



THE SCHOOL FOR ETHICS AND GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

COVID-19 Handbook

Spring 2022

Revised: January 16, 2022



INTRODUCTION

Dear Spring 2022 SEGL families:

Welcome again to The School for Ethics and Global Leadership family! Our time together this spring will be unforgettable, meaningful, and lots of fun.

It will also be healthy.

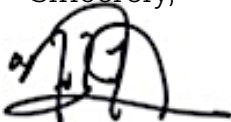
Health and safety has always been SEGL's primary priority, and the emergence of COVID-19's "Omicron" variant provides an opportunity to reinforce our commitment. With this in mind, please read the following new procedures and requirements that will allow us to live and learn together.

Although there are many procedures and requirements to consider, we are confident that they will quickly become habit. We are also confident that they will not distract from the most important elements of the SEGL experience: forging life-long relationships, acquiring advanced thinking and leading skills, preparing for college, and exploring DC.

Please read carefully. Each one of us is accountable for creating the best possible semester.

See you soon!

Sincerely,



Noah Bopp
Founder and Head of School

n.b. Edits since the last version of this document are boxed.

PREFACE

We offer the following after a detailed review of widely-respected sources, conversations with experts, and our understanding of SEGL's program and resources. Where possible, we have created guidance that is supported by multiple reliable sources.

This is a living document. The School will modify these recommendations as new information emerges. Please refer to the online version of this document for the latest updates.

KEY SOURCES

We understand that there is an enormous amount of information, some of it mistaken, deliberately false, or outdated, about COVID-19. For this reason, we want to be transparent about the sources we have chosen to trust:

1. CDC COVID-19 resource page
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
2. DC Coronavirus resource page
<https://coronavirus.dc.gov/>
3. Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center
<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/>
4. Brown University School of Public Health Global Epidemics
<https://globalepidemics.org/>
5. Food Safety and COVID-19
<https://www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-during-emergencies/food-safety-and-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>
6. Reopening Schools in the Context of COVID-19: Health and Safety Guidelines From Other Countries (n.b. this is for background purposes only)
<https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/product/reopening-schools-covid-19-brief>
7. The National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) - COVID-19 Guidance

HEALTH TEAM

The School's consulting nurse practitioner team is the Kelly Goodman Group. The School uses the Group's Promenade Primary Care location, which is 1.5 miles from

our Residence. We are almost always able to schedule same-day appointments, and have access to an after-hours emergency line.

GATING CRITERIA

Based on the best information available, the School has decided to open for the 2021-22 year.

This reopening assumes the following will remain true in mid-January (this is the same criteria used to open for the 2020-21 year):

1. The District of Columbia reaches “Phase Two” of the CDC’s [“Opening America”](#) protocol.
2. SEGL and its health care team have access to the resources listed in the CDC’s [“Opening America”](#) Core State Preparedness Responsibilities.
3. Similar academic institutions also plan to be open for partial or full in-person learning.
4. The School’s legal counsel and insurance team permit reopening.

n.b. Financial considerations will not determine whether or not SEGL reopens.

ARRIVING HEALTHY

The first way to keep our community healthy is to ensure all community members (students and faculty) arrive healthy at the start of the semester. This means each of us must undertake important work before the semester begins.

Requirements for Students

All students must:

1. Be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (as stated in our April 2021 accepted student materials) including a booster shot six months after the original vaccination sequence (as stated in our December 2021 update to families). Universal vaccination is the core of our COVID-19 strategy. Students should share proof of vaccination and booster shots (including dates of immunization) with the School before arriving on campus. The School will help facilitate booster shots for those students who reach the six-month mark during the spring semester.

The CDC now recommends a booster shot five months (rather than six) after the original vaccination sequence. SEGL still requires a booster at the six-month mark, and now strongly recommends that students who have reached the five-month mark prior to the semester get a booster shot prior to arrival. In addition, the School

will facilitate a booster shot during the semester for any student who reaches the five month mark while at SEGL.

