

# **Schuylerville Central School District**

## **Communicable Disease - Pandemic Continuity of Operations Plan**

This Continuity of Operations Plan has been developed to meet the requirements of subsection (2)(m) of Education Law §2801-a which requires public employers to prepare a plan for the continuation of operations in the event that the Governor declares a public health emergency involving a communicable disease. This plan is built upon the components of the District-Wide School Safety and the Building-Level Emergency Response Plan(s). The plan includes elements of the COVID-19 Reopening Plan and will be updated regularly to reflect current guidance and best practices. The District-Wide School Safety Team assumes responsibility for development and compliance with all provisions of this plan and implementation at the building level through the Building-Level Emergency Response Team.

### **Background and Compliance**

On September 7, 2020, NYS Governor Cuomo signed legislation (S8617B/A10832) requiring plans to protect public workers in future health emergencies. The law requires state and local governments and school districts to plan for future state disaster emergencies involving a communicable disease, including protections for essential workers and protocols for securing PPE (personal protective equipment).

New York State defines a communicable disease as an illness caused by an infectious agent or its toxins that occurs through the direct or indirect transmission of the infectious agent or its products from an infected individual or through an animal, vector or the inanimate environment to a susceptible animal or human host.

Plans must be submitted to public unions and labor management committees within 150 days, on or before February 4, 2021, and plans need to be finalized no later than April 1, 2021. A copy of the plan's final version must be published in a clear and conspicuous location, and in the employee hand-book, and on the district's website or an employee-only accessible internet link. The plan will be presented to the district's labor unions and labor management committees to be given an opportunity to review the plan and make recommendations. The employer must consider and respond to any recommendations in writing within a reasonable timeframe. The district will provide the plan and feedback within the deadlines to ensure compliance with the April 1, 2021 finalized plan deadline. Nothing in this plan shall be deemed to impede, infringe, diminish or impair the rights of a public employee or employer under any law, rule, regulation or collectively negotiated agreement, or the rights and benefits which accrue to employees through collective bargaining agreements, or otherwise diminish the integrity of the existing collective bargaining relationship.

### **Activation of Plan**

The Schuylerville Central School District will work closely with the Saratoga County Department of Health to determine the need for activation of this plan. The district will report suspected and

confirmed cases of communicable diseases (e.g., influenza, coronavirus, etc.) on the monthly Communicable Disease Report, (DMS-485.7/93; HE-112.4/81) and submit the report to the local health department. Depending on the severity of the disease, the district may be required to report information more frequently and in another format (i.e., daily for COVID-19).

The local health department will monitor county-wide communicable disease cases and inform school districts as to appropriate actions.

When this plan is activated, the District-Wide School Safety Team may invite additional people to the meetings to aid in the planning efforts:

- District Medical Director
- School nurse(s)
- Technology Director
- Human Resources Director
- Business Official
- Facility Director
- Food Service Director
- Transportation Coordinator
- Communications Director
- Curriculum Director

Communication with parents, students, staff, and the school community is important throughout a pandemic outbreak. Communication methods will include postings to the district website, general mailings, email, social media, school communication apps, and the public media. Taryn Kane (Communications Director) has been designated to coordinate this effort. Communications will work closely with Jason Mehan (Technology Director) to ensure proper function of all communication systems.

The health and safety of our employees and contractors is crucial to maintaining our mission essential operations, while supporting the health and safety of our students, parents/guardians and school community. For the most current pandemic guidance, all employees and contractors are encouraged to use the following resources:

- NYS Department of Health Coronavirus COVID-19 [website](#) and [MasterGuidance](#)
- NYS Education Department Coronavirus [website](#) and [guidance](#)
- CDC Coronavirus (COVID-19) [website](#) and [SchoolGuidance](#)
- Schuylerville Central School District's COVID-19 [September 2020 Reopening Plan](#)

The district is prepared to pivot to other guidance in the event of future communicable disease pandemics to be reflected in this plan if/when the time comes.

