



DR. KEITH LANKFORD
SUPERINTENDENT

ALEXANDER CITY SCHOOLS

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January 3, 2022

Dear ACS Students and Parents,

I hope everyone had an amazing *Holiday Break* and your *2022 New Year* is off to a great start! Even though we all wished COVID19 would go out with 2021, the fact remains, it's still here and having a negative impact on our community!

As we open our doors and receive our students for the second half of the school year, we will need to adjust our COVID protocols in our *Journey Forward Learning Plan* based on the existing surge of positive cases in Alexander City and the surrounding area. We will also be adopting the new CDC guidelines for both exposure and positive cases. We believe making these changes will ensure our doors stay open and provide a level of safety for both students and teachers.

1. All students and staff will be required to wear masks due to the highly contagious nature of the new Omicron strain of the virus. This will apply to all classrooms, offices, and indoor activities regardless of vaccination status. If more than one person is in a room, a mask must be worn. This will be re-evaluated week-to-week.
2. For quarantine purposes, we will follow the revised CDC guidelines as these are currently being followed our local physicians. The *Journey Forward* plan will be updated on the district/school website with greater details as they are made available. Abbreviated CDC guidelines are as follows:

Isolation: If you test positive, you now only have to isolate for 5 days, as long as you are **symptom-free** on day 5. Must follow with an additional 5 days of wearing a mask.

Quarantine for close contact: Unvaccinated, partially vaccinated, or more than 6 months out form last dose: If you are exposed to COVID by close contact, you must quarantine 5 days, followed by another 5 days of mask-wearing.

Fully vaccinated within the past 6 months or had a booster: no need to quarantine if exposed to the virus as long as you are asymptomatic. Wear a mask for 10 days.

Regardless of vaccination status, everyone who is exposed by close contact should test on day 5, since many people will have an asymptomatic case of COVID.

***COVID testing in regards to returning to school from exposure must be conducted by a healthcare provider. Alexander City Schools will not accept "Home COVID" test results.**

In addition to the above CDC guidelines, all ACS indoor athletic and extracurricular activities will be reduced to 50% capacity with all spectators and participants required to wear proper facial PPE.

Parents, please be vigilant in performing a health check on your student each day and if they are exhibiting symptoms of COVID19, please keep them home and follow-up with your healthcare provider. If your student is currently positive or has been exposed, and will not be able to return to school January 6th based on the new guidelines, please contact the local school nurse immediately.

If we work together and follow these guidelines, I feel we can overcome the surge and see a decrease in positive cases and move back to a level of normalcy within a few weeks.

Go Wildcats and see you all Thursday, January 6, 2021!



Dr. Keith Lankford, Superintendent