

Jones County School District



Fall 2020 School Reopening Guidance

Board Approved July 6, 2020

Revised July 22, 2020

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.

Academic Programming

Every opportunity to provide systematic academic support for all stakeholders, including students, parents, faculty and staff will be the goal of the Jones County School District. Please monitor the school district web page, periodic memorandum updates, and the district Alert Now system for ongoing information regarding changes to academic programming.

Operations Programming, Family & Community Support, Health and Safety, Effective Communications, Technology/Learning Management Systems

Specific Guidance below is intended for in-school instruction and visits by students, teachers, and staff, see below:

Public Health Considerations

The virus that causes COVID-19 can infect people of all ages. Research from the Centers for Disease Control, among others, has found that while children do get infected by COVID-19, relatively few children with COVID-19 are hospitalized. However, some severe outcomes have been reported in children, and a child with a mild or even asymptomatic case of COVID-19 can spread the infection to others who may be far more vulnerable. While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of furthering the spread of COVID-19, the current science suggests there are many steps schools can take to reduce the risks to students, teachers, staff, and their families significantly.

Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if that person is 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified in these protocols, all of which facilitate a safe and measured reopening of the Jones County School District Schools.

All staff will need to be trained specifically on the protocols outlined in this document and the practices adopted by their school. Additionally, schools should continue to monitor daily and weekly updates from the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE), Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH), the Governor's office, Mississippi High School Activities Association (MHSAA), and the Center's for Disease Control (CDC).

Regular Traditional In-person Instruction

Schools should monitor the updates through Jones County School District communications, updates on the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) Web Page, and the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) constantly to make the best decisions and put in place the most comprehensive protocols possible to ensure student and staff safety.

Virtual Instruction

Virtual instruction will be provided when mandated by quarantine or required by medically documented student underlying health conditions. Virtual instruction will be conducted online, where available to students with regard to device and connectivity. WIFI is available for use by students and parents at each school campus from the parking lot should a Virtual Schedule be required. If this is not an option, a paper-pencil packet will be provided for the student.

Learning Management Systems that house online lessons and assignments (ex. Google Classroom) and conference/video platforms (ex. YouTube, Zoom, etc.) will be used to provide teacher and staff interaction with students. Teachers, counselors, and other support personnel will be available via telephone or responding to emails during the regular school day between the hours of 1:40 to 3:15 pm.

Currently, our district is applying for federal and state grants to provide 1:1 devices for certain grades. The availability of this program is yet to be determined.

Instruction – Fall 2020

The following modified traditional schedule will be used for the 2020 – 2021 school year to promote in-person learning for all students with attention paid to social distancing guidance.

Bell Schedule Grades Kindergarten – 6th Grade
Typical Bus Drop-off 7:15 am Breakfast
7:45 – Instructional Day Begins Lunch
1:45 Primary Instruction Ends <i>1:45 Early Student Pick-up</i>
2:00 – 3:15 Tutoring, Remediation, etc. 3:15 Bus Dismissal

Bell Schedule Grades 7 – 12
7:15 – 8:15 Planning
8:30 – 9:07 1 st Period
9:09 – 9:46 2 nd Period
9:48 – 10:25 3 rd Period
10:27 – 11:04 4 th Period
11:06 – 12:13 5 th Period
12:15 – 12:52 6 th Period
12:54 – 1:31 7 th Period
1:40 – 3:15 Tutoring, Remediation, Online Learning

1. Secondary students in grades 7-12 will operate on a bell schedule from 8:30 am to 1:31 pm each day as listed above. Time allotments within the 8:30 to 1:31 time frame will be modified by schools as needed to fit their instructional program. Planning time for secondary teachers will be in the morning and additional time will be utilized from the time of dismissal for tutoring, online instruction, and other instructional activities utilized to support the needs of students.
2. The general workday of 7:15 am to 3:15 pm will be standard for teachers in both elementary and secondary schools.

