

Madison City Schools Revised Reentry Plan



2021-2022

Issued August 2, 2021

Mask requirement effective August 4, 2021

(updated information highlighted in yellow)

Dear Parents, Teachers, Staff, Students, and Community,

Today we received the ADPH toolkit for school systems in Alabama. The ADPH recommends that masks be worn in all schools. Furthermore, the ADPH states that if masks are worn in schools and a student tests positive, only people within three feet for more than 15 minutes would be required to quarantine unless symptomatic. Additionally, anyone that has been vaccinated will not be subject to quarantining regardless of the close contact distance unless symptomatic.

Last year, anyone within 6 feet was subject to quarantining even if they wore a mask. This resulted in nearly 6,000 students and staff being sent home for 10 days. We even had students required to quarantine more than once. These quarantining events caused stress on parents finding child care, teachers trying to support out-of-class learning, and most of all, disruption to our kid's educational programming. Furthermore, very few students required to quarantine ever tested positive. Our goal is to always have as much face-to-face instruction as possible for our students. I believe these new guidelines will enable us to keep more of our students in the classroom this year.

Therefore, with this new information, I am going to mandate masks at this time for all students and staff in the Madison City School District when they are inside school buildings effective August 4. I believe that this is the safest and least disruptive decision for our MCS Family. Of course, there will be occasions when masks will need to be removed during lunch and some educational programs.

Furthermore, a recent update from the TSA still requires masks for all modes of public transportation. School buses are considered public transportation and therefore fall under the TSA order. Until this order is removed, anyone on a school bus will be required to wear masks.

I apologize for this late change, but the ADPH did not send out its written toolkit until today. In the next few weeks, I hope that we will see an increase in vaccinations and a decrease in positive tests and the ADPH will make additional changes to the toolkit that will get us back to a mask optional setting for the district. Again, I apologize if you have emailed me concerning the mask issue and did not get a reply. Due to the demands for starting school, I have been unable to respond to all correspondence. Please know that I read each email and take to heart your concerns, ideas, and suggestions.

Dr. Edwin C. Nichols, Jr.

Superintendent

Madison City Schools

Fall 2021 Reentry Plan

RETURN TO SCHOOL

All students will return to school starting August 4. Madison City Schools will return to our traditional school-based learning option. There will not be an MCS virtual option for students in grades K-8. For those wanting a virtual option, email curriculum@madisoncity.k12.al.us for more information. For students in grades 9-12, the state mandates that all districts provide a virtual option; therefore, as has been the tradition in Madison City Schools, students in grade 9-12 will have the option to take online classes through ACCESS.

Effective August 4, masks will be required for all students, faculty, staff, and visitors when they are inside school buildings. Bus drivers and students are required to wear masks on the school bus due to the TSA executive order. If students are exposed to COVID-19, they will not be required to quarantine IF they are distanced 3 feet or more AND wearing a well-fitted mask. Students do not have to quarantine with proof of vaccination or positive COVID-19 test results within 90 days unless symptomatic. Faculty and staff do not have to quarantine with proof of vaccination or positive COVID-19 test results within 90 days unless symptomatic.

The MCS Reentry Plan outlines the guidelines for returning to school. Additional phases of the reentry plan may be issued in the upcoming weeks to provide detailed procedures on the reopening of school.

DEFINITIONS

Face Coverings	Hand Sanitizer	COVID-19 Screening	Clean/Disinfect
<p>Recommendations regarding face coverings differ based on the guidelines of the MCHD, ALSDE, ADPH, and level of community spread. The recommendations can be found throughout this document. Face coverings must follow the MCS Code of Student Conduct as it relates to clothing.</p>	<p>Hand sanitizers should contain at least 60% ethyl alcohol and be used with employees and children who can safely use hand sanitizer. Hand soap can also be used.</p>	<p>Parents screen children for COVID-19 symptoms at home before sending to school. Employees self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before departing for school. COVID-19 symptoms to monitor for include temperature of 100°F or greater, cough, congestion, shortness of breath, and gastrointestinal symptoms (see CDC Symptoms of COVID-19).</p>	<p>Ensure the safe and correct application of disinfectants.</p> <p>Keep disinfectants out of the reach of children.</p>

HEALTH, WELLNESS, SAFETY, AND PREVENTION GUIDELINES

STANDARD PRACTICE -- Implement standard operating procedures along with the following preventative measures throughout the school day upon entering the building, while in classrooms, and during transitions:

- Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as handwashing, covering coughs, and face coverings.
- Provide hand soap or hand sanitizer with at least 60% ethyl alcohol, paper towels, and no-touch trash cans in all bathrooms, classrooms, and frequently trafficked areas.
- Provide hand sanitizing stations throughout buildings.
- Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread (COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures including staying home when sick, good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols) and training employees on these safety guidelines.
- Clean/disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least daily.
- Conduct additional cleaning of hallways and high-touch surfaces throughout the school day to the extent feasible.
- **Effective August 4, masks will be required for all students, faculty, staff, and visitors when they are inside school buildings.**
- Follow protocols for students/employees who experience symptoms while at school.
- Organize rooms for maximum social distancing; student desks and seating areas will not be guaranteed 3 feet of social distancing the entire school day.