2. Share arrival plans with the School two weeks in advance (to facilitate healthy arrivals)
3. Arrive at SEGL familiar with and ready to practice appropriate COVID-19-related CDC protocols. Please review the CDC website regularly/as needed.
4. Take and pass a COVID-19 PCR test within 72 hours of traveling to DC (Students who live in areas that do not have testing and/or who require financial assistance to do this should contact the School as soon as possible.) Please do not travel to DC if you are symptomatic and/or if you have been “in close contact” (as defined by the CDC) with anyone who was COVID-19 positive at any time during the ten days prior to departure.
5. Avoid high-risk behaviors (for example, going indoors [in a place other than your home] without a mask in a high transmission area) in the time between taking the COVID-19 test (#3, above) and arrival at SEGL.
6. Receive a flu vaccine shot. Flu vaccines, reimbursable by insurance, are available in many areas of the country. Please make an effort to get one before the semester starts, and notify your/your child's advisor if you are unable to do so. If they are not available in your area, we will ensure you receive one at SEGL. Please check with your primary care physician to determine if you should take additional vaccines (for example, the two vaccine regimens that together protect against the five meningococcal disease serogroups) prior to arrival.
7. Follow any additional requirements the School shares.

[The CDC has updated its guidance](#) to note the increased effectiveness of certain masks (for example, N95 and KN95) vs. cloth masks. With this in mind, we ask students to arrive with at least one week's supply of these recommended masks. This will give students maximum protection during the most critical part of the semester. Advice for purchasing these masks is available [here](#) (via the *New York Times* Wirecutter site). Families that are unable to secure these masks or who need financial assistance to do so should contact the School as soon as possible.

Requirements for Faculty

All faculty members must:

1. Attend twice-monthly professional development and preparedness meetings. All teachers will arrive at SEGL familiar with and ready to practice appropriate COVID-19-related CDC protocols in the DC/SEGL context.
2. Take and pass a COVID-19 PCR test within 72 hours of Arrival Day.
3. Avoid traveling to SEGL on Arrival Day if they are symptomatic.

4. Follow any additional requirements the School shares.

CONFIRMING HEALTH AFTER ARRIVAL

The second way to keep our community healthy is to confirm students and faculty are healthy when they arrive. This may be the most critical part of our semester, as it will allow the School to create a “health bubble” around our community. Given our unique situation, we are working with the Office of the State Superintendent of Education and others to minimize COVID-19-related risk while ensuring that our requirements are manageable.

Arrival Day

- Before students enter our care, we will screen for COVID-19 symptoms. We will move students who exhibit symptoms into an SEGL-supervised quarantine location/protocol (see below) or return these students to their families until cleared by a medical professional. We will also provide each student a short refresher course in CDC/SEGL COVID-19 protocols.

We will also give each incoming student an on-site rapid antigen COVID-19 test. This test does not take the place of the PCR testing requirement (see above).

- Everyone who participates in Arrival Day must take CDC-recommended precautions for limiting the spread of COVID-19. This includes wearing a mask and following physical distancing recommendations.
- Until students are confirmed COVID-19 negative, the School may set up beds differently. For example, we may place some beds in rooms normally designated as study spaces. We may provide room dividers and other precautions in rooms with more than two students. All students must wear masks in their rooms until check-in, at which time—if applicable—we will activate room dividers for sleeping hours.
- Students will see signage throughout the School to remind them of proper health procedures.
- Where possible, each common area will include state-of-the-art air purifiers to limit viral load/spread. Whenever possible and safe, windows will remain open to facilitate air circulation.
- Our Arrival Day family orientation will be outdoors and/or online. If in person, we encourage any family members who are fully vaccinated/boosted and asymptomatic to attend. We will also live-stream the family orientation for those not vaccinated/boosted or unable to attend. Student orientation (which will include additional refreshers) will follow appropriate CDC-recommended precautions.

Quarantine Phase

As soon as possible after student arrival, we will PCR-test all students for COVID-19. This should be the second such test students have received in a week. This round of testing will ensure no student contracted the virus between taking the test at home and arrival at SEGL.

