

## **ESSER III In-Person Safety Protocols**

**Updated 10/26/2021**

- \* Universal and correct wearing of masks

Masks will be preferred starting November 1, 2021; however, Decatur City Schools nurses will continue to mask any student that shows signs of a communicable disease. Masks will be provided upon request by student/parent. Otherwise, Decatur City Schools will monitor COVID positives and continue to report positives. Any change from “mask preferred” will require a Board vote.

- \* Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g. Use of cohorts or podding)

Rooms will be set up for physically distancing where possible. Desk shields and dividers will be available where needed. Some dividers will remain on group tables.

- \* Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Signs regarding handwashing techniques and etiquette will be posted in restrooms/classrooms. Decatur City Schools has developed a handwashing technique/reminder video. Hand sanitizer will also be available in all entry points and classrooms. General information about COVID safety protocols will be posted in each building.

- \* Cleaning and maintain healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

DCS will maintain a high level of disinfecting on top of our normal cleaning protocols. Electrostatic sprayers are used in every facility. Air filtration systems, air scrubs, and air ionizers are being placed in high population and high respiratory output areas (such as gymnasiums, choir rooms, and band rooms, etc.)

- \* Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine in collaboration with health departments

Any student suspected of having a communicable disease will be isolated. Close contact quarantine will be the responsibility of the Alabama Department of Public Health. As always, DCS will notify Alabama Department of Public Health of any suspected communicable diseases. Schools will notify families of positive cases within the building/area in which they may have been exposed.

- \* Diagnostic and screening testing

Decatur City Schools is not a diagnostic site. Decatur City Schools will screen students and staff for major symptoms. Those with major symptoms will be referred to the Alabama Department of Public Health – Morgan County and Decatur Morgan Hospital, or other agency.

- \* Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies

Alternative education plans (such as a 504 or IEP) will be developed for students with health concerns.

- \* Coordination with State and local health officials to provide vaccinations to school communities

COVID vaccines are available through partnerships with have established with the Alabama Department of Public Health – Morgan County and Decatur Morgan Hospital. DCS will schedule another round of vaccinations for staff the week of August 16.