Guidance for the Plan

Information used to develop this plan came from three major sources: CDC, Indiana’s Consideration for Learning and Safe Schools (ICLASS), and the Georgia’s Path for Recovery Plan. These three documents along with the CCHA Law’s Reopening FAQ provide the foundational guidance for the development of this plan for safe reentry.
Welcome Back! We’ve missed your children and cannot wait to see them back at school on August 5, 2020! This plan illustrates the work of teachers, administrators, and support staff. We’ve worked hard over the summer to make your return a positive and safe experience for all!

Reopening Alexandria Community Schools
Alexandria Community Schools works hard to provide a safe and healthy learning environment for students and staff. COVID-19 has presented a unique challenge impacting every aspect of planning for the upcoming school year. The ACSC COVID-19 Plan provides a framework to address challenges that may develop throughout the 2020-2021 school year. Instead of a one-size-fits-all approach, the ASCS COVID-19 Plan provides different responses to ensure the continued success and safety of students and staff based on the amount of community spread.

This plan is shared today, but will continue to be updated as more information becomes available. All plans are shared with the Madison County Health Department for review. The ACSC COVID-19 Plan is based on the amount of community spread, so it will change as the amount of spread changes in the county. The Madison County Health Department has placed our current spread level in the Some Spread range.

The district surveyed families regarding returning to school. That feedback was also used to inform the plan. You will find information on the classroom environment, facility cleaning, transportation, athletics, and other general information. This plan is based on today’s information and is subject to change as new information becomes available. Please know we care about our school families and are taking steps to make school a safe and welcoming place for students and staff.
There are four questions that consistently come up when communicating with families.

1. **When Will School Start?**
   Students will come back to school on **Wednesday, August 5, 2020**. There has been **no change** to the school calendar.

2. **Will There be Options for Students to Attend School Traditionally and Virtually?**
   Alexandria Community Schools is committed to providing the very best educational opportunities for all students. We will offer in-school every day instruction for all. A virtual school option will be available for students as well. It’s important to weigh concerns about the virus against the social / emotional needs of students that can result from being isolated at home.

   Read more about our virtual school option here: [Virtual Option Information Sheet](#). *It’s important to remember that the virtual school requires significant parental involvement. Families must declare their intent to use the virtual school option by **July 24, 2020** by completing the following form: [Virtual School Intent Form](#)*

3. **Will My Child Be Required to Wear A Mask All Day?**
   Students will need a mask for some parts of the school day. Masks will be required on buses, during hallway passing periods, and in the cafeteria serving line. Alexandria Community Schools will provide students with a mask, and highly recommend that both students and staff wear them throughout the day. We also encourage students to bring a mask from home. We understand there are strong opinions about whether or not one should wear a mask. Our goal is to keep everyone as healthy and safe as possible. We want to keep our in-person traditional schools open, and so reasonable safeguards will be needed.

4. **What Happens If There is a Case of COVID-19 at School?**
   If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 at one of our schools, we will work with the Madison County Health Department to determine exactly what steps to take. We may need to close a classroom or school and transition to eLearning while we deep clean the facility before allowing everyone back in the building.
The following categories were designed to clearly communicate the actions taken to keep everyone safe. These procedures and protocols will start when students arrive at school August 5, 2020.

**Classroom Environment**
- Instructional space will be maximized and flexible scheduling will be used to socially distance as possible.
- Social distancing will be used in classrooms with desks separated as much as possible.
- It is highly recommended that all staff and students wear masks.
- Efforts will be made to reduce the amount of materials and personal belongings that travel back and forth from school.
- Special area teachers will rotate between classrooms or meet outside when weather permits.
- There will not be community school supplies. Students will not share supplies or electronic devices with others.
- Elementary cohorts that have multiple teachers will remain in their homerooms with teachers rotating classrooms.
- Students will be intentionally taught healthy hygiene habits emphasizing hand washing.
- Signage will be placed in classrooms, hallways, and on floors in common areas to promote healthy hygiene and to remind students to maintain proper social distancing.

