



Wayne County School District

Guidelines for Re-Entry for the 2020-2021 School Year

Wayne County School District strives to promote a safe and caring learning environment. As we plan for the 2020-2021 school year, we seek to fulfill our District's mission during unprecedented circumstances. Our plan will likely evolve to reflect the latest expert guidance from national, state, and local authorities.

Wayne County School District will begin the 2020-21 school year on August 10. In order to meet new health and safety guidelines, Wayne County School will start with a distance learning schedule. This schedule will be used until Labor Day or until COVID-19 cases drop in our county. Once deemed appropriate, a Hybrid (A/B) schedule, with alternating face-to-face and distance learning, will be utilized. At this time, the plan is for students to remain on the distance learning schedule for the first few weeks of school and transition to the hybrid schedule for the remainder of the first nine weeks. Our plans for a traditional schedule will be determined by COVID-19 case load after the first nine weeks. Any parent who does not feel that their student needs to return to the traditional setting will be given an opt-in virtual learning opportunity.

Each school within the district will have a plan of action for re-entry based on the guidelines listed below.

Traditional Instructional Model

The District is working hard to incorporate many safeguards to help keep our students and staff as safe as possible while implementing a traditional instructional model. This document is based on the latest guidance from the CDC, the Mississippi Department of Health, the Mississippi Department of Education, and other authorities. A summary of these safeguards is available below, following an explanation of the hybrid and distance instructional models which may be implemented should the impact of COVID-19 necessitate these alternate models at any point in the school year.

Hybrid Instructional Model

- If the impact of COVID-19 makes the traditional instructional model impractical, the District is prepared to begin the year with the hybrid model, and will be prepared to move into a hybrid model as needed. Students will be divided into two groups with an alternating A/B Schedule, alternating face-to-face and virtual instruction during the week.

Distance Learning Model

- If the impact of COVID-19 makes the hybrid instructional model impractical, the District will be prepared to move into a completely distance learning model.
- Implement a robust distance learning plan:
 - Develop distance learning curriculum ahead of time to easily pivot.
 - Train teachers on instruction in a virtual environment for seamless transition to distance learning.
 - Develop and deploy virtual training for parents/families.
 - Provide access to virtual lessons for students and parents.
 - Establish teaching schedules/office hours and communicate plans to parents.
- Distribute printed instructional packets/materials and district/school communications along with meals; designate and communicate collection/drop off points.

General Guidelines to Prevent the Spread of Illness

- Parents/guardians should perform an assessment of their child(ren)'s health before leaving home. If your child feels unwell, or has any of the following symptoms, please do not allow him or her to come to school and contact your healthcare provider. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and/or diarrhea.
- Students, faculty, and staff will wear face coverings at all times practical while on school campus and on school buses. Face coverings should adhere to dress code standards established in the student handbook.
- Students, faculty, and staff should socially distance, i.e., remain six feet apart, to the extent practicable. Seating and desks would face the same direction and be distanced apart to the extent practicable.
- Students, faculty, and staff should stay home when they are sick, when they have a temperature of more than 100.4°, or when they do not pass the daily at-home screening examination.
- Students and staff who live with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 should stay home from school until the risk of transmission has passed.
- Persons with COVID-19 should isolate for 14 days and also be free of fever for 72 hours without medication before returning to school.
- Everyone should practice good hygiene measures such as hand washing often with soap and water for 20 seconds and covering coughs and sneezes.
- Faculty, staff, and students temperatures will be taken daily.
- Parents are encouraged to bring their students to and from school in their own automobiles.
- Hand sanitizer may be made available in classrooms, hallways, and at school entrance and exits. Hand soap and paper towels shall be in all restrooms.

- Stations will be set up to quarantine students with symptoms until their parents can pick them up.

Process for Fulfillment and Resupply of PPE for Schools

- The District is providing each school with cleaning supplies and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- Each school will have:
 - 60% alcohol or higher hand sanitizer for each classroom and office space
 - Disinfectant spray for each classroom and office space for disinfecting surfaces
 - Disinfectant wipes for each classroom and office space for disinfecting surfaces
 - Masks for all student and staff members

Regular Cleaning of School Buildings

- High-touch areas of classrooms will be sanitized by faculty and staff between classes or as often as practicable. Halls and restrooms will be sanitized throughout the day by custodial staff.
- Employees will be advised in cleaning and safety protocols at each school site.
- A regular cleaning schedule will be established for daytime and afterhours sanitation of school buildings by ABM our contracted professional cleaning service. Each school will be sanitized after each school day.

Visitors

- Visitors to campus should go directly to the school office area.
- No classroom or lunchtime visits allowed until further notice.
- Necessary visitors (vendors) will be required to have temperature checks upon arrival to the building and will wear a face covering while on campus.

When Someone Becomes Sick at School

- Each school will have a designated separate sick/isolation room for suspected COVID cases, keeping those students, faculty, and staff away from other types of illness or injury cases that may be seeking treatment or care.
- School nurses and other designee will use standard precautions and transmission-based precautions when caring for sick people.
- Sick staff members and students should not return until they have met criteria to discontinue home isolation.
- Persons with COVID-19 should isolate for 14 days and also be free of fever for 72 hours without fever reducing medicines before returning to school.
- Schools will report daily to District officials the students, faculty and staff who have been diagnosed with COVID-19. The Central Office will report such information to the State Department of Health.

