



School Year Information for Parents 2021-2022

Student health and safety continues to be a top priority as we return to more normal school operations.

Department of Health Emergency Rule. Protocols for Controlling COVID-19 in School Settings
SPECIFIC REASONS FOR FINDING AN IMMEDIATE DANGER TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY OR WELFARE: Because a recent increase in COVID-19 infections, due to the spread of the COVID-19 delta variant, coincides with the imminent start of the school year, it is imperative that state health and education authorities provide emergency guidance to school districts concerning the governance of COVID- 19 protocols in schools. Accordingly, pursuant to its authority to adopt rules governing the control of preventable communicable diseases in public schools, *see* section 1003.22(3), Florida Statutes, the Florida Department of Health, after consultation with the Department of Education, hereby promulgates an emergency rule regarding COVID- 19 protocols in public schools to encourage a safe and effective in-person learning environment for Florida's schoolchildren during the upcoming school year; to prevent the unnecessary removal of students from school; and to safeguard the rights of parents and their children

This emergency rule is necessary considering the recent rise in COVID- 19 cases in Florida and the urgent need to provide COVID- 19 guidance to school districts before the upcoming school year commences.

Q. Are there currently any Emergency Orders in Florida or in Santa County involving schools and COVID-19?

A Yes

Q What procedures will be instituted to govern the control of COVID-19 in public schools?

A The following safety measures will be in place:

- Schools will routinely clean classrooms and high-traffic areas.
- Students will be encouraged to practice routine handwashing throughout the day.
- Students should stay home if they are sick.
- Masks or facial coverings are highly recommended as a mitigation measure; however, the school will- allow for a parent or legal guardian of the student to opt-out the student from wearing a face covering or mask.

- Signs will be displayed as a reminder to follow mitigations strategies such as social distancing, use of hand sanitizers and hand washing.
- COVID-19 contact tracing will occur as required by the Florida Department of Health.

Q Will masks be mandatory in schools this fall?

A. No. Students may wear masks or facial coverings as a mitigation measure; however, the school must allow for a parent or legal guardian of the student to opt-out the student from wearing a face covering or mask.

Q Will masks be mandatory on school buses?

A Masks are highly recommended but not required. Parents are welcome to provide a mask for their child if they choose. Masks will be available if requested.

Q Will wellness/temperature checks be done daily upon arrival to school?

A No. Parents are encouraged to monitor their children for symptoms before school each day. Please keep your child home from school if they exhibit any COVID-19 or other symptoms of illness.

Q What are symptoms of COVID-19?

A Fever greater than 100.4°, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath or difficult breathing, headache, body or muscle aches, new loss of taste or smell, and nasal congestion/runny nose.

Q What are the protocols for Symptomatic or COVID-19 positive students?

PROTOCOLS FOR SYMPTOMATIC OR COVID-19 POSITIVE STUDENTS

(Section 1)

Students experiencing any symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or who have received a positive diagnostic test for COVID-19 should not attend school, school-sponsored activities, or be on school property until:

- The student receives a negative diagnostic COVID-19 test and is asymptomatic, OR
- Ten days have passed since the onset of symptoms or positive test result, the student has had no fever for 24 hours and the student's other symptoms are improving: OR
- The student receives written permission to return to school from a medical doctor licensed under chapter 458. an osteopathic physician licensed under chapter 459. or an advanced registered nurse practitioner licensed under chapter 464.

Q What are the protocols for students with exposure to COVID-19?

PROTOCOLS FOR STUDENTS WITH EXPOSURE TO COVID-19 (Section 2)

Students who are known to have been in direct contact with an individual who received a positive diagnostic test for COVID-19 should not attend school, school-sponsored activities, or be on school property until:

- The student is **asymptomatic** and **receives a negative diagnostic COVID-19 test after four days from the date of last exposure** to the COVID-19 positive individual: **OR**
- The student is **asymptomatic**, and **seven days have passed since the date of last exposure** to the COVID-19 positive individual.
- If a student becomes **symptomatic** following exposure to an individual that has tested positive for COVID-19, the student should follow the procedures set forth in subsection (1), above.

Q What are the protocols for students with prior COVID-19 infection?

PROTOCOL FOR STUDENTS WITH PRIOR COVID-19 INFECTION

A student who has received a positive diagnostic test for COVID-19 in the previous 90 days and who is known to have been in direct contact with an individual who has received a positive diagnostic test for COVID-19 is not subject to the protocols above. This also applies to students that are fully vaccinated for COVID-19. (From Department of Health Division of Disease Control Rule number 64DER21-12 Protocols for Controlling COVID-19 in School Setting.)

COVID-19 HOME EXPOSURE

Q If there is a positive case at home, will my student be required to quarantine away from school?

A Yes. Parents would follow the guidance of the Department of Health regarding quarantine protocol.

OTHER COVID-19 INFORMATION

Q Will students who stay home be able to make up their schoolwork?

- A. Yes. When an asymptomatic student is under a stay-home directive the student may be considered in attendance if the following criteria are met:
- a. The district has adopted procedures to continue the education of the student during the stay-home directive.
 - b. These procedures rely upon continuing the student's access to assignments and curriculum he would be receiving were he physically present in school; and
 - c. Instructional personnel or administrative personnel, as defined in 1012.01, F.S. must be available to assist the student with assignments and curriculum during the stay home directive.

Q Will stay-home absence be excused?

- A Yes. A student should be reported absent if they are sick or unable to continue education during the stay-home directive.

Q. COVID-19 cancelled or modified many school events last year, such as field trips, athletic and performing arts events. Will these return to normal this year?

- A Yes. Our plan is to allow normal school activities such as field trips to resume. Athletic events and extracurricular activities such as band and choral concerts will occur without limits on seating capacity. We will be mindful as we move into the school year and adjust if needed.

Q Will parents be able to volunteer in classrooms this fall and chaperone trips?

- A Yes. We are pleased to have our parents return to schools as volunteers. Volunteer applications must be completed and approved by the School Board. The volunteer application can be completed online at www.santarosa.k12.fl.us

Q Will schools continue to provide extra cleaning of classrooms and other areas?

- A Yes. We will retain some of the protocols put in place last year to help keep our schools as clean as possible. If a positive case is identified, the classroom and /or classrooms of the positive case will be deep cleaned.

Q What other measures are being continued?

- A Hand sanitizer will be available in every classroom and other shared areas. Water bottle filling stations will be available in schools. Proper handwashing will continue to be emphasized again this year, especially with our younger students. Air purifiers will continue to be used in large open spaces like libraries and cafeterias.

Q Will an online option be available this year?

- A Yes. Santa Rosa Online (SRO) is the district's primary K-12 virtual option. Information about this option is available www.santarosa.k12.fl.us

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We will all continue to be mindful of our surroundings and be prepared to adjust our routines if needed.

Please contact your child's school for more information.