#### **A. Essential Positions/Titles**

The district has developed this plan to prepare for any future government ordered shutdowns that may occur, similar to the coronavirus shutdown in the spring of 2020. The below list of essential positions that would be required (at Superintendent discretion) to be

on-site or in district to continue to function as opposed to those positions that could work remotely. The list includes:

The mission essential functions for the school district have been identified as:

<b>Essential Function</b>	<b>Description</b>
District Administrative Team	Provides supervision of employees performing mission essential functions in the schools and buildings and provides PPE and disinfection supplies.
Food Service	Provides school meals to all students, including those attending school in-person and those learning remotely.
Clerical Staff	Responsible for answering phones, providing support to building administrators, responding to emails, greeting visitors, assisting in building sign-in procedures, accepting deliveries and helping disseminate mail.
Transportation Department	Responsible for the safety and efficient operation and maintenance of the transportation department. Coordinates with the Food Service Manager on meal deliveries. Cleans and disinfects district vehicles used for meal deliveries.
Custodial and Maintenance Department	Provide the upkeep of the campus during remote work and learning and ensures that all buildings and grounds are properly maintained, regularly cleaned and disinfected as necessary to ensure the safety of school community members.
Special Education	Provides extended school year (ESY) special education programs and services.
Information Technology (IT)	Provides hardware and software for staff and students to facilitate continued education in remote learning environments necessary for continuity of instruction and education. Also responsible for troubleshooting technical issues that may arise during the distance learning process, the offering of the best practices in communication to ensure that students are able to access curricular materials and for helping staff members disseminate information related to both academic and social-emotional education.
Faculty & Staff	Provide instructional education and support as needed, per the Superintendent's discretion

Continuity of operations could be severely impacted by a loss of staff. The table below describes the procedures for maintaining essential functions and services by planning for backup personnel.

<b>Role/Topic</b>	<b>Task</b>	<b>Backups</b>
Overall Operations	<p>Have decision-making authority for the district.</p> <p>Make district policies and procedures to reflect crisis response</p>	<p>Those listed below are assigned to this role:</p> <p>Superintendent Business Official Director of Facilities Additional roles</p>
Business Office	<p>Maintain overall function and facilities operation.</p> <p>Review essential functions and responsibilities of back-up personnel.</p> <p>Monitor utilization of supplies, equipment, contracts, and provided services and adjust as necessary</p>	<p>Purchasing</p> <p>Payroll</p>

<p>Facilities</p>	<p>Keep the Business Office informed of staffing issues and of the point at which buildings can no longer be maintained</p> <p>Provided building administrators with procedures for maintaining essential building functions (e.g., HVAC system operation, alarms, security, etc.) along with a list of telephone numbers of outside companies and alternates for repair and maintenance of these systems</p> <p>Meet with staff and monitor their ability to maintain essential function</p>	
<p>Human Resources</p>	<p>Monitors absenteeism and ensures appropriate delegation of authority</p> <p>Work with bargaining units to develop the plan for emergency use of personnel in non-traditional functions and changes in the normal work-day such as alternate or reduced work hours, working from home, etc.</p>	<p>Recruitment/Staffing</p> <p>Workplace Safety</p> <p>Training</p> <p>Labor Law Compliance</p> <p>Compensation Planning</p>
<p>Continuity of Instruction</p>	<p>Will be implemented in the event of significant absences or school closure.</p> <p>Alternate learning strategies will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Hard copy, self-directed lessons</li> <li>● Use of mobile media storage devices for lessons (CDs, Jump Drives, iPads)</li> <li>● O-line instruction; online resources; online textbooks</li> <li>● Communication modalities for assignment postings and follow-up: telephone; Postal Service; cell phone, cell phone mail, text messages; e-mail; automated notification systems; website postings</li> </ul>	

## **B. Working/Learning Remotely**

The District will assess devices and technology needs of all non-essential employees and contractors in order to enable telecommuting.

