



STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

1749 North Stewart Street Suite 40
Carson City, Nevada 89706-2543
(775)687-9174 • Fax (775)687-9113

2080 East Flamingo Road Suite 230
Las Vegas, Nevada 89119-5164
(702)486-8895 • Fax (702)486-5543

COVID-19 UPDATE – JANUARY 22, 2021

In-Person Learning Update

In November, the Authority adopted [Updated and Revised COVID-19 In-Person Learning Guidance](#). Following the Governor's remarks on November 10, 2020 imploring Nevadans to voluntarily stay home, as well as the subsequent order for a *Statewide Pause* effective November 24, 2020, SPCSA staff urged schools to exercise caution with in-person learning due to the increasing test positivity and case rate across the State. Many schools reduced the scale of in-person learning or temporarily returned to full distance learning. Though the state remains under a *Pause*, which has now been extended into February, following the winter holidays, schools began increasing in-person learning with many schools returning to levels in in-person learning from the fall.

SPCSA staff are committed to bringing students back to school safely and will continue to monitor transmission rates in the state as well as any changes in the current *Statewide Pause*. Should the circumstances improve in the coming month, staff anticipate reviewing the current In-person Learning Guidance and bringing any recommended changes to the February 26 meeting of the SPCSA Board.

Monitoring the Impact of COVID-19 Cases

Since the beginning of the 2020-21 school year, the SPCSA has been notified of over 400 students or staff members at SPCSA-sponsored schools that have tested positive for COVID-19. This includes both individuals that had recently been on a school's campus, resulting in exclusions, as well as individuals that had not recently been on a school's campus. As a result of these positive cases, over 1,000 students and staff members have been identified as close contacts and been excluded from school.

SPCSA staff are grateful for the ongoing support from the Southern Nevada Health District, the Washoe County Health District, and the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health. These agencies have been highly responsive and supportive in working with SPCSA-sponsored schools that have been notified that a member of their school community has tested positive for COVID-19.

Additional Supports to Schools

In addition, the SPCSA

- Anticipates an additional \$10-20 million in federal emergency funds based on the legislation passed in December that will be allocated to schools.

- Is coordinating with interested schools and the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services to stand up Rapid COVID-19 Testing.
- Is coordination with local health officials, the Nevada Department of Education and the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services to share information with schools about vaccinations for education personnel.
- Provides weekly email communication to schools, including updates on the activity of the COVID-19 Mitigation and Management Task Force.
- Is continuing bi-weekly all-school calls and bi-weekly one-on-one communication with school leaders to ensure two-way access to information.