

# Aberdeen School District

P.O. Box 607  
Aberdeen, ms 39730-0607  
(662) 369-4682 phone (662) 369-3425 fax

*Student driven, Student centered, Student focused*

## **Return to School Plan 2020-2021 School Year**

The Aberdeen School District's Board of Education and ASD Superintendent are committed to the ongoing safety of our staff and students. The Aberdeen School District has taken steps this summer to prepare for the health, wellness, and safety of our students and staff for the upcoming school year. These guidelines will be updated as new information is made available from The MS Department of Health and/or the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE)

On June 8, 2020, MDE issued [Considerations for Reopening Mississippi Schools](#). In the MDE document, three learning options were outlined, a traditional school model, a hybrid school model, and a distance learning model.

The Aberdeen School District plans to begin the school year with the hybrid/distance learning model with precautions and protocols designed around the health and well-being of our students and staff. We feel that the hybrid/distance learning model provides the greatest opportunity for student success. Students will be expected to meet the requirements that are set forth by the Mississippi Department of Education and the Aberdeen School District.

**Hybrid Model for Learning** combines face-to-face classroom instruction with online activities. This approach reduces the amount of seat time in a traditional face-to-face course and moves more of the course delivery online. During classroom instruction time, students can be engaged in authentic, collaborative learning experiences. The online components can include multimedia-enhanced content and channels for ongoing discussion.

**Distance Learning Model**- Distance learning is the education of students who may not always be physically present at a [school](#). A distance learning program can be completely distance learning, or a combination of distance learning and traditional classroom instruction.

### **Health Services**

1. The school nurse will provide COVID-19 safety training/materials to faculty and staff before students return to school and throughout the school year as guidelines are updated from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).
2. If your child has medication needs, you will need to contact the school to discuss with the nurse.
3. Any student with asthma MUST have a current Asthma Action Plan on file with the school nurse. Your physician may fax this documentation to your child's school.
4. Staff will have their temperatures checked by school personnel daily.
5. Parents should screen children at home prior to sending them to school. If your child has a fever of 100.4 or greater, they should not be sent to school.
6. If your child has a fever, they should be fever free 24 hours with no medication

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6. If your child has a fever, they must be fever free 24 hours with no medication.
7. Loss of taste and/or smell are positive signs of COVID.
8. Students/staff who are symptomatic while at school, will be issued a mask to wear and separated from others until they are picked up by a parent or leave the building.

### **Cases of COVID-19 in the District-All CDC and MDE Guidelines will be followed**

1. The individual will be quarantined from school and school related activities for a minimum of 14 days and will require a physician's recommendation to return to school.
2. When possible, the individual will be expected to participate in digital learning so that his/her education is not interrupted and they do not incur an absence.
3. Parents will be notified of those that have been in "close contact" with the individual with the positive test result. This notification will be via email and a hard copy mailed home. Close contacts with the COVID-19 positive individual will also be quarantined from school and school related activities for 14 days.
4. Contact tracing at the school will be conducted and anyone in close contact (someone who has been within 6 feet of an infected person for 15 minutes or more) with this person will be notified.
5. If you are notified, your child will need to quarantine for 14 days from the last known contact. While quarantining your child may not attend school or any school activities. However, they should continue working digitally in order to be counted present.
6. The definition of an outbreak is 3 or more cases from one area.
7. A disruption of in-person, on campus classes can cause a close-down for a short period of time.

### **Cleaning/Hygiene**

1. Cleaning with approved products will target frequently touched hard, non-porous surfaces several times throughout the day.
2. Our janitorial service (Robinson Janitorial) will follow appropriate guidelines to ensure proper cleaning and disinfection of our campuses every evening.
3. Students and families will be provided with best practices for hygiene during the school day.
4. CDC posters will be visible throughout campuses to encourage social distancing and best practices in slowing the spread of COVID19.

