



SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR
SCIENCE+
MATHEMATICS

2021 Summer Programs
COVID-19 Plan:
Palmetto Scholars Academy Partner
Addendum

Introduction

Welcome to the South Carolina Governor’s School for Science + Mathematics (GSSM)! After assessing our school’s return to residency during the spring semester and consulting with GSSM leadership and members of our board, we decided to resume offering our in-person summer programs on our campus and at a limited number of partner school district sites across the state. These programs include iTEAMS Xtreme, CREATEng, GoSciTech, the Virtual Programs Base Camp experience, and the GSSM Launch Pad. We will continue offering our live, online Summer STEM program for a second summer as an option for those families who do not want an in-person summer experience. Our summer programs faculty and staff are excited to offer these programs and we are ready to interact with the young scholars who will participate in them.

Because the health and safety of everyone involved in our summer programs are a priority, the Outreach Center team has developed the *2021 Summer Programs COVID-19 Plan*. The plan is a collaborative effort that has included input from GSSM leadership, faculty, and staff. In developing the plan, the team reviewed state and national COVID-19 guidelines and policies.

The *2021 Summer Programs COVID-19 Plan* builds upon the GSSM [Return to Residency Plan Spring 2021](#) and the [COVID-19 Framework & Operating Plan](#), both of which can be found on our website. It reflects the most recent guidance from federal and state agencies and incorporates what we have learned by having our students in residence this spring.

This plan supports the following:

1. providing families with the option for their students to participate in residential camps, in-person day camps, or the Summer STEM synchronous virtual camp;
2. implementing CDC and DHEC compliant protocols for prevention, identification, and containment of COVID-19 infection; and
3. continuing the assessment of circumstances surrounding COVID-19 and adaptation as needed.

The safety and well-being of the GSSM community, which includes our school district partners and program participants, remains our highest priority. Our goal is to provide the best academic and student experiences while creating an environment that is safe for all members of the GSSM community. The successful implementation of our plan requires the cooperation of everyone.

Our team understands the pandemic is constantly changing and these changes may affect state and national guidelines and policies. We will monitor these changes and update our summer COVID-19 plan accordingly.

We are looking forward to a summer where students are actively learning in a fun and safe environment!

Sincerely,

The GSSM Summer Programs Team

Entering Partner District Off-Site Day Camps at Palmetto Scholars Academy

The GSSM policies and guidelines outlined in this document will be followed at our iTEAMS Xtreme day camp hosted at the Palmetto Scholars Academy; however, local school policies and guidelines may require modifications and adaptations. Any changes will be made in agreement with the Palmetto Scholars Academy.

Temperature Screening

Summer program students will be scanned when arriving on site for their program.

Practicing Physical Distancing

Participants and staff should maintain at least the recommended 6 feet of distance between individuals whenever possible, including in classrooms, offices, and common areas. Avoid gathering in large groups, crowded spaces, or being closer than 6 feet to others.

Personal Hygiene

Everyone must practice regular hand hygiene and wash their hands frequently. Always avoid touching your face after touching highly-touched surfaces such as doorknobs, elevator buttons, faucets, toilets, etc. and wash your hands afterwards. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, as hand sanitizers are also effective at preventing the spread of germs. Cleanse your hands before and after handling your face mask.

Use of Face Masks

The Centers for Disease and Control (CDC) and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) continue to recommend the wearing of face coverings to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. GSSM will follow this recommendation by requiring GSSM summer programs staff and students to wear a facial covering in all public areas and group settings. Masks will not be required outdoors when physical distancing is possible. Masks should be laundered regularly with detergent. We recommend all participants and staff members have additional masks on hand in case one becomes dirty and needs to be replaced during the instructional day. Disposable face masks should be discarded daily.

The term face mask is used to include any cloth face covering or disposable face mask that meets the following criteria:

- Fits snugly but comfortably against the sides of the face and covers the nose, mouth, and chin.
- Fastens securely with ties or ear loops.
- Includes multiple layers of fabric.
- Does not have exhalation valves or vents.
- Allows for breathing without restriction.
- Cloth face masks can be laundered without damage or change to shape.

The parents and guardians of students enrolled in GSSM summer programs, on behalf of their student, have the option of opting-out of the GSSM face mask requirement. Any parent or guardian who chooses this option must complete and submit the “opt-out” form D-4286 developed by DHEC. The form can be downloaded from the DHEC website at <https://scdhec.gov/sites/default/files/Library/D-4286.pdf>. Students who do not submit the signed opt-out form, staff, and visitors will continue to wear masks according to the GSSM policy.

Keeping Each Other Safe

Students who do not submit the signed DHEC opt-out form D-4286, staff, and visitors will continue to wear masks according to the GSSM policy, which includes wearing masks while indoors on campus.

The places where students may remove their masks are as follows:

1. while seated and eating in the dining hall or other designated meal area;
2. with permission from supervising staff during athletic activities; and
3. while outdoors when physical distancing is possible.

Physical distancing will be practiced in hallways, classrooms, and other campus areas. Summer programs staff will follow the same guidelines for masking and physical distancing.

In Case of Illness

If a program participant exhibits any symptoms of COVID-19, a parent or guardian will be contacted by the site coordinator or the partner school district's nursing staff, if provided, and asked to pick up their student within two hours of receiving the call from a staff member or the partner school district's nursing staff.

Symptoms of COVID-19

- Fever above 100 °F and/or chills or feeling hot (if no thermometer is available)
- Sore throat
- New cough not related to chronic condition
- Runny/stuffy nose/nasal congestion (not related to allergies or relieved by antihistamines)
- Difficulty breathing, shortness of breath
- Diarrhea with or without respiratory symptoms
- Nausea and/or vomiting
- Headache unrelated to chronic condition
- Fatigue
- Muscle aches
- Loss of sense of taste or smell
- New foot sores (COVID-19 toes)
- New rash

Returning After Illness

In accordance with CDC guidance, any program participant or staff member sent home due to illness should seek a COVID-19 test and remain away from campus until the test result is returned.

If the test result is negative, the participant or staff member may not return until the symptoms have improved and a partner school official has approved a request to return.

If the test result is positive, participants and staff should remain away from campus for at least 10 days after symptom onset and not return before 24 hours have passed without symptoms or use of any fever-reducing medication. Partner school officials must approve all requests to return.

Note: Click on [2021 Summer Programs COVID-19 Plan](#) for a digital copy of the detailed plan.