

2021-2022
Coosa County District Schools
Phase 2: School-Reopening Plan



COOSA COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION

David W. Stover
Superintendent of Schools

COOSA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

District 1: Sharon Massie

District 2: Tiffany McCain

District 3: Joe Belyeu

District 4: Sharon Coffman

District 5: Gay Adams

Letter from the Superintendent

Last January, we began the second semester with a lot of uncertainty as we reopened our school buildings. We simultaneously taught in-person and virtually during a global pandemic. I know this past school year was challenging and I want to share my sincere gratitude for the support and patience from our students, parents, teachers, staff, and community as we navigated through the unprecedented 2020-2021 school year. I continue to be amazed by this wonderful community and how we work together during difficult times to continue to provide the best education and experiences through a safe and nurturing learning environment for our students in Coosa County.

Over the last year, many changes, guidance, and opinions regarding COVID-19 have existed. As a school district, our number one priority will always be the safety and well-being of our students and staff. With the success of our 2020-2021 school year, and the roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines, the district has revised the Restart Plan to include some best practices learned from this past year, coupled with practical measures, to move forward into a phase II health and safety approach to the 2021-2022 school year.

In this updated policy, you will continue to see our continued and revised efforts, measures, and protocols to promote a safe and healthy learning environment. As a school community, we cannot do this work without the support of our students and our parents. Your partnership in supporting the health of our students and staff is paramount as we return to a more normal school setting for the 2021-2022 school year. Should you have any specific questions regarding school operations for the upcoming school year, I encourage you to reach out to your child's principal.

Again, I thank you for your continued support and dedication to the well-being of our students and staff. I look forward to working with you for another successful school year.

Respectfully,

David W. Stover

Superintendent of Schools |



Phase II: Health and Safety Protocols and Guidelines

The goal of the plan is to share with all stakeholders the actions and protocols that the district and schools are continuing to keep in place with the intention of lessening the risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus to our students and staff during the 2021-2022 school year.

Individual School Plans

Each school is different; therefore, each school leadership team will be working to create plans for the arrival/dismissal of students and faculty, lunch in the cafeteria, hallway movement, safety and security, and classroom layout and routines. Each individual school will submit their plans to the district office for approval prior to the start of school on August 12th. Each individual school plan will address the following topics in detail:

- Cafeteria
 - Maximize Table Spacing
 - Assign Seating
 - Staggered Arrival/Dismissal Times
 - Lunch Line Procedures
- Classrooms/Learning Spaces
 - Desk Spacing
 - Assigned Seating
 - Removal of Excess/Unused Furniture
- Health Rooms (Clinics) and Isolation Rooms
 - Identify Location(s) for Isolation Room
 - Identify and Train Staff
 - Identify Procedures
- Large Learning Environments
- Continue arrival/dismissal, scheduling, spacing, cleaning, and protocols for:
 - Band
 - Media Center
 - PE/Gym/Locker Rooms
- Computer Labs
- Shared School Spaces/Transitions
 - Continue staggered arrival/dismissal, updated scheduling, cleaning procedures, and protocols for:
 - Bus Parking
 - Car Rider Pickup
 - Before/After School Care
 - Athletic Fields / Playgrounds
 - Recess
 - Hallways
 - Transitions to classes

High School Return to Learning Plan

School Facilities

- Mask/Shield wear is mandated upon returning in school facilities. Outside activities masks/shields will be highly recommended, yet optional
- Temperature checks and hand sanitizer will be conducted prior to accessing the building

Classrooms/ Learning Spaces

- 3' social distancing while in the classroom environment
- Limited movement within the classroom
- Seating charts and transitional line charts for all classes are mandatory
- Book bags will be used in lieu of lockers

Cafeteria

- High school students will go through the lunchroom lines and returning to the classroom to eat.
- Seating charts will also apply to lunchtime in the classroom

Nursing Rooms and Isolation Rooms

- Two locations located within the nursing office
- Nurses will relay information to the Health Department

Transitions / Buses / Car Riders

- Buses:
 - o Staggered arrival and departure transitions to and from buses
 - o Mask will be worn the entire time on the buses
 - o Masks will be provided as needed
 - o Corrective actions will happen take place for those not in compliance
 - o Buses will be sanitized after each trip