### **PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)**

1. Use of personal masks will be mandatory for students for the safety of those around them. Cloth masks should be washed daily just like the clothes we wear are washed. Partitions do not replace masks.
2. Use of personal masks will be required for staff; however, modifications can be made at each school by administration.
3. Other PPE will be purchased and utilized as deemed necessary.

### **Before School**

1. Staff and students should not come to school if:
  - They have been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19.
  - They are experiencing a cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat.
  - They have had a fever of 100.4 or more in the 24 hours prior to the school day.
  - They have experienced new loss of taste or smell.
  - They have experienced vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours prior to the day in question.

### **Transportation**

1. Parents are encouraged to provide transportation to and from school if possible to

## **Transportation**

1. Parents are encouraged to provide transportation to and from school if possible to lower the number of students on the buses.
2. Students will be separated on the bus where feasible. Siblings or children living in the same household will be seated together.
3. Drivers and any students who choose to utilize bus transportation will be required to wear masks for the duration of the route to school.
4. Buses will keep a good flow of air through air conditioning or open windows.
5. Buses will be appropriately disinfected after each use.
6. Hand sanitizer will be made available.
7. Bus drivers will be properly trained in COVID-19 safety measures.

## **Arrival to school**

1. Students cannot be dropped off before 7:10.
2. Students that are driving do not need to arrive on campus until 7:10.
3. Staff members will have their temperature taken upon arrival. All students will have temperature checks upon arrival to school.
  - Any staff or student who has a temperature of 100.4 or above will be sent to the nurse. The nurse or school personnel for students will contact parents.
4. Any student arriving after the normal arrival time will check in at the office and have his/her temperature taken.

## **Dismissal from school**

1. If a student pickup is necessary during the day, parents must call the school first.
2. Use the car line for student pick-up only. There will not be in-person parent pick-up in an effort to avoid parent gatherings in the school lobby or in front of school.
3. Afternoon dismissals are as follows: AHS 1:15, AES 1:30, and BSMS 1:45.

## **Breakfast and Lunch**

1. Will be delivered to the classrooms by cafeteria staff.
2. Hand washing opportunities and hand sanitizer will be available before and after both breakfast and lunch in addition to throughout the day.

## **Classrooms**

1. Multiple social distancing strategies will be posted and implemented based on feasibility of the unique space and needs of each school.
2. Excess furniture will be removed to encourage as much social distancing as possible.
3. School personnel will speak with students in regard to social distancing and appropriate hygiene.
4. Students will keep and utilize their own supplies for use in the classroom. Shared supplies and manipulative materials will be discouraged.
5. Upon entering and leaving classrooms, students will move in a predetermined specified fashion so as to eliminate bottle-necking at entrances and exits.
6. Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottles. Water fountains could possibly be limited due to circumstances yet unknown.
7. Hand washing and hand sanitizing will be encouraged multiple times a day.
8. Teachers/staff and Robinson Janitorial Staff will sanitize throughout the day.

## **Hallway Traffic**

1. Hallway traffic will be limited by schedule, and students will be monitored while walking in hallways.
2. Movement throughout buildings will be limited or reduced.
3. Students will follow a predetermined route to and from all destinations.

## **Visitors and Vendors**

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2. If a visit to a school is necessary, parents or other visitors must call the child's school and make an appointment.
3. Upon arrival for the appointment, the parent's temperature will be taken.
4. Vendors who have to service buildings will undergo a temperature screening
5. No lunch guests will be allowed.
6. No lunch or snack delivery will be permitted. These items must be brought to school with the student.

#### **Playgrounds**

1. Students will be monitored for social distancing while on playgrounds.
2. Hand washing/sanitizer will be available before and after playground time.
3. Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle. For students without water, plans will be utilized to safely provide water, should water fountains be unavailable.

#### **Athletics/Activities**

- Mississippi High School Activities Association (MHSAA) and Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) guidelines will be followed. Contact the Athletic Director, Mrs. Sherell Drake @ 6623698933 ext 217 for further questions.

