

Superintendent

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August 6, 2021

Thank you to the stakeholders of Chilton County for their support and patience during the ongoing health crisis with COVID 19. As a lifelong resident of Chilton County, we live in a special place where we support each other and that has been true during this crisis. The decisions related to the safety and well-being of our students, employees and community is not taken lightly. The decisions are difficult when they affect 7500 students, 850 plus employees and the community at large. However, those decisions have to be made and with consultation from many stakeholders, the current health guidelines have been adopted. There are many opinions on what needs to be done, but ultimately I have to make that decision. I respect your difference of opinion and appreciate your input. I wish the decisions were clear cut with right and wrong answers, but school systems across Alabama and the nation are doing different things and each one is doing what they think is best for their community. As with anything, there will be critics and I respect that, but I hope and know that each of you wants what's best for our students, employees and community. As we've done since the crisis began in March of 2020, we will make decisions that we believe are best for everyone and monitor and change when changes are needed. Please make decisions that are best for you and your family based on our school systems guidelines. My prayer is for health, safety, peace and unity as we provide an education for the students of Chilton County!

Sincerely,

Jason Griffin Ed.S.
Superintendent
Chilton County Schools

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



2021-2022 Health Guidelines

As Chilton County Schools begin the 2021-2022 school year, the following guidance is offered based on recommendations from the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

1. Chilton County Schools expects all students to return to in-class learning for the 2021-2022 school year.
2. Vaccinated individuals identified as a close contact will not have to isolate so long as the individual remains asymptomatic.
3. Continued social distancing in the schools will be beneficial to mitigate the further spread of COVID.
4. Masking is “recommended” for all individuals. Individuals identified as a close contact will not have to isolate if they have consistently worn a mask. (As noted in #8)
5. Masking is “required” for passengers and drivers on school buses. (as mandated by CDC, TSA and US Dept. of Transportation)
6. Schools will be required to report suspected and diagnosed cases of COVID to ADPH.
7. Individuals who test positive or are diagnosed with COVID will isolate for 10 days.
8. Subject to the following exclusions, school officials will notify individuals who are close contacts to a diagnosed COVID case as soon as possible and send them home for 10 days. However, asymptomatic close contacts who are vaccinated, will not have to isolate. In addition, the following will not have to isolate if:
 - Both students were engaged in the consistent and correct use of well-fitted masks; and
 - Other K-12 school prevention strategies (such as universal and correct mask use, physical distancing, increased ventilation) were in place in the K-12 school setting.
9. All individuals should practice frequent handwashing and respiratory etiquette.
10. All students and staff who have symptoms of COVID should remain at home and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care.
11. COVID positive and isolated individuals cannot participate in extracurricular activities.
12. The school will contact the parent/guardian of students identified as close contact of a COVID positive person in a timely manner. (no required time frame) Even if the school does not isolate the individual, the parent/guardian may choose to do so. The student will be treated in the same way related to attendance as a student isolated by the school.

Individual schools may be subject to a mask mandate if isolation and COVID positive cases reach a level that the Superintendent deems necessary.

Finally, please recognize and remember that COVID remains a threat outside of the school setting. Vaccinations, face-coverings, social distancing, and hygiene are the best tools to combat this pandemic in all areas of our society.

Chilton County Schools may modify this guidance based on changes to the ADPH and CDC recommendations or as conditions may warrant.