

# Jones County School District

## *Fall 2021 School Safe-Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity Plan*



***Also attached:***

***Fall 2020 School Reopening Guidance***

***Board Approved July 6, 2020***

*Revised August 5, 2020*

*Revised October 16, 2020*

*Revised May 14, 2021*

*Revised May 19, 2021*

# ***Jones County School District Guidance on School Reopening***

***This guidance should be used by schools as general parameters, along with current MSDH and CDC guidance, to formulate school-specific plans regarding interactions of teachers, staff, parents, visitors, and students along with the use of school facilities.***

***The number one consideration of any plan should be to prioritize the safety of all students and staff while providing the most equitable and most highly effective education possible regardless of the schedule run by the school.***

## **Fall 2021 Reopening Plan**

**As of May 20, 2021, due to the lifting of all restrictions for COVID-19 by the governor of the state of Mississippi, it is the plan of the Jones County School Board to begin with the normal operation of schools for the fall of 2021. The following steps are being taken:**

### **Academic Programming**

***Expectations of establishing, promoting, and meeting high academic standards for all Jones County School District stakeholders will be accomplished by:***

- All school's being back in session with pre-COVID operations for 2021-2022 SY
- Communication of district & school missions, learning targets, and success criteria with stakeholders through news media; virtual meetings; district and school websites; school wide notification system; and flyers
- Analyzing data from the district's annual comprehensive needs survey along with current data from the following sources: universal screeners; LMS benchmark assessments; MTSS data; IEP progress monitoring; EOC state assessments; ACT; and ACT Work Keys
- Developing a district educational platform based on data which includes: setting learning targets at the school and classroom level; providing systematic instruction designed to match student needs; utilization of digital learning programs, and directing resources to students based on areas of need

- Utilization of LMS for online and adaptive remediation, credit recovery, grade repair, and flexible grouping
- Utilization of LMS for evaluating students and tracking data
- Providing continuity of services to meet the academic and social-emotional needs of students by setting clear expectations while connecting achievement to goal setting
- Implementing an online learning management system to promote the continuity of services for students that may need to transition to virtual learning mode due to infection or illness
- Data from the district's universal screener, LMS, state assessments, along with general education and IEP progress monitoring tools will be analyzed to identify and assess learning gaps. This data will be compared with previous years' data to help formulate an action plan to address areas of need
- Evaluating and updating district educational tools and training programs through rubrics and surveys to ensure they meet the needs of all stakeholders
- Addition of an 8th period for the district's secondary schools to help reduce class size while providing additional remediation and enrichment
- Construction of additional classrooms at school sites to reduce the student teacher ratio to address learning loss
- Hiring additional personnel to respond to learning loss and promote social distancing in the schools
- Hiring additional personnel to respond to learning loss with emphasis on subgroups and students with disabilities
- Homebound services will continue to be provided where required by IEPs
- Continuation of adequately staffing schools to provide individual counseling in response to social, emotional, mental health, and other needs of students and staff

## ***Operations***

***It is the mission of the Jones County School District to make sure that all school locations receive the support and guidance needed to create and maintain a safe and orderly environment that supports achievement and learning. This will be achieved through:***

- Creating district and school missions centered on meeting the needs of all stakeholders
- Ensuring that all eligible students, teachers, and other program beneficiaries have an equal opportunity to participate in projects or activities through implementing policy and practices aimed at achieving inclusion and fairness
- Carrying out an academic year consisting of 180 days of face to face instruction with yearly calendar information available on the school and district websites
- Implementing the pre-COVID district policy that unless otherwise approved through the implementation of an IEP, all students will be expected to be present for in-person learning

- Arrival and dismissal times being back to pre-COVID protocols with the exception of the high schools lengthening the day by approximately 20 minutes to account for the addition of an 8<sup>th</sup> period (*the fall 2020 reopening plan will be used in case of outbreak or if other pandemic response is required. This will include the latest guidance on isolation and quarantine of infected or close-contact individuals*)
- Providing meals through a combination of in-dining room and grab-and-go
- Transportation services operating per pre-COVID protocols
- Additional buses being added to the fleet to help promote social distancing of activity trips
- Building additional classrooms to reduce class size and provide social distancing for students in order to reduce the risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards in other JC district schools

## ***Family and Community Support***

***Working in partnership with stakeholders, Jones County School District understands the importance of intertwining our support systems to empower and inspire all students to be successful. Carrying out this support will be performed through:***

- Communication of district & school missions, learning targets, and success criteria with stakeholders through news media; virtual meetings; district and school websites; school wide notification system; and flyers
- Continuation of a district electronic survey to get feedback from students, teachers, parents and community leaders; data from the survey helps drive our instructional programs and support systems
- Providing academic support to parents and students while utilizing all pre-COVID protocols with the addition of online learning opportunities being available as needed
- Utilization of the district's phone service, the district webpage and the SwiftK12 alert system to maintain instantaneous communication with parents and the community
- Maintaining open lines of communication with parents, students, and communities through conferences, phone calls, and through the district email system to collaborate about meeting students instructional needs
- Continuation of district and school level Parent Advisory Committees to gather feedback and set clear expectations while connecting achievement to goal setting
- Providing academic support through an extensive summer program in the month of June for remediation and enrichment
- Working with community leaders, students and parents to create ISP plans
- Providing additional after school tutoring to students
- Implementing an 8th period at the district's secondary schools; this time will be for remediation, enrichment, learning labs and advisory meetings