QUARANTINE

- Currently we are following the ADPH toolkit for isolation and quarantine.
- **Isolation** will be used for those who are symptomatic and /or test positive for COVID-19.
- **Quarantine** will be used for close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
 - **Close contact** as defined by the CDC is within 6 feet for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24 hour period.
 - However, in the K-12 classroom, close contact as defined for quarantine by the ADPH excludes students wearing a well-fitted mask who are distanced 3 feet or more (but within 6 feet) of an infected student. Therefore, these students will not be required to quarantine unless symptomatic. Any person wearing a mask who has received a vaccination will be exempt from quarantine (even if closer than 3 feet for more than 15 minutes) unless symptomatic.
- **Individuals with COVID-19 may experience mild, severe, or no symptoms. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure. Symptoms may include the following:**
 - 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
- ***Please be diligent about monitoring your child before they come to school because many of these symptoms mimic other communicable diseases, allergies, etc. Please consult your physician, especially if your child has been in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19.***
- **Please notify your school nurse immediately if your child has a positive COVID-19 test result or if your child has any direct exposure to COVID-19 before your child returns to the school campus**

HEALTH, WELLNESS, SAFETY, AND PREVENTION GUIDELINES (cont.)

PARENTS AND VOLUNTEERS ON CAMPUS

- All visitors entering school buildings will be required to wear a mask.
- Parents, volunteers, and other outside visitors on campus will be limited to emergency situations, special circumstances, and with prior permission.
 - Parents are allowed to drop off and pick up items at the front office.
- Parent-teacher conferences and other meetings may occur in-person or virtually.
- Parents will not be able to eat lunch with students until further notice.
- Classroom parties/celebrations will be allowed on a conditional basis subject to COVID safety practices.
- All visitors are subject to temperature screenings and a health questionnaire.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

- Substitute teachers will be subject to the same guidelines, health screenings/protocols, trainings/protocols for cleaning, etc. as regular teachers.

EXTENDED DAY

- Extended Day will be offered during the 2021-2022 school year.
- Masks will be required indoors for all students, faculty, staff, and visitors during extended day. Masks are not required outside for extended day.
- Seating charts are required for extended day (unless school administration approves that desks, chairs, etc. are distanced at 3 feet or greater).
 - Students should be placed with a cohort to the extent feasible.

CHILD NUTRITION GUIDELINES

Implement standard operating procedures along with the following preventative measures:

- Provide hand sanitizer for students and employees and allow hand washing or sanitizing before and after meal service.
- Conduct cleaning of cafeterias and high-touch surfaces throughout the school day to the extent feasible.
- Meals will be served using the serving lines on standard 5-compartment trays.
- Students will eat in the dining room.
- Self-service of food and eating utensils will be limited to pre-portioned/pre-packaged/pre-wrapped items.
- Breakfast and lunch will be provided at no charge to all students for the 2021-2022 school year.

TRANSPORTATION GUIDELINES

Implement standard operating procedures along with the following preventative measures:

- An assigned seating arrangement will be provided once regular ridership has been established.
- Bus drivers and students are required to wear masks due to the TSA executive order.
- Students will not be guaranteed 3 feet of social distancing the entire time on the school bus.
- Students are encouraged to follow social distancing at bus stops.
- A hand sanitizer dispenser will be on each bus, and buses will be cleaned regularly.
- Drivers will open windows to keep fresh air circulating during the bus route.

LARGE GROUP GATHERINGS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY GUIDELINES

Implement standard operating procedures along with the following preventative measures for extracurricular activities and athletic events:

Athletic Events

- Masks will be required for all students, faculty, staff, and visitors when they are inside school buildings. Masks are not required at outdoor events.
- Follow AHSAA guidelines for sporting events and practices.
- Provide hand sanitizer for students and employees.
- Patriot Path and Refuel will be allowed during the 2021-2022 school year at Bob Jones and James Clemens, respectively.

K-12 Extracurricular Activities

- K-12 extracurricular activities will resume as normal.
- Students should try to socially distance themselves to the extent possible.
- Masks will be required for all students, faculty, staff, and visitors when they are inside school buildings. Masks are not required at outdoor events and activities.

PROTECTING VULNERABLE POPULATIONS GUIDELINES

Implement standard operating procedures along with the following preventative measures:

- Provide hand sanitizer and handwashing stations for students and employees.
- Adhere to FERPA and HIPAA requirements.
- Systematically review all current health plans for accommodating students with special healthcare needs and update their healthcare plans as needed.
- If you are the parent of a student with a disability who also has significant health concerns, and you have concerns about the implementation of your child's IEP, please contact Dr. Susan Zinkil, Director of Special Education, at 256-464-8370.

