

Seneca Valley School District



Tracy L. Vitale, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Administration Center
124 Seneca School Road
Harmony, PA 16037-9134
PHONE: (724) 452-6040
FAX: (724) 452-6105

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Dear Seneca Valley Staff and Parents/Guardians,

The Seneca Valley Health and Safety Plan was approved by the School Board on Aug. 9 to serve as our guidelines for the 2021-22 school year and takes into consideration the unique needs of our school community. Despite these challenging times, we remain committed to moving forward and are excited to welcome our students for the first day of school on Wednesday, Aug. 25.

We recognize and understand COVID continues to be ever-changing and complex with many week-to-week changes, if not day-to-day. The health and safety plan is a living document that, based on previous experience, we are fully prepared to adjust should directives change. As we have done throughout this pandemic, we will continue to closely monitor state and local data points and will communicate any changes.

The approved plan combines recommendations released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PaDOH) and the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). Should you wish to view the plan in its entirety – or to view other COVID information – we invite you to visit our COVID page on the District's website at www.svsd.net/COVID19.

In summary, the current plan includes the following:

Masks

- In the approved plan, masks are recommended but will not be required of students and staff while in our schools. However, those who are unvaccinated, immunocompromised, live with immunocompromised family member(s), and anyone who feels most comfortable wearing a mask are encouraged to do so.
- Under a [federal order issued in January 2021](#), face coverings are required, regardless of vaccination status, when on public transportation. This includes school buses operated by public and private school systems. Therefore, face coverings are required while riding the school bus to and from school.

Instruction

- Instruction will be offered via the traditional, five-day, in-person school day (*synchronous and asynchronous cyber options continue to be available via the Seneca Valley Academy of Choice*). [SV Academy of Choice \(Cyber\) / Overview \(svsd.net\)](#)

- Accommodations for the inclusion of students with disabilities will be made available where appropriate and as discussed with the parents, nurse and the special education department.
- As noted in our June and July communications, livestreaming will not be used in the 2021-22 school year as an alternative for attending school or out of convenience. The exception to this will be COVID-related medical issues. Specifically, livestreaming will be made available for students who are in isolation due to a positive test result or quarantine due to exposure. Both will require either a doctor's note or notification/communications with our school nursing staff.

Building Safety

- Daily disinfecting will occur in all classrooms, group instruction rooms, bathrooms, cafeterias, offices, and common spaces.
- Heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) filters will be replaced more frequently to increase the amount of airflow through HVAC systems in each building.
- Handwashing will be reinforced, and hand sanitizer will be made available in all classrooms and common areas. Signage will be posted throughout classrooms, bathrooms, and common areas to ensure that staff and students can follow the recommended hygiene guidelines for hand washing and social distancing. This etiquette will be reviewed and practiced as needed.
- Student seating in instructional spaces will be arranged to maximize distance between students when feasible.
- Outdoor space will be utilized when feasible, to the extent possible and weather permitting.
- The District will prioritize outdoor, as opposed to indoor, play as much as possible for recess and physical education classes.
- Vaccinated staff and students are encouraged to provide the school nurse with a copy of his or her COVID-19 vaccination card as those who are fully vaccinated will not be required to quarantine in cases of close contact to a COVID-19 positive individual unless they present with symptoms.

As a reminder, staying home when sick is the most effective way to minimize the risk of transmission of COVID-19. Parents should keep children at home if they are not feeling well.

We understand the uncertainty of the pandemic continues to be challenging. Our intention is to maintain the in-person model of instruction so that we can provide a productive and rewarding school year. As always, we appreciate your support, patience and understanding in this effort.

We look forward to seeing all of you soon.

Sincerely,
Seneca Valley Administration

