**Elba City Schools Reopening Plan 2020-2021**

***Updated 7/5/2023***

**Elba City Schools is committed to reopening school for the 2020-2021 school year and working daily to develop the best plan for safety during these times of COVID-19 pandemic. This is a working document a plan and can change as needed. We are following CDC and ADPH guidelines to the best of our ability as what is feasible for the school setting. Below is a list of constant updates that the system will continue to monitor as changes are needed. Also, below the list you will see the different learning opportunities for students for the 2020-2021 school year.**

* Elba City Schools will open on time, August 4, 2023, we will remain open for students and follow the current approved school calendar.
* The calendar has been updated for students to begin on August 4, 2023.
* It is highly encouraged that all medically cleared students attend school in person.
* There will be distance learning opportunities for students whose parents choose to keep them at home. These students will remain enrolled at Elba City Schools and take virtual classes provided by the ALSDE through Schoology using SchoolsPLP.
  + The curriculum and material provided to these students will be sent and monitored by an Elba City Schools teacher.
  + All faculty/staff will be trained prior to the start of school on the use of Schoology as well as SchoolsPLP so that they may communicate the use to students no matter the student’s school choice.
  + Further Schoology training is also being provided by PowerSchool.
* We strongly encourage parents that are thinking of doing the distance learning options to contact your child’s school and speak with administration and learn more about the programs before making a final decision.
  + Administrators have reached out to several of these parents from the survey. Again, we remind you that whatever decision is made will be the decision for an entire nine-weeks grading period. (See below)
  + Surveys have been sent out for parents/guardians to fill out on their choices of school as well as transportation.
* Any parents that do elect to keep their children at home and receive distance learning will need to remain virtual for the entire nine-week grading period. At the end of the nine-week grading period they may choose again to either remain virtual or come back to the traditional setting.
  + The deadline for a final decision on how a student will attend school this year will be August 10, 2023.
  + There will be forms available that will need to be signed on how you choose for your child to attend school this year to keep consistency.
* We strongly encourage parents to check temperatures before students leave the house. If the temperature is at 100.4° or higher keep the student at home and contact the school.
  + Please be sure to contact the school if your child is running temperature, especially if it is multiple days as there are attendance codes for this year that will need to be addressed for students showing sign and symptoms of COVID-19.
* Elba City Schools will not begin the year checking all temperatures at the entrances. If this procedure seems needed we will return to checking daily. Students with a temperature will move to a room to be assessed by the nurse and temperatures will be rechecked. If the temperature has remained we will then notify a parent/guardian to pick the student up.
  + Both Elba Elementary and Elba High School have isolation rooms for these students to be assessed by the nurse prior to parents/guardians being contacted. These rooms are secure and have PPE equipment in place for student protection.
  + Additional staff members will be placed on each bus for temperature checks in the morning routes, those students that may be running temperature on a bus will be isolated on the bus and brought to school to be assessed by the school nurse before parents/guardians will be contacted to pick-up.
  + Seating charts are being created for both buses and classrooms to better help identify any student that may be a close contact or are in need of being quarantined.
* We will have hand sanitizer stations located throughout both buildings.
* We strongly encourage students, staff and anyone coming on campus to wear facial coverings while on campus. We are not saying that students and staff are required to wear these all day. However, there will be certain times during the day that it is strongly encourage that they be worn.
  + The above statement is remaining depending on the next update from Governor Ivey as well as ADPH guidelines. Therefore, this statement is subject to change.
  + As Governor Ivey has continued the “Safer at Home Order” requiring mask be worn in most situations. Elba City Schools is requiring masks be worn by employees and students in accordance with the order from the Governor. This is no longer needed at this time.
  + During any class transitions (high school) or hallway movement, mask will be required by both students and faculty. This is no longer needed at this time.
  + Masks will be required to enter any extracurricular activities and should be worn when within six feet of those from another household. There will be signs posted for all events covering these regulations. This is no longer needed at this time.
  + There have been PPE shields purchased for every teacher to be able to work with students at times that masks need to not be worn (and the six foot distance is in place for this instruction).
  + Also, teachers have been trained and informed of following the 6/15 rule established by the APHD/CDC to help maintain health and wellness within each classroom.
* We will begin the year limiting visitor access and continue as we have during the summer with curbside assistance from the office staff at both schools. We understand for some things visitors must enter the building and again we ask that they please wear facial coverings.
  + Parents/Visitors may enter the buildings by appointment only.
  + Parents will not be permitted to escort their children to class on the first day of school.
  + Parents/Visitors may also be screened for fever (100.4 or greater)
  + There is glass being installed in the office areas at both schools to ensure the safety of office workers as well as students, visitors, and parents.
* We strongly encourage that students riding a bus wear facial covers for the ride (Bus drivers have been provided with extra masks for students that may not have a mask as the order from Governor Ivey continues that facial coverings are required). Also, if your child rides a bus and you are able to bring them by vehicle this is also highly encouraged to begin the year.
  + Experts recommend riding to school in a personal vehicle with family members when possible.
* All teachers will be provided with protective shields in their classroom to provide instruction.
  + We encourage all teachers to have their own mask which they are comfortable with and can maintain as far cleaning/washing, however, Elba City Schools will have disposable masks available for teachers as needed.
  + If a teacher prefers to have a face shield, Elba City Schools will provide those as well (Reminder that a mask will still be needed at times with a face shield).
* We are also getting upgrades in restrooms, touchless faucets and touchless hand dryers to make those areas safer for students.
  + This is a work in progress for these upgrades, please be patient as this may not be fully complete by the first day of school. We will provide the hand sanitizer stands near each restroom to help until this project is complete.
* Students who experience symptoms while at school will be isolated until parents/guardians are able to pick them up.
  + Students who contract COVID-19 will be quarantined for the recommended number of days by the ADPH/CDC guidelines.
  + After the appropriate number of days in quarantine and showing no symptoms for 3 days, a student may return to school. Preferably with clearance from a physician.
  + During a quarantine for a student showing symptoms or a student that has contracted COVID-19, students will be provided work from their classroom teacher and still be considered traditional students.
  + Any students sent home because of showing symptoms or being identified as a close contact of a COVID-19 case will be given assignments through Schoology to help maintain staying on track with classes.
* Water fountains will not be accessible, so students are encouraged to bring their own water to drink throughout the day. The guidelines for each school may be different for what can and cannot be brought to school. Please look for notifications and updates from each school.
* Meals will be consumed in the classroom, except for a few of the younger grades. At this time we will continue to serve Elba City School students hot meals.
  + Masks will be required to be worn during the time that students are coming to pick up their meals. This is no longer needed at this time.

