



## Opening Guidance for the 2021-2022 School Year

Based on the Governor's decision through Executive Order to end the Public Health State of Emergency on June 30, 2021, the Murray County School System had originally planned to return to pre-pandemic school operations for the 2021-22 school year, but with recent developments and a steady incline of positive cases in our area, we will return primarily to pre-pandemic school operations with some preventative measures in place. Between now and the opening of school we will continue to monitor COVID-19 infections in our community and make any necessary changes as deemed appropriate to ensure the safety of our students and staff. Currently, we plan to return to school face to face on September 7, 2021.

### Quarantine Guidelines will be:

- **MCS will not mandate quarantines. All quarantines issued by DPH must be followed.**

**\*\* There is no covid leave this year. Quarantines and Positive Diagnoses will require use of sick leave regardless of vaccination status.**

- **Students or staff who test positive for COVID-19** will continue to follow Department of Public Health guidelines, which require you to stay home for 10 days since symptoms first appeared and be fever-free, without use of fever-reducing medications, for 24 hours before returning to school.
- **Staff and students are not required but are encouraged to wear masks in Murray County Schools and offices, however masks will be required on buses.** The CDC recommends masks regardless of vaccination status. MCS will continue to provide disposable masks to individuals who might request them. **\*\* Update: A mask mandate has been put in place for all MCS staff, when indoors and unable to social distance ( 3 feet). We will reassess at a later date.**
- **COVID-19 vaccinations are not required for employees or students but are encouraged and recommended.** The Murray County Health Department and many local healthcare providers have COVID-19 vaccines readily available; there are **no plans to host COVID-19 vaccination events at any MC schools or offices currently.**
- **Schools will return to their normal operating procedures for lunchtime and class bell schedules; and assemblies and field trips will resume.** Special events open to parents and families will resume, and parent volunteers will be permitted to work throughout the school, including in classrooms at the discretion of the school administration based on the rate of spread for COVID-19, and the safety of all students and staff. Schools will continue to take temperatures of all visitors before entering the building. Prin

- **Murray County Schools will continue to invest in increased cleaning and sanitizing at all school locations and will continue to provide surface and hand sanitizer spray to classrooms.** These measures, coupled with the significant investment to upgrade ventilation and to replace water fountains with water bottle filling stations, and the cleaning of buses after each route as well as maintaining temper checks for students participating in extracurricular activities (i.e., football practice) appear to have made an improvement in overall student and staff health.
- **Advent Health will provide testing** for all students and staff beginning September 7th. Walk-Ins are welcome Monday-Friday 7:30am – 8:00am, or appointments can be scheduled during regular office hours by calling 706-695-0561, the Advent Health Depot is located at 824 GI Maddox Pkwy.

**\* We will continue to monitor COVID-19 infections in our community and make any necessary changes deemed appropriate to ensure the safety of our students and staff.**