

# SAFE RETURN PLAN SUMMARY

The purpose of this one-page summary is to serve as a quick reference for key factors that help outline the contents of this document. For more in-depth information please refer to the contents of the document.

1. School will be in session (in-person) 5 days per week. **Doors will open at 7:45 a.m. with classes beginning at 8:00 a.m. Bus riders and drivers will be dismissed at 2:46pm. Car riders will be dismissed at 2:50pm and walkers as soon as the car riders line is gone.**
  1. Remote learning will only be offered to those students who are ineligible for a COVID-19 vaccine AND are under exclusion consistent with guidance from the Pulaski County Health Department.
2. Temperature checks and symptom screenings will be discontinued at school. It is the parent or guardian's responsibility to make sure that the child(ren) is not showing symptoms of any illness including COVID-19 before sending them to school.
3. Good hand hygiene will be strongly encouraged at all grade levels.
4. Social distancing will be maintained in all school areas to the greatest extent possible. Three to six feet is recommended by IDPH/CDC.
5. We will continue to be diligent in the cleaning and disinfecting process. Custodians will follow CDC guidelines for cleaning and supplies.
6. Student meals will be free for the 2023-2024 school year in accordance with USDA reimbursements.
7. Students will be issued individual Chromebooks/Laptops to prevent sharing.
8. Field trips and fundraisers will resume as they continue to be allowed.
9. Meridian CUSD #101 shall reserve the right to limit nonessential visitors into the school.
10. The district will be prepared to adjust educational and athletic programming as necessary throughout the year.

## Collaboration with Public Health Officials

- District officials will continue to collaborate and consult with the Pulaski County Health Department officials on various logistics and decision-making including but not limited to school health and safety protocols, screening testing, contact tracing, and emergency school closings.

## Devices and Access

Meridian CUSD #101 will implement a 1:1 device program for students in grades K-12. Each building will communicate their plan for device dissemination.

## **Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)**

The effects of COVID-19 have only increased our students' need for an increased focus on Social and Emotional Learning (SEL). We will continue to work to increase our students' exposure to SEL curriculum with an intentional focus on student's emotional health which may be impacted by COVID-19. Other SEL supports will be developed to provide assistance to our students as needed. Teachers and staff will continue to monitor and identify students who may need additional support or interventions.

## **Disabilities or Other Health Care Needs**

Meridian CUSD #101 in consultation with the JAMP Special Education Cooperative will make every effort to fully implement the Individualized Education Plans (IEP) and 504 plans of our students during COVID-19. Parents of students with IEPs or 504 plans and need additional support should contact your student's teacher.

# **TRANSPORTATION AND BUILDING OPERATIONS**

## **Transportation**

- Meridian CUSD #101 will work to ensure busing procedures are in compliance with all applicable expectations under state and federal guidelines.
- All individuals on a bus may wear a face covering.
- Students may only ride the bus they are assigned to and may only get off at their designated stop. No "bus pass" requests will be considered.
- Students will be assigned a seat and must remain in that assigned seat each day.
- Buses will be sanitized multiple times each day. Sanitizing products will meet the EPA criteria and be used according to manufacturers' guidelines.

## **Food Service**

- Breakfast and lunch plans will be building specific and will follow the guidance provided by local, state and federal guidelines.
- These plans may be revised throughout the year per local information and revisions to the guidelines.
- Per the extension of a USDA waiver, all students will receive free breakfast and lunch for the 2023-2024 school year.

## **Facilities**

- Meridian CUSD #101 has established increased cleaning and disinfection protocols at all district buildings that align with the ISBE, IDPH, and CDC recommendations.
- Performed each day by the district custodians after students are dismissed, daily cleaning includes disinfecting all desks and chairs, trash removal, spot cleaning of floors and surfaces, and room inspections.
- The district is using disinfectants that are proven effective and registered with the EPA. These chemicals also comply with the district's safety standards.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Throughout the 2023-2024 school year, Meridian CUSD #101 will utilize the following communication methods to keep stakeholders up to date on any changes regarding protocols:

- Meridian CUSD #101 website
- Phone and text alerts through our Teacherease
- Meridian CUSD #101 social media (Facebook and Twitter)

The district will communicate transmission and current positive cases/quarantine of students and staff through a graph located on the front page of the district's website: [www.meridian101.com](http://www.meridian101.com)  
This will be updated daily.

All parents/guardians who wish to receive communication should ensure that email addresses and phone numbers are up to date when completing the registration process or by calling your child's school for assistance from a building secretary.

## PLAN REVISIONS & PUBLIC INPUT

Plan revisions will be made at a minimum, every six months as required by the American Rescue Plan. Prior to any revisions, the district will seek public input through survey or open comment. Stakeholders will be notified of opportunities to provide input through district social media postings and the Teacherease email portal.

**Last update of this plan: May 8, 2023**