



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMORANDA

ed.sc.gov



January 25, 2022

Missed last week's memos?

All SCDE weekly memo communications are archived [here](#). Individual memos can be found on the [School District Memoranda Archive](#).

DHEC UPDATES AND REMINDERS

Staffing Crisis Conditions:

DHEC has received several questions about allowing unvaccinated staff who are close contacts to work while in crisis staffing conditions. This practice should be a temporary allowance and should only be implemented when a school is unable to maintain operations due to staffing shortages as a result of COVID isolations and quarantines. Staff allowed to work during crisis staffing conditions include any staff needed to operate the school and is not limited to teachers only. Staff who are unvaccinated and identified as close contacts must wear a well-fitting mask, remain asymptomatic, and test negative on day 5 in order to work.

At-Home Tests:

Thanks to those who responded to the survey about district and charter school interest in receiving at-home tests. DHEC has a limited quantity of these tests and will be receiving additional allocations. The logistics and specific details of the distribution plan for schools are still in development. Schools have been surveyed to determine their needs, and they will be receiving either at-home (over-the-counter) or point-of-care rapid antigen tests, or both, depending on their capability to perform the point-of-care tests and other factors such as community access to testing. DHEC is committed to a distribution plan that prioritizes equity.

School districts and schools will be able to choose if they will perform the at-home rapid tests at school or if they will distribute to them to students and staff to take home for use there. Districts and schools that elect to distribute the at-home tests for use there will have the flexibility to distribute in a way that best suits the needs of their district or school.

At home tests can be used in many ways:

- Tests can be distributed to staff or families for their use if your school is accepting home test results. This can be a way to balance equity for those who may not have access to testing depending on your school community.
- Districts or schools can develop a nurse proctored program. Please note that the results of any at-home tests that are proctored by licensed healthcare must be reported to DHEC. This option will operate much like the BinaxNOW programs.
- Districts can develop virtual proctoring (witnessing) done by a non-licensed person to verify honesty.
- At-home tests can be incorporated into a Test to Stay program perhaps for those who cannot access school based or community based test. There likely won't be enough to rely at-home tests to be the only testing for Test to Stay program but they can

supplement.

- At-home tests can be used to test staff working in crisis on day 5.
- At-home tests can be used for shortened quarantine return so folks can test on day 5 (we say strongly recommended because many cannot access a test)

Contact Tracing Best Practices:

DHEC will be sharing contact tracing best practices with district lead nurses in order to aid with contact tracing in the midst of surges of high disease transmission. These best practices will provide recommendations for how to approach contact tracing in the face of test result delays and delayed notifications in order so that contact tracing efforts are impactful and sustainable.

COVID-19 CASES

COVID-19 Cases Associated with Staff and Students

As of January 19, 2022, DHEC has reported the following student and staff quarantines and isolations since the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year:

- **350,080 student quarantines**
- **89,165 student isolations**
- **12,223 staff quarantines**
- **14,410 staff isolations**

[Student, Staff Isolation & Quarantine Report](#) (as of 1/19/2022)

[South Carolina County-Level Data for COVID-19](#) (as of 1/19/2022)

FUNDING

Supply Chain Assistance Funds to Alleviate Supply Chain Disruptions

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents

CONTACT: Donna Davis, ddavis@ed.sc.gov

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is providing \$1 billion to states for cash payments - known as Supply Chain Assistance (SCA) Funds - that School Food Authorities (SFAs) can use to purchase school meal products. These funds deliver direct relief from ongoing supply chain issues and improve the quality and consistency of school meals for children in communities experiencing disruptions, making it easier for schools to operate successful meal programs.

South Carolina will receive \$15,492,551 to disperse to all SFAs to assist with the rising costs of domestic food products that are unprocessed or minimally processed. Distribution amounts will be determined by formula provided by USDA. Prior to distribution, SFAs must sign an attestation statement accepting and agreeing to how the money will be spent. The funding will be distributed this March.

[Supply Chain Assistance Funds to Alleviate Supply Chain Disruptions - Memo](#) PDF (132 KB)

LIBRARY MATERIALS

Model Policy for Library/Media Center Materials and Reconsideration Process

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, District Supervisors of Library Services, School Librarians, School Board Members

CONTACT: Katie Nilges, knilges@ed.sc.gov

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform districts of the recent model policy adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE) on January 11, 2022, regarding the selection and reconsideration of library materials.

Districts are encouraged to use the [Best Practices Model Policy for SBE Library Materials](#) adopted by the SBE to review current policies and amend accordingly. Additionally, districts shall consider adopting the [Reconsideration of Library Media Center Materials Form](#) for use when a material is challenged.

[Model Policy for Library/Media Center Materials and Reconsideration Process - Memo](#)
PDF (131 KB)

