

## SY 2021-22 LEA Health and Safety Plans

**LEA Name: Roots PCS**

**LEA Contact: Dr. Bernida Thompson**

**LEA Type: Pre-K;Elementary**

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### **Background and Purpose**

[OSSE's Health and Safety Guidance for Schools](#) is issued for LEAs and private, parochial and independent schools (schools). LEAs and schools must develop and submit to OSSE comprehensive health and safety plans. This plan is intended to provide the public with information on how the LEA will support the safe reopening and operation of school buildings, including guidelines on masking, social distancing, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, and appropriate response to a positive COVID-19 case.

OSSE reviewed each LEA's responses to the questions for clarity, completeness, and compliance with the DC Health and OSSE health and safety guidance for schools and provided feedback to the LEA. Before publication, LEA's were given the opportunity to revise their responses based on OSSE's feedback. LEAs and schools are responsible for incorporating additional or updated public health guidance into their policies and procedures throughout the school year as such guidance is released.

## Face Masks

### 1. Provide the LEA's plan to comply with the requirements to:

- a. except for specific circumstances (e.g., while eating) articulated in OSSE's guidance, all students, staff and visitors, including those who are fully vaccinated, must wear non-medical face coverings or face masks at all times while on school grounds, on school buses and while participating in any school-related activities, including physical education and sports; and
- b. masks must be worn correctly.

To ensure all students, staff, and visitors, including those who are fully vaccinated, wear a non-medical face covering or mask while on school grounds, buses, and at school-related activities, we have developed the following protocol: All people (students, staff, parents, and visitors) entering the building will be required to wear face covering. All people entering the building will participate in a COVID-19 screening. To ensure easy compliance with this policy, any member of our community who without a face covering, loses or damages their face covering while attending a school arrives activity will be provided a new one. The school will keep a supply of PPE, including masks, until such time as face coverings are no longer required at schools.

### 2. Provide the LEA's policies and procedures in the event that a student, staff member, or visitor is unable or unwilling to wear a face mask at all times.

For students, staff members, and visitors who refuse to wear a face covering at all times, the following procedure will be followed: students, staff members, and visitors will be encouraged to wear face coverings at all times, except when eating and drinking. Staff or visitors who refuse to wear a face covering will be asked to wear face covering or be escorted from the building.

### 3. Provide the LEA's policies and procedures to support physical distancing between individuals and within and across groups, including in classrooms, common spaces, during arrival and dismissal procedures, and during extracurricular activities.

Each classroom is a cohort. The student desks will have plastic shields and will be three feet apart. Students will be required to wear face masks at all times except when eating/drinking. Outdoor recess will be staggered by cohorts as not to comingle.

### 4. Provide the LEA's policies and procedures regarding the use of cohorts for students and/or staff, including steps to minimize interactions between cohorts, as applicable.

Roots is planning on creating cohorts by classroom and grade. Cohort 1 is PK3-4 and located in an open-spaced classroom; Cohort 2 is K-1 and located in an open-spaced classroom; Cohort 3 is 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> and located in an open-spaced classroom Cohort 4 is 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> and located in the multi-purpose room of the school. To limit cohort mixing, we may implement the following procedures: staggered start and end times; staggered outdoor recesses/organized outdoor activities; staggered breakfast, lunch, and snack; different entry and exit

points, limited bathroom/water breaks; and all meals will be eaten in the classroom within cohorts.

- 5. Provide the LEA's policies and procedures to support handwashing and respiratory etiquette including frequent, proper handwashing strategies and encouraging covering coughs and sneezes.**

Roots will ensure that all classrooms are equipped with an inventory of gloves, tissue, antibacterial wipes, hand sanitizer and plastic baggies for waste. Roots will encourage frequent handwashing.

- 6. Provide the LEA's plan to make available adequate supplies (e.g., soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer, tissues) to support healthy hygiene practices including, as relevant, in classrooms, bathrooms, offices and common spaces.**

Roots will ensure that the building is equipped with an inventory of soap, tissue, trash bags, disinfectant, antibacterial wipes, hand sanitizer to support healthy hygiene practices throughout the school.

- 7. Provide the LEA's policies and procedures to acquire, distribute and support the appropriate use of PPE including gowns/coveralls, gloves, surgical masks, eye protection (face shield or goggles) and N95 masks, as relevant and necessary.**

Roots will order and provide all teachers with face shields, gloves, and masks. Also, the teacher desks will have plastic shields.

#### **Maintain Clean and Healthy Facilities**

- 8. Provide the LEA's schedule for routine cleaning of rooms, surfaces and objects, including high touch objects and surfaces (e.g., pens, keyboards, elevator buttons, light switches, handles, stair rails, faucets, phones, doorknobs, grab bars on playgrounds).**

Roots will have a professional janitorial service on a daily basis and weekly deep cleanings.

Teachers will clean their areas throughout the day, especially between meals. Bathrooms will be monitored and cleaned after each use.

- 9. Provide the LEA's cleaning and disinfecting protocols in the event that (1) a student, staff member, or visitor develops symptoms of possible COVID-19 while in the school; or (2) if the school is notified that a student, staff member or visitor who tested positive has been in the school.**

Roots will have a professional janitorial service on a daily basis and weekly deep cleanings.

Teachers will clean their areas throughout the day, especially between meals. Bathrooms will be monitored and cleaned after each use.

- 10. Provide the LEA's plan to make available sufficient and appropriate cleaning and disinfection supplies.**

At Roots, all staff members will have access to disinfection supplies and plastic gloves while cleaning and disinfecting spaces throughout the building.