Options for assessing district needs include stakeholder meetings or surveys to ascertain:

- Who will need devices and/or peripherals at home,
- What programs will need to be added to these devices, and
- The availability of viable existing at-home Internet service.

The information from these surveys will be used to determine what items need to be purchased, which programs need to be installed on devices and if appropriate Internet bandwidth can be provided to those in need.

## **C. Staggered Shifts**

Depending on the exact nature of the communicable disease and its impact, the district is prepared to use the strategies below to reduce traffic congestion and maintain social distancing:

- Limiting building occupancy to 25%, 50% or 75% of capacity or the maximum allowable by state or local guidance.
- Forming employee work shift cohorts to limit potential contacts.
- Limit employee travel within the building and/or between buildings.
- Limit restroom usage to specific work areas.
- Stagger arrival and dismissal times.
- Alternate work-days or work weeks.
- Implement a four-day work week.
- Limit or eliminate visitors to the building.

The district may need to include additional strategies based on updated federal, state, and local guidance.

## **D. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Face Coverings**

The district will procure a six-month supply of face coverings and PPE required for essential work tasks. Disposable PPE will be provided in quantities of at least two pieces per work day.

PPE Type	Task/Role
N-95	Nurses/Nurses' Aides Cleaners/Custodians (based on disinfectants used)
Face Shields	Nurses/Nurses' Aides Special Education
Gowns	Nurses/Nurses' Aides Special Education
Gloves	Nurses/Nurses' Aides Special Education Cleaners/Custodians Maintenance/Mechanics
Cloth Face Coverings*	All faculty, staff and students

*\* Cloth face coverings are not considered personal protective equipment by OSHA because their capability to protect the wearer is unknown. However, cloth face coverings are important as a source control for COVID-19 and provides some protection to the wearer. As such, OSHA strongly encourages workers to wear face coverings.*

Those individuals that are required to wear N-95 respirators will be fit-tested and medically screened prior to use to ensure they are physically able to do so.

The use of cloth face coverings to reduce the spread of communicable diseases is important to the health and safety of faculty, staff and students. Cloth face coverings are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected (asymptomatic) and are essential when physical distancing is difficult. Information will be provided to faculty, staff and students on proper use, removal, and cleaning of cloth face coverings. All faculty, staff and students will be encouraged to utilize their own personal face coverings, but the district will secure and provide face coverings as needed.

PPE and face coverings will be stored in a manner which will prevent degradation. These supplies will be monitored to ensure integrity and track usage rates. District communication on how to access PPE will be provided.

## **E. Response Protocols for Preventing Spread**

The district's administration team will meet to determine the need for activation of a pandemic response based on internal monitoring and correspondence with the local health department and other experts.

- The district's administration team at both the District and Building level will be informed that the response effort has been enacted. These individuals will meet to discuss the plan's activation and review responsibilities and communication procedures.
- Communications will work closely with the IT department to re-test all communication systems to ensure proper function. The District-wide School Safety Team and Building-Level Emergency Response Teams will assist in this effort.
- An alert will be sent to the school community upon activation of this plan. The communication will be based on the latest information from federal, state and local health authorities.
- If the decision is made to close a school building, the district will notify the NYS Education Department and District Superintendent.

The district will assign a communicable disease safety coordinator, the Director of Pupil Personnel Services, in consultation with the Director of Facilities, whose responsibilities include continuous compliance with all aspects of the district's reopening plan and any phased-in reopening activities necessary to allow for operational issues to be resolved before activities return to normal or "new normal" levels. The coordinators shall be the main contacts upon the identification of positive communicable disease cases; the Communications Director is responsible for subsequent communication. Coordinators shall be responsible for answering questions from students, faculty, staff, and parents or legal guardians of students regarding the public health emergency and plans implemented by the school.

### **Hand Hygiene**

Faculty, staff, and students will be trained on proper hand hygiene. Information will be provided to parents and/or legal guardians on ways to reinforce hand hygiene at home. The district will provide stations around the school buildings:

- For hand washing: soap, running water, and disposable paper towels.
- For hand sanitizing: an alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol for areas where hand washing facilities may not be available or practical.
- Accommodations for students who cannot use hand sanitizer will be made.