According to the Harvard Global Health Institute and others, it can take 4-6 days for COVID-19 symptoms to appear on a diagnostic test; the DC government requires a test within 3-5 days of arrival in DC. Wait times for COVID-19 PCR test results vary widely depending on the state of the pandemic. We are hopeful that we will have test results by the beginning of our second week together.

Until all test results are received, students and faculty will follow a modified version of the CDC guidelines for caring for a sick person at home, including:

- Enhanced personal hygiene procedures (hand washing, face touching, etc.)
- Masks on at all times (unless with permission while outside or alone in dorm room/bathroom inside)
- Enhanced cleaning protocols
- Enhanced air quality standards
- No sharing of personal items
- Personal daily health tracking

In addition, during quarantine all classes and activities will take place in and around the Residence, rather than the Academic building. In general, we will avoid any all-group indoor gatherings where students cannot physically distance.

We have secured space near our Capitol Hill residence to increase space for academic classes when quarantine/isolation is not necessary.

If a student tests positive for COVID-19, that student will immediately move into an enhanced quarantine (see below) in accordance with CDC guidelines. All students will receive an additional test and stay in the Quarantine Phase until all tests return negative results.

STAYING HEALTHY

Once we confirm our students are healthy, our “health bubble” will be in place, and we can consider easing certain requirements. We will not ease these measures for anyone who routinely exits the bubble (for example, all faculty and guest experts).

Food Program

Although the scientific evidence indicates that food is not a main method of transmitting COVID-19, SEGL will follow rigorous FDA-recommended procedures for its food service. This includes:

- ServSafe training for all key food employees
- Enhanced kitchen health procedures, including:
 - Washing hands whenever entering the kitchen and before/after every meal
 - Faculty supervision of pre-meal hand-washing
 - Forbidding students/faculty with symptoms of illness from serving food
- Enhanced food ordering procedures, including:
 - Ordering food well in advance
 - Utilizing individual packaging where appropriate, particularly for snack food
- Enhanced meal service procedures, including:
 - One plate per serving rule

Air Quality

Minimizing “viral load” in the air is an important aspect of our health plan. This will include:

- Hospital-based air purifiers in every common area
- Open windows with window fans whenever possible

Faculty

SEGL faculty who live off campus must not bring COVID-19 into our community “bubble.” With this in mind, faculty members should be treated as if they have the virus until health experts say it is safe to treat them otherwise. This means day-to-day faculty precautions are particularly important to follow. Those precautions include:

- Each faculty member will receive regular testing for COVID-19. (The CDC does not recommend testing unless someone is experiencing symptoms.) We have also asked household members, significant others, etc. to get tested prior to the semester and whenever relevant CDC protocols are broken.
- Faculty members who come into close contact with a COVID-19-positive individual must inform SEGL’s Dean of Faculty and self-quarantine as appropriate.

Guests

The COVID-19 pandemic means limiting the number of outsiders who could come into contact with our students. This means:

- Only students and faculty are allowed in campus buildings on Arrival Day. We ask that family members, even those who are masked and vaccinated, stay outside to minimize the possibility of transmission in close quarters.
- Until further notice, we ask that off-campus visitors during the semester be limited to immediate family members (for example, no friends, grandparents, cousins, etc.) who are fully vaccinated/boosted. Any visits must take place outside and away from those of unknown vaccination status (for example outdoor restaurants). Please contact your/your child's advisor well in advance of any potential visit, to allow for troubleshooting.
- The School will not offer admissions tours, welcome non-academic visitors, etc. while students are present.
- Whenever possible, maintenance workers will visit the School while students are away; those who do visit must follow all appropriate CDC guidance.
- The School will continue to welcome in-person class guests (for example, Ethics and Leadership class speakers). These speakers will follow appropriate CDC protocols during visits.

