



School Opening Plan August 2022

Below is our plan for opening school on August 8, 2022. Please first check this page for any questions you may have. This page will be regularly updated. If your question is not addressed below, please contact your child's school or send us an email at charltonschools@charlton.k12.ga.us

Updated 7/30/2022

Approach

Charlton County Schools has continuously monitored federal, state, and local guidance regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of the specific information that has been reviewed includes the [Georgia Department of Education and Georgia Department of Public Health guidance](#), [World Health Organization guidance](#), and [CDC guidance](#). In addition to this guidance, we offered surveys to both personnel and parents to solicit input about the opening of school. Our school administrators have met often to make decisions and develop plans for the safe opening of our schools. The Board of Education has continuously monitored all recommendations and have solicited all available resources as needed for our students.

Learning Options

Virtual learning will only be available in 2022-2023 for students with current IEPs or those with medical conditions that warrant at home learning. Parents of students that meet either of these criteria need to contact the Charlton County Board of Education at (912) 496-2596 to discuss your child's situation.



A Frequently Asked Questions Document about traditional and virtual learning has been prepared and can be found [here](#).

Meal Service

Students enrolled in virtual learning may be able to take part in the school breakfast and lunch program. The details have not been finalized at this time. Within the first two-weeks of school, we hope to have pick-up areas available for virtual school parents to pick-up meals. Details will be sent home soon.

Action Plan

Details are below and organized alphabetically by topic.

Attendance

Charlton County Schools cannot completely waive attendance requirements per Georgia law. However, schools will work with parents to resolve attendance issues.

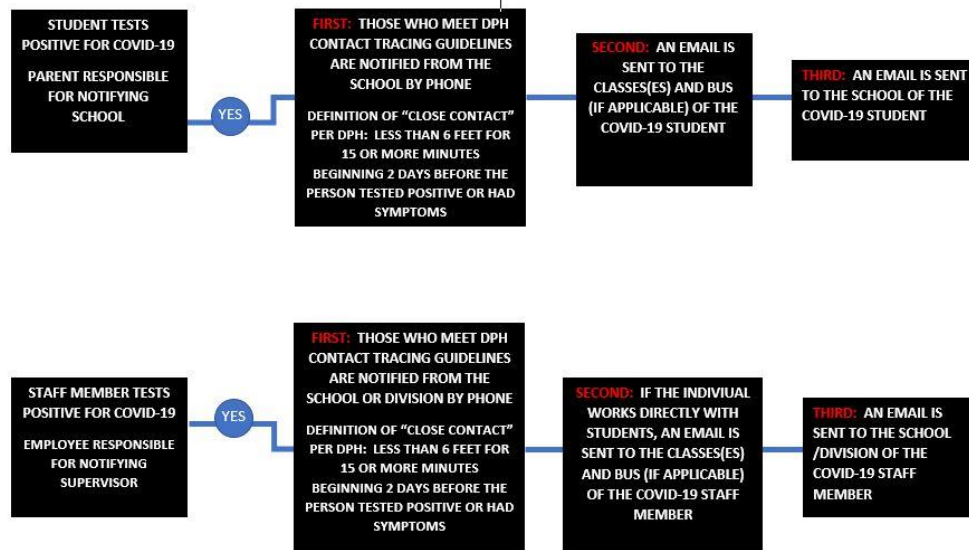
Cafeteria

Students will eat in school cafeterias and they will be socially distanced. The full time schedule will be maintained. Schedules may be adjusted to allow for social distancing. Due to social distancing, visitors cannot be accommodated in the cafeteria at this time.

Contact Tracing

Individuals (employees or students) who meet the Georgia Department of Public Health's contact tracing guidelines will be notified by the school system. In addition, individuals in a classroom where someone has tested positive for COVID-19 will be notified and encouraged to contact their healthcare provider. Due to privacy laws, individuals with COVID-19 will not be identified, and we ask that others not speculate about such instances.

COVID-19 COMMUNICATION GUIDE



Devices

Charlton County Schools does not have the ability to provide computers or connectivity devices at this time. Successful Virtual Learning requires an acceptable device and reliable internet connectivity.

Employees

Employees will be provided guidelines regarding:

- What to do if they are symptomatic/test positive for COVID-19
- What to do if they are in close contact with a person with COVID-19
- Contact Tracing
- Return-to-Work Protocol
- Employee Paid Sick Leave Act (EPSLA)
- Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act (EFMLEA)
- Cleaning routines and procedures

Extracurricular Activities (Including Athletics)

The continuation of athletics is determined by the Georgia High School Association.

Field Trips

Field trips will be permitted and will follow current COVID protocols.

First Day of School

The first day of school is August 8, 2022.

