SouthernTech's Adaptable Pandemic Response Plan

SouthernTech will be following the guidance outlined by the Oklahoma State Department of Education.

https://sde.ok.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Oklahoma%20School%20Safety%20Protocols.pdf

The State Department of Health's color coded COVID-19 Alert System will determine our level of response on a weekly basis.

https://coronavirus.health.ok.gov/covid-19-alert-system

For example: this week our area is coded Yellow.   These guidelines are mostly written for comprehensive schools, but the CareerTech applicable items are as follows;

Instruction: SouthernTech will offer in-person, on-site instruction in accordance with our Board of Education approved school calendar.

Health Protocol: SouthernTech will follow all applicable health orders and required protocols, and adhere to district policies relating to:

- ■ Screenings of staff, students and visitors prior to entry
- ■ Social distancing and gatherings on and off campus
    - Break and commons areas will be limited
    - A minimum of 6' social distancing
- ■ Additional mitigation techniques, including hygiene practices, proper ventilation and school cleaning practices have been ramped up to include disinfecting of classrooms and offices, etc.
- ■ Masks that fully covers the mouth and nose are required for all staff, students and visitors while in any SouthernTech building, bus or outdoor SouthernTech property. For code YELLOW only - should there be a situation that allows for proper, undisturbed, social distancing of a minimum of 6 feet, masks may be removed. However, masks would need to be worn again when moving out of that situation or if the person was approached by another.
- ■ Exceptions for all colors within the alert system are allowed for the following: when eating meals, if social distancing is possible.

Summary of the Color Alerts as they pertain to SouthernTech:

Green – Normal on campus instruction, socially distanced when possible and a simple recommendation to staff and students to wear masks and take other precautions

Yellow – Normal on campus instruction with mandated masks. Some exceptions to masks when properly social distanced, continue other precautions.

Orange Level 1 – Normal on campus instruction with mandated masks. No exceptions regarding masks, continue other precautions.

Orange Level 2 – Go to 100% virtual schedule, mandate masks at all times on campus for staff – staff still on campus.

Red –100% virtual learning, close campus, mandated masks for the limited staff on site.

The health, safety and well-being of our students and staff are our top priorities. We have taken extraordinary steps since reopening our campus to protect the SouthernTech community and do our part to slow the spread of this virus. We will continue to rigorously adhere to local, state and CDC guidelines. In the event a confirmed case or known exposure occurs in our SouthernTech community, we will follow Oklahoma State Department of Health guidelines to notify staff, students and business partners.

As the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve, updates will be made on the district website – Sotech.edu – and social media pages. If you have questions or individual concerns, please contact the SouthernTech COVID 19 Response Team at 580-224-8270.

SouthernTech Staff: further questions about COVID 19 expectations, standards, and procedures on our campus can be found on the FAQ SouthernTech-COVID-19 document posted on SharePoint.

<u>SouthernTech's Quarantine Protocol</u>
<u>for COVID 19 Exposures Students, Faculty & Staff</u>

1. **Complete and Submit COVID-19 Reporting Tool**: Students, faculty, and staff must immediately complete the COVID-19 Reporting Tool and submit it to COVID 19 Response Team if they have been in close contact* with a COVID-positive person or may have been confirmed COVID 19 positive themselves.

   a. SouthernTech COVID Reporting Survey is available for students on the public website.
   b. SouthernTech COVID Reporting Survey is available for staff on the internal website.

*Close contact is defined as being within 6-feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes without wearing a mask within 2 days of illness onset or, for asymptomatic persons, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection.

2. Forward Response from employee to Southern Tech Human Resources and your immediate supervisor: The student, faculty, or staff member must forward Reporting Tool response from SouthernTech's COVID TEAM designee upon receipt as specified below.

   a. Full Time Students: Forward to COVID TEAM designee
   b. Corporate and Career Development Students (CCD): COVID TEAM designee
   c. Staff and Faculty: Forward to their Direct Supervisor and HR Director

3. Self-Quarantine: Individuals who have been in close contact with a COVID-19 positive person will be required to self-quarantine for 14 days. In this case you are expected to provide notification of your absence in accordance with your department and student handbook attendance policy.