- In the event that a student or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19, the parents/guardians of students who have in direct contact with that individual will be notified.
- Students and staff who live with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 should stay home from school until the risk of transmission has passed.
- The District will follow the guidelines of the MS Department of Health concerning when it is appropriate for students who may have been exposed to enter self-quarantine.

Food Services

- Provide for student hand washing/hand sanitizing before and after meal service
- Mark spaced lines to enter the cafeteria and serving lines to the extent practicable and designate entrances and exit flow paths
- Conduct cleaning of cafeterias and high-touch surfaces throughout the school day
- Schools will employ alternative serving models for meals:
 - Serving meals in classrooms
 - Serving meals in cafeterias with:
 - Spaced serving lines (marked on floors)
 - Spaced seating (utilize outdoor space as practicable and appropriate)
 - Longer meal periods for more staggered meal delivery

Transportation

- All students and drivers shall wear face coverings
- Social distancing will be employed to the extent possible on each bus but cannot be guaranteed
- Parents and guardians are encouraged to bring students to school in order to reduce the number of bus riders
- Drivers will be screened daily for symptoms of illness
- Field trips are suspended until further notice
- High-touch surfaces will be sanitized at the conclusion of each route
- Buses will be aired out between uses

Entering and Leaving School Buildings

- Each campus will implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures to include, but not limited to:
 - Provide hand sanitizer for students, faculty and staff
 - Eliminate unnecessary congregations of students, faculty and staff
 - Implement social distancing
 - Designate entrance and exit flow paths
 - Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread of COVID-19 and its symptoms, preventative measures

- (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/District specific protocols
- Establish a protocol for students, faculty, and staff who feel ill or experience symptoms when they come to school
 - Isolate and send home individuals who are ill, experience symptoms, or have a temperature of over 100.4°
 - Adhere to District protocols regarding school visitors (Visitors section above)
 - Establish a protocol for student pick up/drop off: staggered entry and release (by grade, class, or bus numbers), marked spacing for pickup
 - Isolate and send home if student or staff temperature is over 100.4°

Transitioning From Class to Class

- Each school will implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures to include, but not limited to:
 - Require all students, faculty and staff to wear face coverings at all times practical
 - Provide additional time for transitions and class changes
 - Implement staggered class changes, e.g., by hall, odd/even room numbers, grade or subject to decrease numbers in halls at one time
 - Limit mixing of students to extent possible
 - Designate areas of hallway (i.e. lanes) to keep students separated to the extent practicable

Groups and Large Gatherings

- Eliminate congregation of students in parking lots and common areas
- Stagger schedule for group gatherings such as recess and meals
- Use multiple large spaces such as gyms, auditorium, outside spaces as weather permits for social distancing during mealtimes and other gatherings
- Follow MHSAA guidelines for events and practices

Guidelines for Supporting Teaching and Learning

- Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures to include, but not limited to:
 - Use the master schedule to balance class numbers as much as possible and remove unused desks and furniture in classrooms to maximize social distancing
 - Clean classrooms and high-touch surfaces often and provide hand sanitizer, tissues, etc., for proper hygiene
 - Limit physical interaction by curtailing partner or group work
 - Establish distance between the teacher's desk/board and student's desks
 - Identify and utilize large spaces (i.e. gymnasiums, auditoriums, outside spaces- as weather permits) for social distancing

- Social and emotional support
 - Provide teacher training to help recognize signs of anxiety, concerns with coming back to school
 - Provide training for counselors on appropriate interventions and supports
 - Develop strategies at each campus to help students transition back to face to face instruction

- Establish an academic baseline
 - Administer formative assessments toward the start of the school year
 - Conduct meetings with teachers to identify where students are academically behind

- Discuss the shared experience
 - Help children and teachers cope with changes
 - Plan best ways to talk to children about COVID-19

- Target interventions and supports
 - Provide additional instructional supports to:
 - Students at risk of not graduating on time
 - Students with disabilities (compensatory services)
 - Students who struggled in the prior distance/remote learning environment (i.e. early grades, English learners, etc.)
 - Other students identified by teachers and parents as being behind academically
 - Identify essential concepts/skills/grade levels and provide access to enrichment

- Address learning loss
 - Help students catch up/get ahead
 - Provide extended learning opportunities

- Provide opt-in for virtual learning for students who cannot return to the building due to health issues or other concerns. Please refer to Virtual Learning Guidelines posted on the Wayne County School District website for more information and to enroll
- Prepare for potential future distance/remote learning by increasing current blended learning:
 - Develop a digital learning plan
 - Integrate distance learning practices
 - Provide distance learning-specific professional development for educators

Guidelines for Arts and Athletics (recess, physical education, and extracurricular activities)

- Develop protocols to maintain health and safety during arts, chorus, band, and athletics and activities, utilizing the guidelines included throughout this document.