Elementary School Return to Learning Plan

School Facilities

- Proper mask/shield wearing is mandated upon returning in school facilities. Outside activities masks/shields will be highly recommended, yet optional
- Temperature checks and hand sanitizer distribution will be conducted prior to accessing the building

Classrooms/ Learning Spaces

- 3' social distancing while in the classroom environment
- Limited movement within the classroom
- Seating charts and transitional line charts for all classes are mandatory
- Classroom lockers will be utilized
- When at recess masks will be highly encouraged , but optional

Cafeteria

- Elementary students Pre-K – 4th grade will have lunch delivered to the classroom. 5th and 6th grade will go through the lunchroom lines and return to class to eat.
- Seating charts will also apply to lunchtime in the classroom

Nursing Rooms and Isolation Rooms

- Two locations located within the nursing office
- Nurses will communicate information to the Health Department as needed

Transitions / Buses / Car Riders

- Buses:
 - o Staggered arrival and departure transitions to and from buses
 - o Mask will be worn the entire time on the buses
 - o Masks will be provided as needed
 - o Corrective actions will take place for those not in compliance
 - o Buses will be sanitized after each trip

CCDS Health and Safety Protocols

Coosa County District Schools will have the following health and safety protocols in place for the 2021-2022 school year.

Vaccinations and COVID testing

The school district will host periodic vaccination clinics. These clinics will provide vaccinations to ages 12 and older. Medical facilities will provide vaccinations and COVID testing as needed.

Continued Prescreening

Prior to sending children to school via the bus or parent drop-off, it is highly recommended that families and staff take temperatures daily prior to coming to school or work. Any person with a fever of 100 degrees or higher should not go to a school site or office. Students and adults should also screen themselves for respiratory symptoms such as cough and shortness of breath prior to coming to school each day. Students and adults experiencing those symptoms should not attend school and/or office.

Recommended Use of Face Coverings

For the 2021-2022 school year, the use of face coverings by students and staff will be mandated while indoors and highly encouraged, but not mandated when outdoors. When social distancing cannot be maintained or in mixed groups of vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals, masks must be worn. The use of face coverings, while objectionable to some, continues to be highly recommended by the Department of Public Health and the CDC as a primary means to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

General Facilities/Campuses

- Schools will create plans to stagger the arrival and dismissal of students to maintain social distancing as close to three feet as possible.

- Temperatures
- Schools will run a "Monitored Campus" model where students, staff, and limited number of volunteers and visitors are permitted on campus. Appointments will be made for parents for IEP, 504, parent/teacher conference meetings, etc. No deliveries for lunch for students or parents eating lunch with students. Students can bring their lunches. The "Monitored Campus" model will be reviewed each nine weeks utilizing COVID-19 community data to determine the level of visitors to campus during school operational hours.
- Hallways should be one way where possible and/or utilize signage with "keep right" on the floor to keep traffic moving in one direction. The district has purchased signage for reminding students and staff about social distancing, hygiene, and directions for movement on campus.
 - All schools will have hand sanitizing stations in common areas and hand-sanitizing pumps in each classroom.

Cafeteria

- Schools will have social distancing signage floor stickers in the cafeteria lines to promote distancing.
 - School staff will sanitize high-touch areas to include serving lines, silverware containers, and door handles. The high-touch areas will be cleaned by CNP staff throughout the meal service.
- Schools will utilize a variety of strategies including the staggering procedures to limit amount of contact between students in the cafeteria.
- Students will be encouraged to utilize outdoor areas to eat lunch per allowable space per individual school. Students eating indoors will be spaced as close to three feet apart as possible as allowed per individual school. Elementary students sit in cohorts at lunch with seating charts to assist with contact tracing as needed. Secondary schools will implement increased spacing between tables and social distance as close to three feet apart as possible.
- Schools will schedule the use of the intercom system to remind students and staff of social distancing and the importance of hygiene practices.

Classrooms

- All unnecessary/unused furniture will be removed from classrooms to allow for social distancing as close to three feet apart as possible. Unnecessary furniture includes couches, bean bags, reading nooks, half-empty book shelves, etc.
- Desks/tables will be arranged in a fashion to allow for social distancing as close to three feet apart as possible.
- Each teacher will review procedures for classroom procedures and hygiene including the following:
 - Limit the sharing of materials
 - Limit access to pencil sharpeners and other commonly touched items and increased time for handwashing, hand sanitizer

Health Rooms

- Send out "When to Visit the Nurse's Office" guidance to teachers and staff to minimize the number of students in the health room at one time.
- School health staff will use standard precautions (mask, face shield, gloves, and gowns) and frequent hand washing with soap and water.
- Use of an isolation room for students who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms or students who came to school who should be home completing quarantine due to an exposure.
- Students and staff that present with signs and/or symptoms of illness related to COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, and loss of taste or smell) shall not be allowed to remain on school campus. Students exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms will be sent to the isolation room and will need to be picked up as soon as possible.

