

**SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN  
2022-2023**



BOARD APPROVED  
JUL 28 2022  
ABERDEEN SCHOOL DISTRICT

**MISSION STATEMENT**

**The mission of the Aberdeen School District is to inspire ALL students to become problem solvers, life-long learners, and productive members of society.**

**VISION STATEMENT**

**Student centered, Student focused, Student driven**

**DISTRICT MOTTO**

**The Right Way....Every Day....The Bulldog Way!**

**THEME**

**Never stop Growing....Be the Change You Want to See in ASD!**

**Dr. Andrea Pastchal-Smith, Superintendent**

The Aberdeen School District is committed to its mission of educating all students to become productive citizens in a dynamic, global community. The safety and well-being of our students, staff, and families are the foundation of fulfilling that mission. We have developed and will continue to refine our Safe Return Plan. The plan will be reviewed and revised as necessary.



**NOTE:** Throughout this document, there are words in blue writing that are underlined. These are direct links to the CDC for further guidance.

### **The Aberdeen School District Safe Return Plan includes:**

Virtual Learning will not be an option for students beginning the 2022-2023 school year. However, if virtual learning options are deemed necessary by the administration, the option will be limited to students who meet the criteria below:

- Students with medical limitations that require a virtual setting OR
- Cases where the administration has determined virtual instruction is the best option for the student at the time (to include, but not limited to, quarantine or isolation).
- Maintain good grades (maintain a "C" average or higher in all classes).
- Comply with the District's student code of conduct and discipline policies.
- Maintain attendance by attending all classes (no more than three (3) unexcused absences).
- Complete and submit all assignments as given by their teachers by the specified date and time.
- Have access to a reliable internet connection.
- Abide by any other responsibilities approved by the Board of Trustees or the Superintendent.



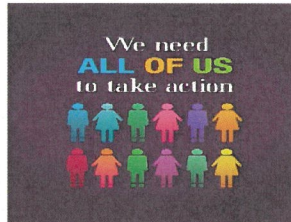
### **RETURN GOALS**

1. Utilize the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE), Center for Disease Control (CDC), and the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) for updated guidelines and recommendations to ensure the safety and well-being of staff and students.
2. Assess academic gaps and provide accelerated catch-up growth opportunities.
3. Evaluate the social and emotional needs of our students and staff.
4. Keep schools open all year without having to endure school closure.



**MITIGATION AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS**

1. All eligible students, teachers, and staff should receive COVID-19 vaccination.
2. All students, teachers, and staff who have symptoms of any infectious illness, regardless of vaccination status, should stay home from school and be evaluated by their healthcare provider.
3. Surfaces will be cleaned daily and disinfected frequently.
4. Social distancing guidelines will be followed to the maximum extent possible.
5. Hand sanitizer stations will be available throughout campuses.
6. Campus visitation will be limited; visitors must schedule visits through the building administration.
7. Parent/guardian (or employee) must notify the principal (or supervisor) immediately upon receiving positive test results.
8. The District will isolate and exclude COVID-19 infected students/staff and continue contact tracing to identify exposed individuals for quarantine and exclusion from the school setting.
9. Ongoing analysis of school data to determine appropriate learning mode.
10. Administration may transition individual(s), school(s), class(es), or grade(s) to virtual learning as deemed necessary.



**SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES**

<b><u>Family</u></b>	<b><u>School</u></b>
<p><b>PPE and Supplies</b> Launder/clean face coverings. Replace unserviceable face coverings.</p> <p><b>Health Checks</b> Check your child's temperature each morning. Keep your child at home when sick.</p> <p><b>Technology</b> Provide internet connectivity for the child's device OR indicate the need for support with device connectivity. Inspect student devices daily and alert the school of damage or loss. Keep your device charged overnight.</p>	<p><b>PPE and Supplies</b> Have face coverings available for all students. Provide hand sanitizer, soap, gloves, and disinfectants to custodial teams.</p> <p><b>Health Checks</b> Conduct periodic temperature checks of staff and students.</p> <p><b>Technology</b> Provide an internet-ready device for all ASD students. Provide technical support to parents.</p>



### **BREAKFAST AND LUNCH**

1. Based on school population and cafeteria size, protocols may differ from school to school.
2. Social distance practices will be implemented to the maximum extent possible.
3. If school(s) transition to virtual learning mode, meals will be available for pick-up at each school between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. daily (subject to change).



### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

1. Extracurricular activities and sports are subject to the same mitigation protocols as our physical school buildings. Therefore, if a student cannot attend school in person because of concerns for transmission of COVID-19, they cannot participate in these activities for the same reason.
2. Each sport and/or activity affiliated with the Mississippi High School Activities Association (MHSAA) will adhere to the established guidelines as defined by the MHSAA, CDC, and MSDH for health and safety.
3. Community transmission rates will be considered to determine which activities are appropriate.
4. Spectators, nonessential visitors, and nonessential activities may be limited or prohibited.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

The Aberdeen School District Department of Transportation will continue to provide bus transportation for students during the 2022-2023 school year. Buses will be disinfected following each route.

Stay Home  Stay Safe

### **WHO SHOULD QUARANTINE and WHAT TO DO FOR QUARANTINE?**

If you come into close contact with someone with COVID-19, you should quarantine if you are not [up to date](#) on COVID-19 vaccines. This includes people who are not vaccinated.

- Stay home and away from other people for at least 5 days (day 0 through day 5) after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19. The date of your exposure is considered day 0. Wear a [well-fitting mask](#) when around others at home, if possible.
- For 10 days after your last close contact with someone with COVID-19, watch for fever (100.4°F or greater), cough, shortness of breath, or other [COVID-19 symptoms](#).
- If you develop symptoms, [get tested](#) immediately and isolate until you receive your test results. If you test positive, follow [isolation](#) recommendations.
- If you do not develop symptoms, [get tested](#) at least 5 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19.
  - If you test negative, you can leave your home, but continue to wear a [well-fitting mask](#) when around others at home and in public until 10 days after your last close contact with someone with COVID-19.
  - If you test positive, you should isolate for at least 5 days from the date of your positive test (if you do not have symptoms). If you do develop [COVID-19 symptoms](#), isolate for at least 5 days from the date your symptoms began (the date

the symptoms started is day 0). Follow recommendations in the [isolation](#) section below.

- If you are unable to get a test 5 days after last close contact with someone with COVID-19, you can leave your home after day 5 if you have been without [COVID-19 symptoms](#) throughout the 5-day period. Wear a [well-fitting mask](#) for 10 days after your date of last close contact when around others at home and in public.
- Avoid people who have [weakened immune systems](#) or [are more likely to get very sick](#) from COVID-19, and nursing homes and other high-risk settings, until after at least 10 days.
- If possible, stay away from people you live with, especially people who are at [higher risk](#) for getting very sick from COVID-19, as well as others outside your home throughout the full 10 days after your last close contact with someone with COVID-19.
- If you are unable to quarantine, you should wear a [well-fitting mask](#) for 10 days when around others at home and in public.
- If you are unable to wear a mask when around others, you should continue to quarantine for 10 days. Avoid people who have [weakened immune systems](#) or [are more likely to get very sick](#) from COVID-19, and nursing homes and other high-risk settings, until after at least 10 days.
- Do not go to places where you are unable to wear a mask, such as restaurants and some gyms, and avoid eating around others at home and at work until after 10 days after your last close contact with someone with COVID-19.

### **RECAP**

- If positive for COVID follow the guidelines above recommended by the CDC.
- 5 days at home
- Fever free for 24 hours
- Wear a mask 5 days after returning

#### **After quarantine**

- Watch for symptoms until 10 days after your last close contact with someone with COVID-19.
- If you have symptoms, isolate immediately and [get tested](#).



### **WHO DOES NOT NEED TO QUARANTINE?**

If you had close contact with someone with COVID-19 and you are in one of the following groups, you **do not need to quarantine**.

- You are [up to date](#) with your COVID-19 vaccines (both shots and the booster).
- You had confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days (meaning you tested positive using a [viral test](#)).

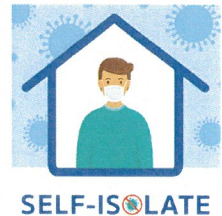
If you are up to date with COVID-19 vaccines, you should wear a [well-fitting mask](#) around others for 10 days from the date of your last close contact with someone with COVID-19 (the date of last close contact is considered day 0). [Get tested](#) at least 5 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19. If you test positive or develop COVID-19 symptoms, isolate from other people and follow recommendations in the [Isolation](#) section below. If you tested positive for COVID-19 with a [viral test](#) within the previous 90 days and subsequently recovered and remain without COVID-19 symptoms, you do not need to quarantine or [get tested](#) after close contact. You should wear a [well-fitting mask](#) around others for 10 days from the date of your last close contact with someone with COVID-19



(the date of last close contact is considered day 0). If you have COVID-19 symptoms, get tested and isolate from other people and follow recommendations in the [Isolation](#) section below.

