students, faculty, or staff members without disclosing protected health information. Additionally, parents and guardians of students and SGWS employees who are part of the same class will receive an additional notification regarding possible exposure within the class.

SGWS will provide SCPH the information needed for contact tracing. Specifically, student or employee name, parent/guardian name, date of exposure, and phone number is required by SCPH. Parents, guardians, faculty, and staff who have been exposed and are placed in quarantine can expect follow up from SCPH.

Resources:

[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html?CDC\\_AA\\_r efVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprevent-getting-sick %2Fwhen-its-safe.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html?CDC_AA_r efVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprevent-getting-sick %2Fwhen-its-safe.html)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/isolation.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/publicorders/DO-K-12-Reporting.pdf>

### **3. Physical Distancing**

Guidance from CDC and ODH state that physical distancing between individuals of 6 feet or more is vital for slowing the spread of COVID-19. Our school is fortunate to have access to indoor and outdoor spaces to accommodate our classes and meet physical distancing recommendations. Considerable effort will be made to maintain the minimum distance between students, teachers, and staff on the school grounds as often as it is feasible and appropriate. This includes maintaining 6 feet of distance between students' desks in the classroom, office furniture, and during most interactions between teachers, staff and students. Additionally, physical distancing is expected during arrival to school, when moving about the hallways, and during outdoor learning. Markings on floors and signs will help to designate physical distancing throughout the school.

Grades students within a cohort class will not be required to maintain physical distance during outdoor recess. There is some concern that physical distancing, during outdoor recess periods, is difficult to enforce and potentially harmful to students' play and social interactions. Therefore, the emphasis for reducing virus transmission will be with cohorting classes separately, but not enforcing physical distancing during recess. Physical distancing of 6 feet is recommended if

indoor recess is required because risk of transmission inside the building is greater than outdoors.

Early Childhood classes will follow recommendations to reduce the student-to-teacher ratio to mitigate risk of virus transmission. It is not expected that 6 feet of physical distance is feasible in the Early Childhood classes without significant impact on the social, emotional, and mental health of the children. However, during snack, lunch, and rest periods, physical distancing is required at a minimum of 3 feet.

Resources:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/schools/K-12-Schools-Guidance.pdf>

<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>

#### **4. Separation of Classes/Cohorting**

Guidance from national and state organizations recommend cohorting of students and teachers to avoid mixing of groups to reduce risk of virus transmission to a larger portion of the school population. All classes from Early Childhood through Grade 8 will work and play separately from each other. Each class will have separate indoor and outdoor spaces that will be designated for use. The schedule will include time for classes to move through the building and transition outside independently. The number of adults working with each class will also be limited for all classes.

#### **5. Face Masks**

Face masks decrease the risk of transmission of COVID-19 from infected individuals to others. They can protect someone from inhaling droplets and reduce the emission of droplets into the environment to infect others in close proximity. In other words, wearing a face mask protects yourself and those around you. CDC recommends that staff and students wear face masks “as feasible and are most essential in times when physical distancing is difficult.” Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (Ohio AAP) strongly recommends face masks for students in grades K-12 unless there is a medical or developmental reason they cannot wear one.

It is understandable that parents, guardians and employees have differing views on the importance of wearing a face mask, however, public health officials continue to strongly support them as an important mitigation strategy. Students' perceptions of wearing face masks are directly impacted by their parents/guardians perspective. In order to normalize wearing masks at school, it is important to prepare and support your student in their capacity to wear a face mask. While they are not always comfortable, students are often asked to wear rain boots and sun

hats on sweltering days and they are able to do it. Please consider viewing this [information from the American Academy of Pediatrics](#) to assist in preparing your student for wearing a face mask.

In an effort to balance the goal of reducing the risk of viral transmission between students and staff against the potential negative impacts of face masks on a student's learning experience, the following recommendations and requirements will be implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Requirements/Recommendations:**