TEACHING AND LEARNING GUIDELINES

Learning Option

- In-person learning will be provided for students in grades K-12.
- Seating charts are required for whole and small group instruction (unless school administration approves desks/chairs are distanced at 3 feet or greater).
- Masks are not required outside (for PE, recess, etc.).
- Masks are required in Driver's Education vehicles.
- Students in grades 9-12 will have the option to take online classes as required by the state of Alabama. These online classes will be offered through ACCESS or another third party vendor. Students wanting to take an online class will remain enrolled in their home school.
- There are several options throughout the state for students in grades K-8 wanting to learn virtually for the 2021-2022 school year. Students wanting to learn virtually through another district should withdraw from Madison City Schools to enroll in a virtual program provided by another school system. Such students are welcome to return to in-person learning at any point in time by re-enrolling in the district.
- Throughout the 2021-2022 school year, Madison City Schools is moving to a 1:1 model where students will have a district issued device and be encouraged to use that device for instructional purposes both in school and at home.
- Teachers will continue using the state-provided Learning Management System (LMS) Schoology to upload instructional materials, etc.

Implement standard operating procedures along with the following preventative measures

- Provide hand sanitizer for students/employees.
- Conduct cleaning of classrooms and high-touch surfaces daily.
- Materials, items, and other supplies may be shared; these items should be cleaned between uses to the extent possible.
- All students will follow the Board approved school year calendar.
- Establish an academic baseline:
 - Administer formative assessments at the start of the school year.
 - Collaborate as a school team to identify students' academic progress and revise any plans as appropriate (includes IEP, 504, RTI, GEP, IELP, daily course of action, etc.).

TEACHING AND LEARNING GUIDELINES (cont.)

- Provide additional instructional supports to:
 - Students at-risk of not graduating on time.
 - Students with specialized learning needs.
 - Students who struggled during the virtual learning environment.
 - Students identified as being behind academically.
- Address learning loss:
 - Provide extended learning opportunities. These extended learning programs will be addressed at the local school level.

Instructional Framework

- Elementary teachers will communicate weekly focuses using electronic communications.
- Secondary teachers will use various methods of electronic communication to share information with students and parents/caregivers.
- Learning will take place through teacher directed lessons (whole group and small group), individual online practice, assignments, assessments, and projects. Some assignments/projects may be completed at home.
- Each week, whole group and small group instruction are expected as part of the plan to provide differentiation for all students; individualized instruction will be provided as needed.
- Teachers will document all accommodations for students' individual plans in the documentation form provided.
- Supplemental English Learner (EL) lessons will be provided to qualifying EL and immigrant students via small group pull out lessons (elementary) or EL Elective and co-teaching model (secondary).

Absences

- If students are absent due to quarantine or COVID illness, instructional materials will be provided in an asynchronous learning format. Teachers may provide hard copies of materials or upload materials to Schoology.
- Make-up work will follow the MCS Code of Student Conduct. Students will have 3 days after returning to school from the absence to complete and submit work.
- If a student is absent due to COVID-19 or any other communicable disease, a doctor's note can provide an excuse for days missed.
- If a student has been in close contact with a family member who has tested positive for COVID-19, then a doctor's note for the positive test or quarantine can provide an excuse for days missed.

Special Education Services

- Transportation
 - Students who receive transportation as a related service through their IEP will continue to receive this service.
 - Health and safety guidelines and protocols as outlined by MCS will be followed.
- Preparing your child for the first day of school.
 - Show social stories or read books about face coverings, social distancing, cleanliness.
 - Make sure younger children can open all lunch items and snacks independently and if your child can not tie shoes, tieless shoes are recommended.

TEACHING AND LEARNING GUIDELINES (cont.)

- The students will follow the daily schedule in accordance with the guidelines and protocols as established by the district.

Teacher Collaboration / Professional Development

- Continued collaboration between teachers is expected.
 - Collaborative teachers and general education teachers will continue to plan and teach together.
 - General education teachers are encouraged to collaborate on all components of instruction.
- Professional development will be provided for teachers throughout the year, based on the whole group and individual needs.
 - Prior to the beginning of school, professional development is planned for PowerSchool, math textbooks, etc.

9-12 Online Course Option

- Students must have access to a computer device (not a phone) and high-speed internet in order to participate in online classes.
- Attendance for online classes is determined by participation in daily and weekly assignments and instruction. For students with specialized plans, an amendment to the plan may be written based on the individual needs of the student as a learner in a virtual setting.
- Online classes will be delivered in an asynchronous format. These online courses will be delivered by ACCESS or another third party vendor. These courses are monitored by Madison City Schools but the instruction is delivered by certified teachers outside of Madison City Schools.