#### **Other General Items**

1. The role of children in the transmission of COVID-19 is unclear at this time. Face Coverings may be challenging for students, especially younger students, to wear in an "all-day" setting, such as school.
2. These guidelines will be updated with new information as public health data, safety precautions, and appropriate guidance is received.
  - No field trips will be permitted.
  - Only essential vendors will be allowed on campus but will be screened and required to wear a mask.
  - Cleaning/Disinfecting a classroom or area with a confirmed case:
    - Safely disinfect areas used by the person who is sick.
    - Schools will not necessarily need to close operations, if an area can be effectively disinfected.
    - All areas used by the person who is sick will be disinfected.
    - Once an area has been appropriately disinfected, it can be opened for use.
    - Continue routine cleaning and disinfection. This includes everyday practices that ASD normally utilizes to maintain a healthy environment.

#### **COVID EMERGENCY SHUT DOWN PROCEDURES**

If a health emergency arises to the CDC recommendation for shut down, the Superintendent, with consultation with the Board of education will call for the temporary dismissal of students from the ASD campuses. The following procedures will occur.

1. The Superintendent will announce the temporary closing of the ASD campuses.
2. School buildings will be closed for sanitizing for 48 hours, or the current CDC recommended time for closure for sanitizing/disinfecting.
3. When the Superintendent announces the buildings are safe for return, the teachers will report to their classroom to conduct online lessons.
4. Students will remain in distance learning mode until the Superintendent announces the reopening of the schools.

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**Aberdeen School  
District  
Superintendent**

Jeff Clay  
[jclay@asdms.us](mailto:jclay@asdms.us)

**Aberdeen  
Elementary  
Principal**

Kristen Fondren  
[kfondren@asdms.us](mailto:kfondren@asdms.us)

**Belle-Shivers Middle  
School  
Principal**

Karen Howard  
[khoward@asdms.us](mailto:khoward@asdms.us)

**Aberdeen High  
School  
Principal**

Dr. Dana Bullard  
[dbullard@asdms.us](mailto:dbullard@asdms.us)

Assistant Principal  
Lisa Leatherman  
[lleatherman@asdms.us](mailto:lleatherman@asdms.us)

Assistant Principal  
Shanika McKinney  
[smckinney@asdms.us](mailto:smckinney@asdms.us)

Assistant  
Principal/Athletic  
Director Sherell Drake  
[sdrake@asdms.us](mailto:sdrake@asdms.us)

(662) 369-4682

1100 Commerce St.  
P. O. Box 607  
Aberdeen, MS 39730

(662)369-4782-  
Phone

(662)319-9216-Fax

508 West Commerce  
St.  
Aberdeen, MS 39703

(662) 369-6241 (Phone)  
(662) 319-8931-Fax  
(Shivers Office)

(662) 369-0911-Fax (Belle  
Office)

518 Vine Street  
Aberdeen, MS 39703

(662) 369-8933 Phone  
(662) 369-3321 Fax

205 Highway 145 North  
Aberdeen, MS 39730





- 1. Are students going to return to school?** Yes. Students are going to return to school on August 24, 2020. Aberdeen has chosen two ways to return to school: the Hybrid Model and the Distance Learning. Student who choose the Hybrid Model will attend in person and designated to attend on certain days. Students choosing the Distance Learning Model will remain home for virtual learning.
- 2. Will buses run for transporting students? If yes, what if any new stipulations will be in place?** Yes. Buses will run for transporting students on the hybrid schedule.
- 3. Will bus drivers and students will be required to wear masks or an appropriate face covering while on the bus.** Yes. Masks will be provided for students who need them. We understand the concerns some parents may have regarding their student wearing a mask and encourage you to provide your own transportation if at all possible. Fewer students on the buses will allow for better social distancing practices on the bus.
- 4. Will my child be required to wear a mask while in class?** Yes. However, due to the constant recommendation changes being made by federal, state and local agencies, we strongly recommend that you provide and be prepared for your child to wear a mask. To continuously promote a climate of respect and safety, masks must be free from words and pictures that advertise offensive or inappropriate messages for school. School colors or school mascot themed masks (Bulldogs) are acceptable.
  - Can my child wear a team logo mask? YES
  - Can my child wear a patterned mask? YES.

