



# Responsible Restart: Safely Returning to School

2020-2021 Academic School Year

Dr. E. Stephens, Superintendent

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# The American Academy of Pediatrics

“The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) strongly advocates that all policy considerations for the coming school year **should start with a goal of having students physically present in school.**

These coordinated interventions intend to mitigate, not eliminate, risk of SARS-CoV-2.

Evidence suggests that spacing as close as 3 feet may approach the benefits of 6 feet of space, particularly if students are wearing face coverings and are asymptomatic.”



# AAP Guiding Principles

- Schools are fundamental to child and adolescent development and well-being and provide our children and adolescents with **academic instruction, social and emotional skills, safety, reliable nutrition, physical/speech and mental health therapy, and opportunities for physical activity**, among other benefits.
- School policies must be flexible and nimble in responding to new information.
- Strategies must be revised and adapted depending on the level of viral transmission in the school and throughout the community and done with close communication with state and/or local public health authorities.



# AAP Guiding Principles

- Special considerations and accommodations to account for the diversity of youth should be made, especially for our vulnerable populations, including those who are medically fragile, live in poverty, have developmental challenges, or have special health care needs or disabilities, with the goal of safe return to school.
- No child or adolescents should be excluded from school unless required in order to adhere to local public health mandates or because of unique medical needs. Pediatricians, families, and schools should partner together to collaboratively identify and develop accommodations, when needed.
- School policies should be guided by supporting the overall health and well-being of all children, adolescents, their families, and their communities.



# 2020-2021 Learning Models

- In person and in buildings 4 days a week (Mon through Thurs).
- Students learning from home on Fridays.



# 2020-2021 Learning Model

- Our plan is to provide **4 days a week of in person instruction** to the extent allowed by our state and local officials beginning August 19<sup>th</sup>. Online learning opportunities will be provided on Fridays.
- The school building may be directed to close by the Governor and we will comply.
- In the event of a school closure, we will provide robust distance learning instruction for our students.



# In person and in buildings 4 days a week

- Parents assess student health before school
- Face masks required
- Temperature checks upon arrival
- Increased hand washing and sanitizing
- One-way hallways/stairwells when possible
- Enhanced disinfecting of surfaces
- Student cohorting (stay with same group)
- Breakfast and lunch served in classrooms
- No shared student supplies
- No visitors without scheduled appointments
- No volunteers
- School entrances/exits will be assigned
- No field trips (virtual learning experiences provided)



# Fridays: 100% Online Learning from Home

- Students will not come to a school building for instruction. They will be provided a computer if needed and their learning will take place at home with the support of teacher(s).
- Administrators, teachers and staff will report to their assigned buildings on Fridays
- The online curriculum will meet the same standards as in-class learning.
- Students will have access to courses in all core areas (English language arts, mathematics and the sciences).
- Adjustments will be made as necessary.





# Face Coverings

- All grade K-8 students and all staff will be **required to wear face masks daily**. Masks are to be worn over the nose and the mouth of the wearer. If a student or staff member does not have a mask, one will be provided for them.
- Face shields will also be available
- Frequent mask breaks will be scheduled throughout the school day.



# Washing and Sanitizing Hands

- Students and staff will wash and sanitize their hands frequently during the school day including, but not limited to: upon entry into the building, before and after eating, after using the restroom, after transitions, and when exiting the building. Multiple opportunities will be provided during the day for students and staff to wash and/or sanitize their hands.



# Safe Social Distancing

- The school will maintain **appropriate social distancing measures** among students, staff, and other school personnel throughout the school day in multiple areas including classrooms, hallways, restrooms, and during arrival and dismissal.
- The **building schedule** has been established to maintain safe social distancing when transitioning from one space to another and to limit the number of persons in any area at any given time.
- **Visual cues** are provided such as markings on floors and signs posted throughout the school.
- **Student desks and work areas will be socially distanced.**



# Safe Social Distancing

- **Materials will not be shared** between students. Students will use individual materials designated for them and kept within their specific work area. Materials will be cleaned regularly.
- Students will remain in **consistent cohorts** throughout the day.



# COVID Positive Procedures

- Staff and students who have suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cannot return to school until they meet school policies for return to work/school. **Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 must experience an improvement in symptoms and isolate for 14 days before returning to school.**
- Any positive results will be reported to the county health department by the superintendent



# Assessing for Symptoms

- If a student begins to show symptoms or has a fever while at school, they will immediately be separated from others and monitored by a staff member maintaining social distancing. The student will wait in a **designated quarantine area** until picked up by a parent/guardian. Areas of the building that were occupied by the student will be thoroughly sanitized.



# Water Bottles

- Drinking fountains will be unavailable to students and staff throughout the school day.
- Bottled water will be available.

## Further Questions:

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