## **ISOLATION**

[Isolation](#) is separating people who have COVID-19 or [symptoms of COVID-19](#) from those who are not infected or showing symptoms in order to prevent transmission of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. People isolate when they show symptoms of COVID-19 or are infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, even if they don't have [symptoms](#). Isolation is different from [quarantine](#). Quarantine is used by someone who has been exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19 but has not tested positive for COVID-19 and does not have symptoms. Quarantine is important because even before a person has tested positive for COVID-19 or has symptoms, they could spread the virus that causes COVID-19 to other people without knowing it. Quarantine is used to prevent transmission of the virus by ensuring that [certain people](#) who have been in [close contact](#) with someone with COVID-19 stay apart from others. If people have symptoms and/or have a positive [viral test](#) for COVID-19 while in quarantine, they should immediately begin the process for isolation.



## **WHO NEEDS TO ISOLATE?**

People who have confirmed or suspected COVID-19 or are showing symptoms of COVID-19 need to isolate regardless of vaccination status. More specifically,

- People who have a [positive viral test](#) for COVID-19, regardless of whether or not they have [symptoms](#).
- People with [symptoms](#) of COVID-19, including people who are awaiting test results or have not been tested. People with symptoms should isolate even if they do not know if they have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19.

## **EXPOSURE**

- If you were **exposed** to COVID-19 and are [up to date](#) on COVID-19 vaccinations-first and second shot and booster- **NO QUARANTINE**.
- You do not need to stay home unless you develop symptoms.
- Even if you do not develop symptoms, [get tested](#) at least 5 days after you last had [close contact](#) with someone with COVID-19.
- If you were exposed to COVID-19 and had confirmed COVID-19 within the past 90 days (you tested positive using a viral test)-**NO QUARANTINE**

## **SYMPTOMS**

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Anyone can have mild to severe symptoms. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea



<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

## Guidance for Vaccinations

Aberdeen School District urges all employees and students with parent permission to be fully vaccinated.



According to the Mississippi State Department of Health, vaccination remains the primary public health prevention strategy to end transmission and allow for safe participation of in-person classes and school sponsored extra-curricular activities.



## Guidance for Masks/Face Coverings

For the start of the 2022-2023 school year, masks will be optional. The District will monitor rates of transmission and adjust our mask procedures accordingly.

## ACTIONS BY ASD TO STAY HEALTHY

### Handwashing & Hand Sanitizing



Handwashing removes pathogens from the surface of the hands. While handwashing with soap and water is the best option, alcohol-based hand sanitizer (at least 60 percent ethanol or at least 70 percent isopropanol) may be utilized when handwashing is not available. As has always been the case, handwashing should be used whenever hands are visibly soiled and after using the bathroom.

Students and staff are required to exercise hand hygiene (handwashing or sanitizing) upon arrival to school, before eating, and before dismissal.

**Handwashing:** When handwashing, individuals should use soap and water to wash all surfaces of their hands for at least 20 seconds, wait for visible lather, rinse thoroughly, and dry with an individual disposable towel.

**Hand sanitizing:** If handwashing is not feasible, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent ethanol or at least 70 percent isopropanol content can be used. Hand sanitizer should be applied to all surfaces of the hands and in sufficient quantity that it takes 20 seconds of rubbing hands together for the sanitizer to dry. Hand sanitizer should be placed at key locations (e.g., building entrances, cafeteria, classrooms).

The district may implement strategies to reduce risks to the safety and health of students and staff from COVID-19 that include conducting daily in-person or virtual health checks when there is an elevated risk (e.g., symptom and/or temperature screening, questionnaires, self-checks and self-questionnaires). Any such screening will consider ways to maintain confidentiality as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Because people infected with COVID-19 can spread the virus even if they do not have signs or symptoms of infection, temperature screening may play a part in a comprehensive program to monitor student health during the pandemic.

**We look forward to a healthy and safe school year!**

## Return to School Guidance Important Links

U.S. CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL	<a href="https://www.cdc.gov/">https://www.cdc.gov/</a>
MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	<a href="https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,0,420.html">https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,0,420.html</a> <a href="https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/resources/14025.pdf">https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/resources/14025.pdf</a>
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION	<a href="https://www.mdek12.org/guidance2020-21">https://www.mdek12.org/guidance2020-21</a>
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS	<a href="https://www.aap.org/">https://www.aap.org/</a>

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