\* The administrator reserves the right to decide if a mask is appropriate or inappropriate.

- 5. Will my child be required to wear uniforms?** Yes. The uniforms/ dress code has not and will not change for the 2020-2021 school year. *Grades K-8<sup>th</sup> only in uniforms.*
- 6. Will breakfast and lunch be provided to my child?** Yes. All students will be receiving free breakfast and lunch for the 2020-2021 school year. Meals will be delivered to the classrooms for students who are hybrid learners. Hybrid learners will also receive a take home meal for the days they are not on campus. Distance learning students will be offered a “grab and go” lunch at Aberdeen High School during a 30-minute time frame designated by the Child Nutrition Director.
- 7. Can I send a healthy snack/ items to my child’s class?** Parents may send individual snacks for their child. Please do not send classroom snacks/items. Healthy snacks will need to be brought with the child to school. Parents cannot drop off snacks or other items.
- 8. Will my child get to go outside for recess/ breaks?** Yes. Students may be allowed to go outside for recess and breaks on staggered schedules. They will also be receiving enrichment classes such as PE, computer, art, and library. Each school’s plan may vary because of logistics and time.
- 9. Will I be allowed to visit my child’s class?** No. Parents/visitors will not be allowed to visit classrooms. Visitors to school buildings will be extremely limited. Parents must call the school FIRST.
- 10. How will students be dismissed from school each day?** Students will be dismissed from school in a staggered schedule to buses and car rider lines.
- 11. Will the school supply list be reasonable and affordable?** Yes. We have created district wide condensed school supply lists for each grade. These lists can be found on our district website and at the following stores: Wal-Mart in West Point, Columbus and Amory and Dollar General in Aberdeen.
- 12. Will there be field trips?** No. Students will not be going on field trips. Teachers

found on our district website and at the following stores: Wal-Mart in West Point, Columbus and Amory and Dollar General in Aberdeen.

**12. Will there be field trips?** No. Students will not be going on field trips. Teachers will be engaging students through virtual field trips.

**13. Will attendance be mandatory?** Yes. Attendance will be taken daily for each student whether they have chosen the distance learning model or the hybrid learning model.

**14. Will there be distance learning options for my child if I have a documented reason for them to not attend school?** Yes. Distance learning options will be provided for students who cannot attend school due to documented health concerns. However; if the distance learning option is chosen, you will be required to maintain that learning option for 9 weeks. Also, students participating in the distance learning option will not be allowed to participate in athletic or other extracurricular activities that require after-school practices for contact sports.

**15. What if my child requires distance learning options and I don't have internet or a device?** We will work with parents on a case by case basis to help meet the academic and technology needs of individual students. If there are specific concerns, parents are encouraged to contact their child's school.

**16. How will social distancing be practiced at school?** Administrators and teachers will be making adjustments to their classrooms to allow for students to spread out as much as possible. Each classroom will house a limited number of students. Schools will encourage and monitor social distancing practices among students.

**17. What kinds of measures will be taken to ensure that buildings are sanitized?** Administrators, teachers, and Robinson Janitorial Services will be ensuring that all classrooms, bathrooms, hallways, and all high traffic areas are routinely cleaned and sanitized. Extra supplies are being ordered and each classroom will have what is needed to ensure the well-being of students and staff. We also recommend students bring personal hand sanitizer if desired.