1. **All SGWS employees are required** to wear a face mask unless there is a health-related concern that prohibits one from being worn. Employees are required to provide documentation from a healthcare provider for SCPH approval if they believe they have a medical exemption from wearing a face mask.
2. **Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten students are required** to wear a face mask at all times from arrival to dismissal with some exceptions throughout the day.
  - a. It is important for parents to help teach and support their child in putting on and taking off their own mask.
  - b. Teachers will reinforce the teaching on [proper wearing and removal of face masks](#).
  - c. In case of a soiled or wet mask, all students should have two extra face masks in their backpacks in addition to the face mask they wear to school.
  - d. Students may remove their face mask when:
    - i. They are seated in their designated area for snack and lunch or while getting a drink of water;
    - ii. Seated outside while maintaining 6 ft of physical distance;
    - iii. When a student needs a short break or a new mask and can be seated in a safe area designated by the teacher away from the class
3. **Kindergarten, Grades 1-8 students are required** to wear a face mask at all times from arrival to dismissal with some exceptions throughout the day.
  - a. It is important for parents to help teach and support their child in [putting on and taking off their own mask](#). Teachers will reinforce the teaching on proper wearing and removal of face masks.
  - b. Students may remove their face mask when:
    - i. they are seated in their designated area for snack and lunch;
    - ii. during outdoor learning and/or recess where students are able to maintain a distance of 6 ft or more physical distance;
    - iii. while getting a drink of water following classroom rules and maintaining physical distance; or
    - iv. when a student needs a short break or a new mask and can be seated in a safe area designated by the teacher away from the class.
  - c. Face masks that are visibly soiled or wet must be exchanged for a clean one.

- d. Documentation from a healthcare provider is required if a student has a medical or developmental reason for not wearing a face mask. Additional accommodations will be considered for any student who cannot wear a face mask for those reasons.
4. In accordance with ODH Director's [order](#) issued 7/23/20, **all adults must wear face masks inside the building AND outdoors when they cannot consistently maintain 6 feet of distance from individuals not in their family/household.**
5. CDC recommends that the general population wear cloth face masks (unless otherwise recommended by a healthcare provider) so that N95 and surgical-type masks are reserved for healthcare workers. The cloth face mask should fit snugly yet comfortably on the face, mask the nose, mouth and chin and reach from before the ear around to the other side of the face. Bandanas and neck gaiters have been shown to be ineffective at controlling droplet emission and should not be worn at school. Face masks with a translucent, plastic window that show a person's mouth are permitted.
6. **All students should wear a clean face mask daily. It should be marked clearly with their name. Consider writing front and back in case it is not obvious for the student. All students should have two spare face masks in their backpacks in addition to the face mask they wear to school.** The school will provide a bag to store the face mask in use for the day. Face masks should be washed regularly at home.
7. A staff member may remove their face mask:
  - a. if they are sitting at their own desk in an otherwise empty classroom or office;
  - b. while eating with 6 ft physical distance from all other individuals; or
  - c. outside at a distance of 6 feet or greater from all other individuals.
8. Face masks should be worn if staff members are working in an indoor communal space and any other individual is present. Teachers and staff should have their face mask accessible at all times.
9. Face shields are intended to provide additional protection to an individual by reducing viral transmission from droplets entering the eyes and face where a face mask does not provide protection. Reusable face shields or eye protection can be worn WITH a face mask if a student or staff member chooses to do so. Per CDC guidance, face shields are not known "to provide any benefit as source control to protect others from the spray of respiratory particles." The CDC does not recommend face shields as a substitute for face masks. ODH guidance states that face shields can be an alternative where cloth face masks would hinder the learning process. Therefore, SGWS will permit face shields to be worn by a teacher WITHOUT a face mask only when they are outdoors, or 6 feet or more distance from anyone else and the use of a face mask will impair the learning process. Use of face shields may be impacted by county or state public health orders. They must be cleaned and disinfected properly after use.

Resources:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/schools/K-12-Schools-Guidance.pdf>

<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>  
<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/COVID-19/Pages/Cloth-Face-masks-for-Children-During-COVID-19.aspx>  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-to-wear-cloth-face-masks.html>  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-to-wash-cloth-face-masks.html>  
<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2765525>  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/non-us-settings/emergency-considerations-ppe.html>  
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/resources/news-releases-news-you-can-use/covid-19-update-08-04-20>  
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/resources/public-health-orders/public-health-orders>  
[https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/OHOOD/2020/08/04/file\\_attachments/1511083/8.3.20%20OCHA%20and%20AAP%20Face%20masks%20Masking%20Guidelines\\_.pdf](https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/OHOOD/2020/08/04/file_attachments/1511083/8.3.20%20OCHA%20and%20AAP%20Face%20masks%20Masking%20Guidelines_.pdf)  
<https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/early/2020/08/07/sciadv.abd3083>  
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/publicorders/Directors-Order-Facial-Coverings-throughout-State-Ohio.pdf>

## **6. Personal hygiene**

COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses are spread by respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. Proper hand hygiene is one of the most effective strategies to prevent the spread of most respiratory viruses including COVID-19, particularly during the pre-symptomatic phase of illness.