Illness at School

If a child is running a fever or exhibiting other [COVID-19 symptoms](#), a parent will be contacted to pick up the child. Students with COVID-19 symptoms will be separated while waiting for their parents. Please have a family plan in place so someone can respond to the school quickly to pick-up an ill student. It is critically important you keep your contact information updated with the school. If you change phone numbers, addresses or email addresses please let the school know as soon as possible. It will be best to call the school and speak with the secretary.

Instructional Model Changes

Charlton County Schools will use state and local guidance in making decisions regarding any transitions between instructional models, i.e. - traditional model to distance learning model, during the school year.



Masks

Masks are optional, but encouraged, for students and staff. A supply of face masks and face shields will be available. Please view the [CDC website](#) for further guidance on appropriate face coverings. While we are not mandating face masks, please understand we do strongly encourage all students and staff to wear one as we think it may allow us to continue school in the traditional in-person format.

Open House

Open House is from 5:00 – 7:00 on Thursday, August 4.

Quarantining

Based on Georgia Department of Public Health Guidelines, protocol is as follows:

Positive cases

- Students or staff that test positive must quarantine for 5 days from the date of their first symptoms, or from the date of the positive test, whichever came first. The date of the positive test or onset of symptoms is Day 0. Students may return after Day 5 **IF** they are symptom free and **IF** they wear a mask through Day 10.
- If a student or staff member still experiencing symptoms after Day 5 should remain in isolation until he or she is symptom free for 24 hours.

Direct Contacts (Exposure to a positive case)

- If a student or staff member is exposed to a positive case, **whether at school or outside of school**, he or she is not required to quarantine. Symptoms will be monitored, and the student will be quarantined only if he or she begins having symptoms.

Recess

Outdoor play is essential for students. Therefore, schools will continue to stagger the number of classes at recess at any given time and will spread out classes on the playground.



Safety Protocols

To mitigate the spread of infection and viruses, the following measures will be put in place:

- Staff and students are agreeing that by virtue of coming to school, they do not have a fever above 100.3 and do not have any symptoms of illness.
- A washable mask will be provided to all staff and students.
- All staff will be encouraged to wear masks when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.
- Students will also be encouraged to wear masks.
- All bus riders will be strongly encouraged to wear masks as properly social distancing on our buses will be impossible.
- Bus riders may be assigned seats on buses.
- Social distancing will occur when possible.
- Enhanced hand-washing and sanitizing protocols will be in place.
- School buildings will be thoroughly cleaned on a daily basis.
- Student numbers will be reduced in the cafeteria during breakfast/lunch.
- Outside visitors will be limited.
- Water fountains will not be operational. However, water filling stations have been ordered and, water fountains designated as filling stations will be available for students to refill water bottles.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be provided in each school office and cafeteria.
- Every classroom will have hand sanitizer.
- Transitions will be minimized and coordinated at the school level.

- At drop-off, students will go straight to their designated area. There will be no hallway congregating before, during, or after school.
- School supplies will not be shared among students.
- Desks will be assigned within classrooms. Class transitions will occur at all levels, with schools utilizing a variety of disease mitigation measures. We have asked teachers to remove as much furniture as possible from classrooms to allow for maximum social distancing. It will be impossible to fully social distance in all classrooms.

Social Distancing

The following steps will be implemented to provide social distancing wherever possible:

- Flexible seating is being adjusted and oversized furniture will be removed to provide the maximum possible spacing between student desks.
- Social distance signs will be in the cafeteria line and strategically placed throughout each school building.
- Students will be distanced in cafeterias as possible.
- Any small group instruction occurring will not involve shared toys or supplies. Students will be as distanced as possible and teachers are encouraged to wear a mask if they are less than six feet from any other individuals.



Special Education

The Charlton County School District remains committed to providing students eligible for special education services with an individualized education program (IEP) that opt for virtual learning. Because online learning may affect how special education and related services are provided, each student's IEP team will work to ensure that the student receives services to the most possible extent.

Specials/Connections Classes

Distancing and no sharing of supplies will be utilized.

Transportation

As students will not be socially distanced on buses, they are strongly encouraged to wear masks. In addition, students may be assigned seats. High touch areas on all buses will be cleaned twice daily.

Visitors

Visitors, including parent visitors, will only be allowed in the lobby area of each school. Conferences and other teacher meetings must be scheduled in advance. At this time, we are unable to accommodate visitors in the cafeteria.

Parent Expectations

Daily, assess your child/children for the below signs and symptoms **PRIOR TO SENDING THEM TO SCHOOL OR THE SCHOOL BUS:**

- Fever (greater than 100.3°F) or chills
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- New cough
- New loss of taste or smell

If your child has any of these symptoms, they must stay home and you should contact your child's healthcare provider.