**Facility Cleaning**
- Enhanced cleaning procedures will be used throughout the school buildings, buses, and facilities.
- High touch areas will be cleaned multiple times throughout the day.
- Facilities will be deep cleaned on a regular basis.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be provided in classrooms and throughout schools.
- Water fountains will be turned off. Only the water bottle filling stations will be used.

**Transportation**
- School buses will be disinfected after the morning and afternoon routes.
- Masks will be worn by bus drivers and assistants.
- Students will be assigned a seat.
- Students will be required to wear masks on the bus.
School arrival and dismissal:
- Students will enter the school through designated areas at the front and back of the elementary and jr/sr high. These areas will have a staff member at each entrance to ensure the safety of all students.
- Parents should remain in their cars when dropping off or picking up their students. Parents should not come into the building or congregate outside of the building. Social distancing must be maintained as much as possible.
- The time of dismissal for students may be staggered to promote social distancing of students.

Breakfast and Lunch
- Food service workers will wear masks and gloves at all times when interacting with students.
- Breakfast will be eaten in classrooms.
- Lunch will be eaten in the cafeteria, overflow spaces, and classrooms with social distancing as much as possible.
- Floor markings and various signage will be used to indicate appropriate social distancing for serving lines.
- Self-serve food items and silverware will be eliminated.
- Food sharing will be prohibited.
- No cash will be accepted when children go through the lunch line.

Health and Wellness
- Students and staff will be required to self-screen before coming to school each day. Students and staff should stay home if they have any of these symptoms and a reasonable belief they may have been exposed to COVID-19.
  - Symptoms include:
    - fever over 100 degrees,
    - dry cough
    - shortness of breath
    - body aches
    - chills
    - sore throat
    - loss of taste or smell
- Students and staff must stay home when they are sick.
- Students and staff must be fever-free for 72 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication before returning to school.
• The nurses station will have a separate area for those students to be isolated if COVID-19 symptoms are suspected.
• School staff will receive professional development on how to recognize COVID-19 symptoms and what actions to take.
• Students and staff testing positive for COVID-19 must follow the Protocol for Returning to School After Exclusion at the end of this document.
• Medically fragile students will require a review of the individualized health plan. It may be necessary for these students to receive their education through homebound or remote learning. For those students who are able to attend school, specific health accommodations will be made by the case conference committee.
• Perfect attendance awards and incentives will be discontinued.
• Attendance policies and procedures are currently under review. The attendance letters will change as a result of quarantine practices.

Visitors and Field Trips
• Visitors will be limited in the building to promote health, safety, and social distancing.
• Visitors that enter the building must wear a mask.
• Lunch guests, guest speakers, convocations, etc. will not be permitted.
• Field trips during the school day will not be permitted at this time.
• Construction workers working during the school day will be required to wear a mask and have no interaction with students and staff.

Social Emotional Supports
• Transition activities will be designed to ease students back into the school routine. Intentional strategies will be used to reacclimate students to school and to build relationships.

Athletics
Mr. Hosier has created a plan based on the IHSAA and IDOE recommendations. The athletic reentry plan can be found here: Athletic Plan for Reentry
Protocol for Returning to School After Exclusion

*Students and employees should be excluded from school if they test positive for COVID-19 or exhibit one or more of the symptoms of COVID-19 based on CDC Guidance that is not otherwise explained.

Once a student or employee is excluded from the school environment, they may return if they satisfy the recommendations of the CDC. Currently those guidelines are:

Untested
Persons who have not received a test proving or disproving the presence of COVID-19 but experience symptoms may return if the following three conditions are met:
- They have not had a fever for at least 72 hours (that is three full days of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers); and
- Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved); and
- At least 10 calendar days have passed since your symptoms first appeared.

Tested Positive—Symptomatic
Persons who experienced symptoms and have been tested for COVID-19 may return to school if the following conditions are met:
- The individual no longer has a fever (without the use of medicine that reduces fevers); and
- Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved); and
- At least 10 calendar days have passed since symptoms first appeared; or
- The individual has received two negative tests at least 24 hours apart.

Tested Positive—Asymptomatic
Persons who have not had symptoms but test positive for COVID-19 may return when they have gone 10 calendar days past their test without symptoms and have been preferably released by a healthcare provider. Students may also return if they are approved to do so in writing by the student’s health care provider.