**Below are the reopening options for Elba City School students: No matter of the choice made, all ALCOS and critical standards will be maintained and followed.**

**Traditional Students –** these students will return to campus daily for all classes for face-to-face instruction.

**Virtual Students –** these students will not attend any on campus classes and will receive all instruction online from an Elba City Schools teacher. Devices are available as needed, please contact administration with needs of devices for virtual learning. Also remember, we have several areas locally for free internet (downtown square are, public library, and the parking lots at each school as needed). Virtual student material will be deliver by SchoolsPLP through Schoology and monitored by an Elba City School certified teacher. Elba City Schools will maintain constant communication with the virtual students (emails and Schoology messaging).

**Hybrid Students –** this is a select group of high school students that will be addressed case by case on programs they have been previously working toward. Example (The student is a junior and has chosen virtual yet is in the Welding program at Elba High School. This student could attend just Welding on campus and all other classes would be virtual).

**The lead nurse for Elba City Schools will provide all necessary trainings to our employees and continue to keep employees updated throughout the year as new changes may arise during this pandemic. All nurses rooms as well as isolation rooms have been equipped to keep students and nurses safe during these times.**

**Elba City Schools has purchased all equipment necessary to sanitized all areas daily (and if needed during the school day). We have contracted work for hours outside the normal business day to ensure all areas are sanitized daily (each room/area is sprayed with appropriate products purchased to make these areas safe daily). At this time our custodial staff will continue with regular hours and help begin the sanitizing process at the end of the day at the high school and a contract worker will come in and finish the remainder of rooms/areas. All products purchased (hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, sprays, spray bottles, etc.) will be monitored by the head maintenance person as well as the Superintendent to ensure products are used efficiently.**

**Elba City Schools is also committed to following all IEP, 504, EL plans. Any student in need of services we are working with those individuals and their families to create those plans no matter the school choice those families choose for this school year. All information will be provided for these parents through various means of communication.**

**Elba City Schools is committed to following the Reopening Road Map as well as following the ADPH Back to School Kit/CDC Guidelines to the best of our ability. We take barriers very seriously and if any barriers arise during these times we will address those promptly to correct the barrier.**