- On a volunteer basis, students and parents will have access to 3 different vaccination sites on the district's secondary campuses. This is a community partnership between the Jones County School District and South Central Regional Medical Center

## ***Communications***

***District communications to prepare, prevent, and respond to health and safety issues for all Jones County School District stakeholders will be accomplished through:***

- Seeking community input at least twice a year through the district's parent communication systems and surveys; survey data will be used to update the district's continuity of service plan. Plans will be updated at a minimum of every 6 months
- Utilizing the district's phone service, the district webpage and the SwiftK12 alert system to maintain instantaneous communication with parents and the community

## ***Health and Safety***

***Health and safety is a top priority; therefore, the district will continue to review and implement any needed policies or procedures to insure a safe learning environment. JCS will carry out the following to promote the health and safety needs of our district:***

- All Mississippi governor executive orders and orders from the Mississippi State Department of Health will be followed and adhered to by all faculty, staff, students, and visitors of the Jones County Schools in schools, on school buses, and at all school activities
- School administrators, school resource officers, custodians, food service personnel, and school health personnel, will be responsible for overseeing the overall health and safety at each school
- Temperature checks will only be performed on a follow-up basis or as needed
- Daily home screening will be encouraged, and school personnel will be available to respond to symptomatic students and staff as needed. Daily screening will be re-implemented, as outlined in the District's 2020 Reopening Plan, should any incidence of infection require such action
- Masks will not be required, unless conditioned by an executive order from the governor or order of the Mississippi State Department of Health. Students, faculty, staff, and visitors may wear masks if they choose; school administration will be tasked to ensure that there is no harassment of individuals who choose to, or choose not to, wear a mask
- Schools will continue to practice enhanced cleaning and sanitation methods
- All buildings and grounds will continue with enhanced cleaning and disinfection protocols. Additional targeted more intensive cleaning will occur in response to

positive cases and outbreak. Cleaning guidance can be found in the fall 2020 COVID Guidance Plan attached

- Underlying health conditions of students will be identified through the multiple screeners provided as a part of the MTSS process throughout the year with the ability of parents and teachers being able to refer students for additional support/screening as needed
- Homebound services will continue to be provided where required by IEPs
- Schools will remain adequately staffed to provide individual counseling in response to social, emotional, mental health, and other needs of students and staff.
- Additional personnel are being added to respond to learning loss and promote social distancing in the schools
- Secondary schools have added an 8<sup>th</sup> period to help reduce class size
- Additional classrooms are being constructed and opened at school sites to reduce the numbers of students in classes at any one time
- Air quality will be addressed in the schools as needed with the updating of existing HVAC systems as required
- Additional buses will be added to the fleet to help promote social distancing of activity trips
- Schools will carryover all these health/safety practices to co- and extra-curricular activities in addition to any requirements from the Mississippi High School Activities Association (MHSAA) and the Mississippi State Department of Health

## ***Technology***

***The district will utilize technology to enhance in-person learning and to support remote learning for students by the following methods:***

- Providing student access to a 1 to 1 device (Chromebook or iPad) for research and study
- Supplying classrooms with charging stations for student devices
- Upgrade connectivity which includes expanded wireless access to promote remote learning
- Providing online and adaptive remediation, credit recovery, grade repair, and flexible grouping for students
- Providing stakeholders with home connectivity to promote distance learning;
- Integration of a district LMS with professional development to train stakeholders in operation of LMS
- Insuring equal opportunities for students to participate in the district's LMS;
- Employment of additional IT support personnel to enhance in-person learning and support remote learning

- Providing additional IT support for students, parents and teachers through in-person and online parent workshops
- Teacher and staff participation in periodic surveys of learning needs in regard to technology use, impactful instructional practices, and other related items to help target the district's professional learning program
- Evaluating and updating district educational tools and training programs to ensure that they meet the needs of all stakeholders
- Continuation of data management and process improvements; and
- Utilizing technology to enhance additional in-person learning and support remote learning through:
  - Dual Credit and Advanced Placement courses
  - Enrichment instructional programs
  - Formative and summative assessment
  - Project-based Learning
  - Intervention and Accommodation
  - Interpreting Other Languages
  - Online lessons and instruction
  - Research

# Jones County School District COVID-19 Response Overview (Revised, August 2, 2021)

## Screening

- Students and staff will be prompted to self-screen at the start of each week
- Teachers and staff will be asked to prompt students and all other personnel to screen for symptoms at the start of the day. Any symptomatic student or teacher/staff should continue to be excluded from the school/school district and be evaluated by their primary medical provider.
- Most common symptoms of all variants: Fever, dry cough, shortness of breath, temporary loss of taste or smell, flu-like respiratory and digestive problems, muscle aches and fatigue.