**11. Provide the LEA's plan to perform necessary maintenance to ventilation and water systems and features (e.g., sink faucets, drinking fountains, decorative fountains) so that they are ready for use and occupancy and are adequately maintained throughout the operating period.**

Roots has installed water coolers to replace the water fountains. There are air filtration systems throughout the building and the air vents have been upgraded.

#### **Response to a Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19 Case**

**12. Describe the LEA's policies and procedures to:**

- **a. Comply with the requirement to not admit or to dismiss any student, staff member or visitor who is COVID-19 positive or otherwise meets criteria for exclusion, per OSSE's guidance; and**
- **b. Dismiss any individual or cohort that is potentially exposed to COVID-19 within the school setting.**

In compliance with the requirement, Roots will not admit any student, staff member or visitor who is COVID-19 positive or potentially exposed to COVID-19. Roots will provide weekly COVID-19 testing to all staff members.

**13. Provide the LEA's plan to comply with the requirements to:**

- **a. Identify a staff member as the COVID-19 point of contact (POC) to whom families, staff, contractors and vendors should report a positive case of COVID-19 and who is responsible for reporting positive cases of COVID-19 to DC Health;**
- **b. Report any applicable positive COVID-19 case in a student, staff member or essential visitor to DC Health on the same day the school is notified;**
- **c. Not exclude students or staff with pre-existing health conditions that present with specific COVID-19-like symptoms on the basis of those specific symptoms, if a healthcare provider has provided written or verbal documentation that those specific symptoms are not due to COVID-19.**

Roots will identify an administrator as the COVID-19 point of contact to whom families, staff, contractors and vendors should report a positive case of COVID-19 to DC Health; the POC will report any applicable positive cases to DC Health on the same day the school is notified and not exclude anyone for pre-existing health conditions. Ensuring that all staff and students learn as often on-site as possible, we will not exclude students and staff with COVID-like symptoms if they have provided written or verbal guidance from a medical professional that such symptoms are chronic and unrelated to COVID. To this end, our COVID-19 POC may review all of our daily screening questions to ensure that students or staff with preexisting symptoms have not been exposed.

**14. Provide the LEA's procedures to support DC Health with contact tracing in the event of a positive case of COVID-19.**

Roots will maintain a log of daily screenings and temperature checks of all staff, students, and visitors that would support DC Health with contact tracing. Our COVID-19 POC will report all positive cases and contact with positive cases to DC Health, as described in Section N of the Health and Safety Guidance from OSSE (p.28-29).

**15. Describe how the LEA will notify the school community, as appropriate, of the positive case and corresponding actions taken by the LEA.**

Roots will notify the school community through our phone calls, text messaging, emails, and our digital communication platform.

#### **COVID-19 Testing and Vaccines**

**16. If applicable, describe the LEA's current or planned COVID-19 testing protocol for symptomatic and/or asymptomatic students and/or staff, including steps the LEA will take to encourage participation in the testing program. Please include the LEA's plan to ensure that results of such testing programs are reported to DC Health per DC Health's COVID-19 reporting requirements: [dchealth.dc.gov/page/covid-19-reporting-requirements](https://dchealth.dc.gov/page/covid-19-reporting-requirements).**

Roots will provide the staff and students the opportunity to be tested for COVID-19 on a weekly basis. Roots will encourage all staff to participate in this testing opportunity. Roots will request that teachers share their results with the school administration, and if they are positive, report it to DC Health per DC Health's COVID-19 reporting requirements.

**17. Provide the LEA's plans to support COVID-19 vaccination of staff and students, as eligible, including efforts to encourage participation in public and community-based vaccination opportunities.**

Roots has a small majority of staff members who are not vaccinated and will continue to support and encourage all efforts towards vaccination opportunities.

#### **Students with Disabilities**

**18. Provide the LEA's plans to provide appropriate accommodations to students with disabilities with respect to its health and safety policies and procedures.**

Roots will provide appropriate accommodations to students with disabilities by ensuring that they have access to safe, clean learning environment that is free of COVID-19.

#### **Training, Technical Assistance, and Monitoring**

**19. Please provide the LEA's plan to provide training and technical assistance on its policies and procedures to safely reopen schools in accordance with the DC Health Guidance for Schools and the OSSE Health and Safety Guidance for Schools, including:**

- a. who will receive training and technical assistance; while on school grounds, on school buses and while participating in any school-related activities, including physical education and sports; and
- b. the topics that the training and technical assistance will address; and

- **c. how and by whom the training and technical assistance will be delivered.**

Roots will provide training and technical assistance on our policies and procedures for a safe reopening to the entire parent community at the Parent Orientation scheduled for August 2 from 9am-12pm, and to the entire staff during the two weeks of professional development scheduled to take place August 23<sup>rd</sup> – September 3<sup>rd</sup>. These trainings, which will be led by the administrative team, will address the protocols that will be put in place and sustained throughout the year and in accordance with the DC Health Guidance for Schools and the OSSE Health and Safety Guidance for Schools.

**20. Provide the LEA's plan to monitor the implementation of the health and safety plans at each campus, including how, when and by whom the implementation will be monitored, and how the LEA will respond if a given campus is not adhering to the plan.**

The health and safety plans at Roots will be monitored by the administrative team. If the plan is not being adhered to, we will address what is not working and make adjustments if necessary and feasible.

**21. Describe the LEA's plans to communicate key health and safety policies and procedures to students, families, staff and visitors.**

Roots will communicate key health and safety policies and procedures to students, families, staff and visitors through phone calls, text messaging, emails, digital platforms, and school website.