## **Communicable Disease Exposures**

The district must be prepared for communicable disease outbreaks in their local communities and for individual exposure events to occur in their facilities, regardless of the level of community transmission. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) have provided recommendations for strategies to follow after an exposure:

- Close off areas used by a sick person and do not use these areas until after cleaning and disinfection has occurred;
- Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area.
- Wait at least 24 hours before cleaning and disinfection. If waiting 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible;
- Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person suspected or confirmed to have a communicable disease, such as offices, classrooms, bathrooms, lockers, and common areas.
- Once the area has been appropriately cleaned and disinfected it can be reopened for use.
- Individuals without close or proximate contact with the person suspected or confirmed to have a communicable disease can return to the area and resume school activities immediately after cleaning and disinfection.
- If more than seven days have passed since the person who is suspected or confirmed to have a communicable disease visited or used the facility, additional cleaning or disinfection is not necessary, but routine cleaning and disinfection should continue.

## **Returning after Illness**

The district has established protocols and procedures, in consultation with the local health department(s), about the requirements for determining when individuals, particularly students, who screened positive for communicable disease symptoms can return to the in-person learning environment at school. This protocol includes:

- Documentation from a health care provider following evaluation
- Negative COVID-19 diagnostic test result
- Symptom resolution, or if positive for a communicable disease, release from isolation

The district will refer to the NYSDOH's "[Pre-K to Gr 12 COVID-19 Toolkit](#)" and other applicable guidance regarding protocols and policies for faculty, staff, and students seeking

to return to work after a suspected or confirmed communicable disease case or after the faculty or staff member had close or proximate contact with a person with a communicable disease.

The district requires that individuals who were exposed to a communicable disease complete quarantine and have no symptoms before returning to in-person learning. The discharge of an individual from quarantine and return to school will be conducted in coordination with the local health department.

## **Cleaning/Disinfecting**

The district will ensure adherence to hygiene and cleaning and disinfection requirements as advised by the CDC and NYSDOH, including "[Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfection - Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools and Homes](#)" and other guidance, as applicable.

Attachment 2 describes cleaning and disinfection protocols and procedures for the district. Regular cleaning and disinfection of the facilities will occur, including more frequent cleaning and disinfection for high-risk and frequently touched surfaces. This will include desks and cafeteria tables, which will be cleaned and disinfected between each individual's use. Cleaning and disinfection will be rigorous and ongoing and will occur at least daily, or more frequently as needed.

The district will ensure regular cleaning and disinfection of restrooms. Restrooms will be cleaned and disinfected more often depending on frequency of use.

The school district has determined employee policies for available leave in the event of the need of an employee to receive testing, treatment, isolation, or quarantine. These policies are consistent with existing federal, state, or local law, including regarding sick leave or health information privacy.

## **F. Contact Tracing Supports**

The district will notify the state and local health department immediately upon being informed of any positive communicable disease diagnostic test result by an individual within school facilities or on school grounds, including students, faculty, staff, and visitors of the district.

Districts may assist with contact tracing by:

- Keeping accurate attendance records of students and staff members
- Ensuring student schedules are up to date
- Keeping a log of any visitor which includes date and time, and where in the school they visited

- Assisting the local health departments in tracing all contacts of the individual in accordance with the protocol, training, and tools provided through the NYS Contact Tracing Program

The district, in consultation with the local health department, will determine what process will be followed when communicable disease cases are discovered in the school (e.g., how many individuals will be quarantined, closing of areas or classrooms, etc.).

Confidentiality must be maintained as required by federal and state laws and regulations. School staff should not try to determine who is to be excluded from school based on contact without guidance and direction from the local health department.

### **G. Housing for Essential Employees**

Emergency housing for essential workers is not considered to be required for school faculty and staff. The need for emergency housing will be determined with direction from the local department of health.