4. Mandatory Notification
   a. All Students: Notify the Student Services Department and your instructor that you are not going to be in attendance

b. SouthernTech staff: If a student discloses a COVID related situation, direct them to complete the online reporting tool and forward student information to COVID Response Team designee immediately

5. Maintain Contact with COVID Response Team designee: COVID Team will maintain contact with individuals who are self-quarantining. (Individuals who are self-quarantining should also take proactive steps to notify COVID Team of any changes to their health status during the quarantine period.)

6. If the student is diagnosed as COVID-19 positive, the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) will initiate contact tracing with student, SouthernTech, as well as sending schools if applicable. Based on the OSDH initial assessment, the contact tracing personnel will notify all parties that are involved in potential exposure situation.

7. If an employee is diagnosed as COVID-19 positive, the OSDH will initiate contact tracing based on their initial assessment, the contact tracing personnel will notify all parties that are involved in potential exposure situation.

*Note: Return to school process for notification and contact tracing: At no time will a Southern Tech Official notify students/employees if another student/employee has tested positive as doing so would constitute a HIPAA violation. All contact tracing and notification will be driven via the Oklahoma State Department of Health Contact Tracing process.

8. Return to Campus: No student, faculty, or staff member may return to campus without being cleared to do so by COVID Response Team designee prior to arrival. Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 must forward a copy of the email they receive from the SouthernTech COVID Response Team that formally clears them to return to SouthernTech's Campus.

SouthernTech's Staff, Student, or Faculty Return to Campus
Post Isolation or Quarantine Criteria:

Be advised: ALL COVID CASES will be addressed by following the direction of local and state health departments and will follow most current CDC guidelines.

In the Case of a Confirmed COVID POSITIVE Person:

COVID Positive Persons *with Symptoms*:
- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared AND
- at least 1 day (24 hours) has passed since fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **AND**
- Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath).

COVID Positive Persons *without Symptoms*:
- Can discontinue home isolation and return to school/work settings **10 days** after their first positive test **AND**
- At least 1 day (24 hours) has passed and the patient remains without symptoms or fever (without the use of fever-reducing medications)

In the Case of an EXPOSURE to COVID Positive Person:

If exposed to a COVID Positive Person *with symptoms*:
- Exposed person can discontinue home isolation and return to school/work settings **14 days** after close contact with infected person which is, within 2 days PRIOR to positive person's first positive test or date of first symptoms (whichever came first). **AND**
- At least 1 day (24 hours) has passed remains without symptoms or fever (without the use of fever-reducing medications)

If exposed to COVID Positive Person *without symptoms*:

- The exposed person can discontinue home isolation and return to school/work settings **14 days** after close contact with infected person (which begins within 2 days PRIOR to positive person's *first* positive test). **AND**
- At least 1 day (24 hours) has passed remains without symptoms or fever (without the use of fever-reducing medications)

*The CDC does NOT currently recommend COVID testing as a return to work/school requirement. There is current data to showing that "recovered persons may test positive for up to 3 months after infection yet does not have active infection and poses very little if any risk of transmission to others". Fragments or remnants of the COVID 19 virus doesn't replicate as the intact or whole virus.

Summary of Resources used:

CDC Guidelines Updated version 7.20.20 for: Secondary Schools, Higher Education, NON hospitalized person, Essential Health Care workers, Essential workers, Recent studies posted on CDC site regarding retesting after isolation/quarantine,

Oklahoma State and Local Health Department -
- o https://coronavirus.health.ok.gov/covid-19-alert-system
- o Phases (Green, Yellow, Orange)
- o Contact Tracing personnel both state and local (posed many questions verifying protocols and definitions that aid them in determining exposure, also questioned how the multiple testing for 1 individual is reflecting in the overall data as well as any antibody testing that is recorded as positive)
- o Direct communication with our Local Health Department Liaison, and Mendy Spohn with Carter County Health Department

Southern Tech's COVID FAQs and supporting documents posted on the Staff SharePoint Site

REVISED: July 31, 2020