## PPE

- ***Jones County Schools will require universal masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors ages 6 and up while on school campus and on buses when not eating, drinking, or engaged in extra-curricular activity, regardless of vaccination status – until further notice.***
- *In the K-12 indoor classroom setting, unvaccinated individuals within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student do not have to quarantine if both students were wearing masks.*

## Enhanced Environmental Cleaning

- Classes and buildings will be cleaned/sanitized before students enter and after students leave
- Buses will be sanitized on a routine basis.
- Items will be cleaned in between use (desks, keyboards, headphones, etc.)

## Social Distancing

- Desks/tables will be distanced as much as possible; minimum of 3 feet where possible.
- Class numbers will be adjusted to keep numbers as low as possible
- All classrooms and buses should have a seating chart for contact tracing purposes.

## Food Service

- Meals will be served in a manner to promote as much social distancing as possible.
- Social distancing will be in place at all times where possible – recommended as 3 feet or greater

## Hygiene

- Students will be instructed in good hand washing techniques
- Students will be encouraged to wash their hands multiple times a day
- Bathrooms will be monitored for soap and paper products
- Each classroom, office, and main entrance will have hand sanitizer available

## Communication

- Parents and staff will be notified when a positive case is determined within a school

## Close Contact Exposure (Quarantine)

### \*Vaccinated:

- Fully vaccinated persons in close contact with an infected person do NOT have to quarantine unless they develop symptoms (fully vaccinated persons are recommended to receive COVID-19 testing 3-5 days after exposure to rule out infection).

### \*Unvaccinated:

- People who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 3 months and recovered do not have to quarantine or get tested again as long as they do not develop new symptoms.
- Unvaccinated students and staff who are exposed to COVID-19 will not require exclusion from school for quarantine if they both were wearing a mask.
- Each school will have a COVID Contact person that should be notified of positive test results – individual student and staff test results should be kept confidential per FERPA laws
- 7- day plus test option: If the individual has no symptoms for 7 days and has a negative COVID-19 test (molecular or antigen) collected on day 5, 6, or 7 of the quarantine period, the quarantine period can be discontinued after 7 days.

## Positive Tests (Isolation)

- Asymptomatic individuals who test positive with the rapid screening test should be excluded from the school setting for 10 days from the date of the test as long as they remain asymptomatic. If they develop symptoms, they should be excluded for a full 10 days from the onset of symptoms and are fever free for 24 hours before returning.
- Asymptomatic individuals with a positive rapid antigen test who have a negative molecular based COVID-19 test within 48 hours of the rapid positive do not require further exclusion and may return to the school setting. This only applies to molecular based tests (i.e., PCR) and does not include an additional antigen test or antibody tests.

## Exclusion When Sick

- *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.*
- Students, teachers, and staff should not be allowed to return to school until symptom and fever free for at least 24 hours, or if COVID-19 is diagnosed, until the isolation criteria for return to school are met.

**JCSD will continue to monitor information daily, and will adjust plans as the situation warrants.**

## Important Procedures

- Quarantined & Isolated students will be given ongoing educational opportunities

## Outbreaks and School Dismissal

### Considerations

- **Outbreaks:** An outbreak is defined as  $\geq 3$  cases of COVID-19 in a classroom or group (sports team, group activity, band, or other) within 14 days.
- In an outbreak setting, quarantine and exclusion from the school setting is recommended for all unvaccinated exposed persons in the outbreak group.
- **School Dismissal Considerations:** The school may consider dismissal of the entire student/faculty under the following conditions:
  - If  $\geq 3$  individual classroom settings, defined groups, or defined buildings are experiencing simultaneous outbreaks, or
  - If multiple absentees or exclusions of students and staff are leading to disruptions in on-campus functioning and impacting the learning environment as determined by the school.
  - If decided upon, dismissal should be for at least 14 days to interrupt transmission.

### Exclusion When Sick

***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.***

Students, teachers, and staff should not be allowed to return to school until symptom and fever free for at least 24 hours, or if COVID-19 is diagnosed, until the isolation criteria for return to school are met.

### Reporting

Mississippi K-12 schools are required to provide weekly reports of cases among students, teachers and staff, number of outbreaks, and teachers and students under quarantine as a result of COVID-19 exposure. An outbreak in a school setting is defined as 3 or more individuals diagnosed with COVID-19 in the same group within a 14-day period. Please utilize the attached survey to report

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MSDHDData>

## Quarantine Period

There are additional options to the 14-day quarantine period from the school setting as follows:

- 10-day option: Quarantine can end after 10 days if the individual has no symptoms during the entire 10-day period, or
- 7- day plus test option: If the individual has no symptoms for 7 days and has a negative COVID-19 test (molecular or antigen) collected on day 5, 6, or 7 of the quarantine period, the quarantine period can be discontinued after 7 days.
- ***Fully vaccinated students and teachers/staff do not require quarantine after contact to an infected person.***