### **Recovery**

Re-establishing the normal school curriculum is essential to the recovery process and should occur as soon as possible. The district will:

- Work toward a smooth transition from the existing learning methods to the normal process.
- Use the described communication methods to keep the school community aware of the transition process.
- Work closely with the New York State Education Department to revise or amend the school calendar as deemed appropriate.
- Evaluate all building operations for normal function and re-implement appropriate maintenance and cleaning procedures.

Each Building-Level Post-incident Response Team will assess the emotional impact of the crisis on students and staff and make recommendations for appropriate intervention. The District-Wide School Safety Team and Building-Level Emergency Response Teams will meet to de-brief and determine lessons learned with input from *all essential functions*. The District-Wide School Safety Plan and Building-Level Emergency Response Plans will be updated accordingly.

Curriculum activities that may address the crisis will be developed and *implemented*.

Attachment 1 – Cleaning and Disinfection Protocols and Procedures

Room Types/Areas	Cleaning Frequency	Disinfection Frequency	Responsible Party	Additional Information
Classrooms	Daily	Daily	Custodial staff; staff and teachers	Doors, desks, chairs, and floors
Restrooms	2x daily	2x daily	Custodial staff	Doors and sinks will be done twice daily. Floors will be done once daily.
Health Offices/Isolation Rooms	Various	Various	Nursing staff; Custodial staff	Cots, bathrooms and health office equipment will be cleaned after each use. Floors will be done once daily.
Breakrooms	Daily	Daily	Custodial staff	Doors, tables, chairs and floors
Cafeterias/Kitchens	Various	Various	Custodial staff; staff and teachers	Tables and chairs will be cleaned/disinfected in between each group's use. Floors will be done once daily.
Outside Seating Areas	Various	Various	Custodial staff; staff and teachers	Tables and chairs will be cleaned/disinfected in between each group's use. Floors will be done once daily.
Computer Labs	Various	Various	Custodial staff; staff and teachers	Equipment to be cleaned/disinfected between each use. Doors, tables, chairs and floors will be done once daily.

Science Labs	Daily	Daily	Custodial staff; staff and teachers	Equipment to be cleaned/disinfected between each use. Doors, tables, chairs and floors will be done once daily.
Maintenance Office and Work Areas	Daily	Daily	Custodial staff	Doors, desks, chairs, and floors
Bus Garage	Daily	Daily	Custodial staff; Transportation staff	Bathroom, doors, desks, chairs, and floors
Libraries	Daily	Daily	Custodial staff; Librarians	Equipment to be cleaned/disinfected between each use. Doors, tables, chairs and floors will be done once daily.
Playgrounds	As needed	N/A	Custodial staff	
School Buses	Daily	Daily	Transportation staff	High contact spots will be cleaned after the morning (AM) runs and cleaned/disinfected after the afternoon (PM) run.
School Vehicles	After each use	After each use	Staff using vehicles	
Administrative Offices	Daily	Daily	Custodial staff	Doors, desks, chairs, and floors
Large Meeting Areas (e.g., gymnasiums, auditoriums, music rooms)	N/A	N/A	N/A	These areas are not going to be used. When these areas will be returned to use, then an appropriate frequency for cleaning/disinfection will be established.

Athletic Training Rooms, Locker Rooms	N/A	N/A	N/A	These areas are not going to be used. When these areas will be returned to use, then an appropriate frequency for cleaning/disinfection will be established.
Frequently touched surfaces (e.g., doorknobs, light switches, elevator buttons, copy machine buttons, handles, etc.)	2x daily	2x daily	Custodial staff	
Shared frequently touched surfaces (e.g., keyboards, desks, phones, laptops, tablets, remote controls, etc.)	After each use	After each use	Staff using shared surfaces	
Shared equipment (e.g., hand tools, facilities equipment, groundskeeping equipment, golf cart, etc.)	After each use	After each use	Staff using equipment	

Only district approved chemicals will be used. At no time will students be allowed to use cleaners or disinfectants.