Residential Life

Our commitment to health and safety means we will adjust a number of our residential life procedures this fall, including:

- Replacing local gym membership with similar activities at the Residence, including creating a small "gym" on our back patio for weightlifting, stairclimbing, etc.
- Enhancing chore/cleaning procedures
- Monitoring the kitchen even more tightly to ensure students and faculty follow proper protocols

Transportation

Students may take public transportation (for example, the DC Metro) if double-masked. Students should use hand sanitizer before and after using public transportation, and wash hands as soon as possible afterwards. Should the pandemic worsen, SEGL has secured temporary academic space close to the Residence so that daily transportation will no longer be required.

In rare cases (for example, transportation to and from airports and medical appointments), we may use faculty vehicles for transportation. Faculty drivers will be fully insured, properly trained, and hold clean driver records. Drivers will ensure air is circulating in vehicles (air vents on and, when possible, windows down). Faculty members will not be one-on-one with students in vehicles unless there is an emergency. Faculty cars will be well-maintained, cleaned appropriately, and have working seat belts and other modern safety equipment. We will generally seek parent/guardian permission before transporting students in faculty vehicles.

Academics

Teachers will continue to wear masks, physically distance themselves, and take other steps to ensure the virus does not pierce the SEGL “health bubble.” We will also follow all appropriate District of Columbia guidelines for the school day.

School Breaks

Though it is highly unlikely, depending on several COVID-19-related factors and at the discretion of the Head of School, the School may decide to keep students on campus during the Spring Break. We will update families on this front by mid-February.

Testing

We will test all students for COVID-19 at the beginning of the semester, whenever a student or faculty member is symptomatic (or comes into contact with an infected person), and after breaks. We will also test all students if someone in our community acquires COVID-19. Current CDC and expert guidance states that students and faculty should be tested whenever symptomatic. We will pursue additional testing if a student tests positive.

Please remember that families are responsible for the cost of COVID-19 tests during the semester. Health insurance should cover most or all of these costs. Please check with your health insurance provider to ensure the payment/reimbursement process for testing is as smooth as possible. If your insurance does not cover testing in DC, please contact your/your child’s advisor.

Quarantine Procedures

The School has secured a “Quarantine House” close by the Residence to use as needed.

Our Quarantine House is located at 323 Maryland Ave NE, 2.5 blocks from our Residence.
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Should a student become sick, that student may move immediately into our faculty-supervised Quarantine House on Capitol Hill until cleared by a medical professional. (In some circumstances, the School may determine it is healthiest for the student to remain in isolation in our dormitory.) Faculty members will also transport students to medical appointments, etc. as necessary.

“Sick” means:

- Symptoms consistent with one or more key COVID-19 symptom(s)
- Positive COVID-19 test

In certain cases, the School may decide it is healthiest for a student who is ill, but not COVID-19 positive, to move to our Quarantine House.

At the Quarantine House, student(s) will have access to the internet, video-conferenced classes and group work sessions, and food. Faculty will supervise full-time in accordance with the CDC's "Caring for Someone Sick at Home" guidelines.

In some cases, faculty members who supervise in Quarantine House may require a negative COVID-19 test before rejoining the community. This means they may need to teach and advise remotely for a period of time.

There are enough individual rooms in Quarantine House to house roughly half of our students. In the unlikely event that more than half of our students test positive simultaneously, we will safely repurpose our existing Residence. The current design and infrastructure of our Residence allows us to cut off (including air flow) roughly half of our rooms from the rest of the building.

As with any illness or injury, if a student's condition moves beyond the capabilities of our staff, we will transport the student to an in-patient situation and/or require a custodial parent/guardian to provide/supervise care.

WHEN TO MOVE TO VIRTUAL LEARNING

We do not anticipate moving to virtual learning for the Spring 2022 semester.

Once the semester is underway the Head of School, at his discretion after consulting with school experts and local requirements, may decide to move to virtual learning temporarily or permanently. Should this happen, SEGL will retain full responsibility for educating all of its students. In this case, the School will likely issue a partial, pro-rated refund for transportation and food expenses.