**The following protocols must be followed by teachers, staff, and students:**

1. Handwashing stations are in each classroom in addition to the bathrooms. Students and teachers must wash their hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water. If hand washing is not available, SGWS has hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Hand sanitizer stations are located at all building entrances and available in each classroom. [If using hand sanitizer](#), apply to hands and rub hands together for about 20 seconds and until dry.

- When arriving in the classroom for the day
- After returning inside from outdoor work or play
- After toileting or after helping a child to use the bathroom
- Before eating, serving or preparing food or drinks
- After eating
- After touching their face, blowing their nose



- Prior to departure
- After assisting a child to wash their hands
- When visibly soiled (must use soap and water).
- After contact with bodily fluids
- After cleaning or sanitizing or using any chemical products
- After handling pets, pet cages, pet waste or other pet objects that have come in contact with the pet
- Before and after completing a medical procedure or administering medication

2. Children should be taught by teachers [how to clean their hands properly](#). This should be done in an age appropriate, non-judgmental, and positive manner. Children should be reminded to avoid touching their nose, eyes, face, and mouth and to wash hands after touching their face.

3. Children should be reminded to sneeze or cough into a tissue or their elbow/sleeve. Used tissues are to be put in the trash and hands washed after tissue use.

Resources:

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/schools/K-12-Schools-Guidance.pdf>

<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>

## **7. Outdoor Learning**

Teachers will conduct classes with students outside when possible, expanding our use of the outdoor spaces. We are designating multiple, specific spaces to be used for outdoor learning. Classes will also have assigned outdoor areas for recess. As needed, the outdoor spaces may rotate depending on class needs.

## **8. Shared materials**

Faculty and staff will minimize the use of shared materials as much as possible in classrooms and offices. If shared materials are used, the materials must be cleaned and disinfected between use. Additionally, efforts should be made to reduce the need to touch objects and doors. Teachers should reinforce “no sharing” of food. Faculty and staff will also streamline materials and equipment used in the classroom to reduce the need for cleaning.

Toys:

- Recess toys, such as balls and jump ropes, must be stored, maintained, and kept separate for each class. Balls and jump rope handles should be cleaned and sanitized daily when in use.
- Early childhood should create sets of toys that can be rotated through cleanings. Use one set of toys each day. Rotate in a new set each day.

- After use, wooden toys must be cleaned with alcohol based wipes (70% concentration) and allow to dry overnight before adding into play rotation.
- Toys that children have placed in their mouths or that are otherwise contaminated by body secretions or excretions should be set aside until they are cleaned by hand by a person wearing gloves. Clean with alcohol based wipes (70% concentration) and allow to dry overnight before adding into play rotation.
- Machine washable cloth toys should be used by one individual at a time. These toys should be laundered before being used by another child.
- Silks and cloths should be washed and dried after use. If hand washing is required, the cloth must be ironed before adding into the play rotation.
- Children's books, like other paper-based materials such as mail or envelopes, are not considered a high risk for transmission and do not need additional cleaning or disinfection procedures.

#### Bedding:

- Use bedding (sheets, pillows, blankets, sleeping bags) that can be washed. Keep each child's bedding separate, and consider storing in individually labeled bins, cubbies, or bags. Cots and mats should be labeled for each child. Bedding that touches a child's skin should be cleaned weekly.

#### Resources:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html>

## **9. Cleaning Protocols**

Routine cleaning and disinfecting are key to maintaining a safe environment for faculty, students, and staff. Cleaning removes dirt and most germs and is usually done with soap and water. Disinfecting kills most germs, depending on the type of chemical, and only when the chemical product is used as directed on the label. Cleaning and disinfecting reduce the chance that faculty, students, and staff will come into contact with viruses on surfaces.

### Daily Cleaning of the Building

The building is cleaned and disinfected after each school day by a cleaning service. The daily cleaning includes cleaning and disinfecting of bathrooms, high touch surfaces, cleaning of floors, and trash removal. Daily cleaning protocols can be found [here](#).

### Day Time Cleaning of High Touch Surfaces

- The following high touch surfaces must be cleaned by the teacher or staff member after each use: early childhood student tables, shared desks, shared keyboards, shared telephones.