**18. What kinds of safety measures are being put in place to help ensure the health of all children?**

- All students and staff will be have their temperature checked daily.
- All schools will have access to a nurse on campus every day.
- If a student has a fever of 100.4 or higher, he will be isolated until a parent picks him up.
- Hand sanitizer available in every classroom and high traffic areas.
- The requirement of masks for students and staff.
- We strongly encourage parents to conduct daily temperature checks on their children. Do not send students to school if they have a temperature. Keep them home until they have been symptom free for 24 hours without medication.
- Parents may want to send bottled waters for hydration throughout the day.

**19. What happens if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19?** The Aberdeen School District will follow the federal, state and local mandates related to staff and students who test positive for COVID-19.

**20. Will athletic and other extracurricular activities resume as normal?** We will follow MHSAA guidelines and recommendations as it pertains to athletic events. Activities will resume as normal as possible and as allowed by federal, state and/ or local mandates. Students participating in the distance learning option will not be allowed to participate in athletics.

### **Distance Learning Information**

**1. How often do students need to log in to participate?** Students need to log in daily to check assignments and communication from the teacher, administration, and classmates. In order to comply with Mississippi Department of Education guidelines, attendance will be taken daily through our Learning Management System (LMS) Campus Knot. Students who do not sign in will be counted absent.

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Aberdeen School District Attendance Policy applies to ALL students (hybrid and distance). Without daily, consistent, participation in online learning, a student will very quickly find himself or herself behind the pace of the course and struggling to catch up.

Getting behind will make transitioning back to the classroom very difficult for those who choose to return to school after the first nine week grading period not to mention it will adversely affect his or her grade. When students aren't successful in a distance learning environment it is typically due to not dedicating the necessary time to their coursework.

**2. How much time should students set aside each week for coursework?**

Each course is designed to meet the requirements of MDE Accreditation. A waiver signed by the State Board of Education on June 11, 2020 states that districts are required to provide a minimum of 240 instructional minutes per day. Each school will have a specific schedule for each grade level and/or subject area.

**3. How should parents and guardians be notified of updates, announcements, or other pertinent news regarding their child's learning or coursework?**

Most school or district communication comes through Thrill Share and/or School Status to the cell phone number or email address on file with the district. If you are not receiving messages from Thrillshare or School Status, please contact your child's school and update your information. Each school has their individual Facebook page and will use it to publicize information. Teachers and administrators may also post announcements in Campusknot our LMS.

**4. How will distance learners be tested?** At the end of a unit of instruction, the teacher will contact the parents to schedule a time for testing. AES and AHS are testing face-to-face (following CDC guidelines) and BSMS will be using the features of Zoom to test students.

**5. When can a student transition from distance learning back to the classroom setting?** Students will have the opportunity to transition back to the classroom setting Hybrid Model at the end of each 9 weeks. Transitioning at the end of a grading period creates a smooth transition for students, teachers, and school administration.

**6. How often can I or my child expect to hear from his online teacher?** In regard to communications, teachers are expected to send weekly emails to parents of online learners, provide hours to assist students with assignments as needed, and conduct at least two video check-ins each week to keep students on pace with course content. As a parent of an online learner, you are always welcome to email your child's teacher for learning progress updates or you can visit Active Parent in Sam Spectra for grades on submitted assignments.

**7. If my child receives special services, will he or she receive them as an online learner?** We also recognize that students learn at different rates and some students need additional learning support, such as academic support, special education services, English Language Learner services, and gifted services. All of the aforementioned services will be provided to your child as if he were in the regular classroom setting. For more information on any particular student service please contact your child's school.

**8. How will students participating in distance learning be graded?** Online courses will contain the same rigor and expectations of traditional "brick-and-mortar" classrooms. Students are expected to view all instructional materials and complete all assignments. Failure to do so will adversely affect the student's grade. The Aberdeen School District grading policy will be followed for all online learners just as if they were in the classroom. Parents can track the academic performance of their distance learning in Campusknot or Active Parent.