Transportation

- Students and drivers will wear a face covering while utilizing bus transportation since social distancing of three feet cannot always be maintained.
- Students will be in assigned seats to assist with contact tracing if needed.
- Drivers will clean the bus after each route and at the end of the day.
- Transportation will continue to utilize sprayers to disinfect school buses after morning and afternoon routes. Buses that come in later from a field trip will get sprayed the following morning before the driver starts their route.

Hygiene and Cleaning

- Throughout the school day, custodial staff will move through common travel spaces and spray/disinfect high touch items such as door handles, push plates, door jambs, railings, etc.
- Hand sanitizer stands and desktop pumps will be provided for the following locations: main office, classrooms, health room, media center, gymnasiums, cafeteria entrances, and extra that can be moved to high traffic areas.
- At the end of the instructional day, routine cleaning procedures will be followed, including disinfecting surfaces and objects that are frequently touched and vacuuming all permanent carpeting.
- Common restrooms will be restocked, cleaned and disinfected throughout the school day.

Student Learning Options for the 2021-2022 school year

For the 2021-2022 school year, the District will offer two learning options for students and families.

Option 1: Brick and Mortar School (All Grades)

This model represents a return to the school campus and the classroom where students will interact directly with their teacher(s) and classmates. The school day will follow the standard bell times and standard schedule that includes all the core classes and other subject areas. In short, it represents a return to the traditional school environment. Our goal is to create an environment that provides an opportunity for students to return

to the traditional school experience, while providing safeguards to protect the health and safety of students and staff.

Option 2: Virtual Format (7-12)

Central students who choose to attend Central virtually will be required to remain within the guidelines set by administration. Students requesting virtual learning must comply with the following requirements:

1. Provide their own internet capabilities
2. Must have been successful while virtual 2020-2021 school year
3. Have parental support to facilitate learning in the home environment
4. Must remain in good standing for the duration of the virtual learning year

In this virtual learning model, students often work on assignments during non-traditional hours. Students and parents are supported by teachers who offer office hours.

Because virtual learning is a choice, students must participate in all required state assessments, and may take part in extracurricular clubs and activities with their school.

For information about virtual learning and enrollment contact Central High School administration. Students must commit to remain virtual by semesters for the 2021-2022 school year. Staff will schedule meetings with the families of students who are not making adequate progress to discuss returning to the brick and mortar learning environment or other options to find a learning environment where the student can be successful.

COVID-19 Cases & Quarantine

If a student tests positive for COVID-19 or has been exposed to COVID-19 and directed to quarantine, please contact your child's school principal to share this information to ensure instructional continuity. Please see the guidance below regarding COVID-19 and quarantine policies.

Please do not send your child to school or extracurricular activities if your student falls into one of the scenarios below:

- 1) Your child is awaiting COVID-19 test results (regardless if asymptomatic).
- 2) Your child is confirmed positive with COVID-19, and is now feeling better, but is still within the recommended self-isolation timeframe.
- 3) Someone in the home is exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms and is awaiting test results.
- 4) Someone in the home is positive with COVID-19.

- 5) Your child has been contact traced and directed to quarantine from the Department of Health or medical provider.

The Department of Health will continue to conduct all contact tracing and will advise parents/guardians by phone call and letter if their student had prolonged contact with a positive case. Quarantine orders will always remain under the authority of the local public health entity. Local public health authorities make the final decisions about how long quarantine should last in the communities they serve based on local conditions, resources, and needs. As a school district, we do not override the Department of Public Health's investigation or quarantine timeframes.

Superintendent's Authority

Due to the ever-changing conditions resulting from the COVID 19 pandemic and the effects that unforeseen changes may have on the implementation of this Phase II Plan, the Superintendent of Schools is authorized to make any necessary adjustments. These adjustments are to be consistent with the structure and intent of this Plan, to protect the health, safety and welfare of Coosa County District Schools' students, staff and the citizens of Coosa County.