- The following high touch surfaces will be cleaned at midday by our cleaning service: all door knobs/plates, light switches, faucets, toilet seats.
- Student desks and chairs should be washed with soap and water a minimum of once a week. Teachers may direct students to help with desk cleaning, based on age.

#### Cleaning and disinfecting outdoor areas

- Outdoor areas are difficult to clean and disinfect.
- Do not spray disinfectant on outdoor playgrounds - it is not an efficient use of supplies and is not proven to reduce risk of COVID-19 spread.
- Recess areas do not need to be cleaned.
- If tables or other touch surfaces are used for outdoor learning, teachers must clean and sanitize after use.
- Student chairs brought outside for individual use should remain in the care of the student and do not need to be cleaned unless visibly soiled.
- Cleaning and disinfection of other wooden surfaces (play structures or benches) or groundcovers (mulch, sand) is not recommended.

#### Special cleaning procedures

The Administrative Staff will clean and disinfect the designated sick room and PPE after each use following protocols recommended by CDC. Additionally, the cleaning service will follow CDC protocols to clean and disinfect areas of the building when there is a confirmed case of COVID-19. These special cleaning procedures can be found [here](#).

Resources:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>

### **10. Building Use and Access**

In order to provide the safest environment and limit the number of individuals at the school, the use of the building will be limited to faculty, staff, and students. Meetings of teachers, administrators, parents/guardians, board members, and other school committees should take place via video conference when possible. Large, all school gatherings will be held virtually or cancelled for the immediate future. Faculty and staff will coordinate use of shared spaces to limit congregating in those areas.

Contractors and other visitors to the building will be limited to those needed for essential operations. Parents will not have daily access to the school building unless requested by the administration to pick up an ill student. Contractors, parents, and other visitors must be accompanied by a staff member and follow these guidelines:

- All guests and visitors should remain at home and not visit the school if they exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19. Per the CDC, symptoms include cough, shortness of breath or

difficulty breathing, fever (temp > 100°F), chills, muscle pain, sore throat, and new loss of taste or smell.

- A staff member is responsible to screen any visitor by asking if they have any symptoms of fever, cough, shortness of breath or other COVID-19 related symptoms.
- All visits should be planned in advance and only as needed for operations.
- Visitors are required to wear face masks while in the school building.
- Work days will be restricted to 10 individuals for indoor projects and 15 individuals for outdoor projects.
- Visitors are permitted to use the restroom.

## **11. Emotional/Behavioral Health Considerations**

It is well known that emotional, mental and behavioral health challenges have increased in children, adolescents and adults in the U.S. during the COVID-19 pandemic. The AAP states “[that] the emotional impact of the pandemic, financial/employment concerns, social isolation, and growing concerns about systemic racial inequity demands careful attention and planning.” It is understandable for students, parents and employees to feel nervous about the return to school. They will be faced with new routines in order to help keep everyone as safe as possible. These changes may bring about feelings of fear, anxiety, worry, and depression that can impair the learning process. Especially as we begin the school year, faculty and staff expect to spend more time establishing new habits and recreating our class communities.

Teachers and staff will be educated on and attentive to warning signs that a student may be struggling emotionally, mentally, or behaviorally. They will bring those concerns to the student’s parent/guardian and work together to determine the best action plan for the student. Parents and guardians should make teachers aware of any concerns they have about their child’s transition back into the classroom.

Resources:

<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>

## **12. Distance Learning**

When necessary, we will implement distance learning based on state or local health department requirements and recommendations. With the continued focus on local outbreaks and contact tracing, distance learning could be instituted for all grades or limited to one class. Decisions about implementing distance learning will be made by SGWS Administration in consultation with SCPH. School administration and SCPH will consider cases of COVID-19 in our school and status of our county in the Ohio Public Health Advisory System when making a

decision regarding closure. If individual students experience a COVID-19 related absence for more than one week, SGWS will offer a project-based distance learning experience.

Parent input was tremendously helpful in structuring our 2020-2021 distance learning plan. Changes to our plan include increased independent work, increased live and recorded video engagement, and an online delivery system with less printed paper. We will implement a blended approach of synchronous (live lessons) and asynchronous (self or parent-guided) learning in a longer term distance learning scenario for all students, in all subjects, early childhood through eighth grade. We plan to deliver our distance curriculum using Google Classroom and Zoom technology.