3. All buses in the JCSD fleet will be utilized to bring elementary students in route 1 and secondary students to school in route 2 in the morning as needed to promote social distancing. This will be reversed in the afternoon so that those secondary students that need to be home to watch the younger students will be dismissed at 1:31 pm. Once the buses have finished the secondary routes they will then return as needed to deliver the elementary school students home.
4. Pre-Kindergarten (K4) students and Kindergarten (K5) students will start school on August 24, 2020. This will give the schools the opportunity to get students that have attended school familiar with the new protocols before bringing the younger students on campus. Pre-K and Kindergarten teachers will be contacting the parents of these students during this time to set up orientation times.
5. Pre-registration will be held for all students, Pre-K through 12th grade on July 28, 29, and 30, 2020. The times will be 9 am to 6 pm on Tuesday and Thursday and from 8 am to 2 pm on Wednesday, July 29. Most registration can be taken care of online. There is a link on the district website. Only students that are new to a school, or have had an address change will have to supply two (2) proofs of residence.
6. Visitors to the schools should be by appointment only.
7. Schools are to have protocols in place in which visitors can be screened before entering school buildings.
8. Attendance will be taken per MDE guidance for all students.

Additional Instructional Protocol Considerations:

All schools will be asked to encourage students to practice social distancing and minimize the number of students who they encounter regularly.

1. All instruction should be held in spaces that allow maximum social distancing.
Current Mississippi guidelines as of July 1, 2020:
“Where social distancing is possible, indoor gatherings of no more than fifty (50) people and outdoor gatherings of up to one hundred (100) people will be allowed. Where social distancing is not possible, no more than twenty (20) people may gather indoors and outside, the limit is fifty (50) people.”
Updated July 24, 2020:
“Where social distancing is possible, indoor social gatherings of no more than ten (10) people and outdoor gatherings of up to twenty (20) people will be allowed.”
2. If more than one group is using a shared space that is large enough to allow for students in all groups and their respective desks to be social distanced, then multiple groups of individuals can be in the space together. However, each group must be separated from the other by an empty space of at least thirty (30) feet. The groups should not combine for activities at any time. Two groups of twenty (20) students [or the most current state guidance] and one teacher can meet at the opposite ends of a cafeteria, it is encouraged that students be seated with maximum social distancing where possible; three groups of twenty (20) students can meet in a large gymnasium, separated by thirty (30) feet, with one teacher circulating between the groups to support online learning; and other iterations are also possible, so long as they meet the state requirements for distancing at the time.
3. All Jones County Faculty and Staff should wear a face covering (ex. shield or cloth mask) when at work unless they are working alone in an office or performing a job function that prevents them from doing so (Ex. A teacher showing students the mouth movement for pronouncing a letter, etc.). Per the direction of the MSDH on June 23, 2020, wearing a face

mask during any interaction with others will reduce the need for others to have to quarantine should the person wearing the mask test positive for COVID-19. This is extremely important for any employee that may come into contact with multiple groups of students and etc. (Ex. Teachers, Bus Drivers, Custodians, etc.)

4. Whenever possible and developmentally appropriate, there should be no group or pairs work that would require students to regularly interact within close proximity, recognizing that this is not possible for early childhood students and some students with disabilities.
5. Students must not be brought together in assemblies, field trips, or other group gatherings outside of their class group, unless state or district guidance changes.
6. When feasible and appropriate, it is preferable for students to gather outside rather than inside, because of likely reduced risk of virus spread outdoors.
7. Students on campus should not participate in activities like those listed below, except as part of Mississippi High School Activities Association (MHSAA) approved conditioning or training programs, consistent with MHSAA guidance, because of their potential for spreading the virus through respiratory droplets:
 - Choir
 - Playing wind instruments
 - Indoor sports

School gyms, weight rooms, and indoor workout facilities can be open to students participating in a MHSAA-approved conditioning program while supervised by school staff consistent with MHSAA guidance. Indoor facilities are to remain closed for purposes of athletic or fitness activities to unsupervised students and to the community.

Other than MHSAA-approved activities, outdoor sports are allowable only if they can be conducted in accordance with Mississippi State Department Health guidelines.

8. Whenever possible, students, teachers, and staff should maintain consistent groupings of people, to minimize virus spread in the school. Specifically:
 - Elementary school students should be taught in self-contained classes if at all possible. It may be possible for the teachers to rotate to a classroom instead of students changing classes.
 - Secondary students should be taught in self-contained classes if possible and, if that is not possible, should be exposed to as few different individual teachers as possible, consistent with the parameters provided in operational considerations 2 and 5 above. Class release times can be staggered so that all are not in the hallway for a class change at the same time.

The rationale for this limitation is that each additional individual exposure presents greater opportunity for virus spread.

A positive COVID-19 case in a school will typically require a two (2)-week closure of the individual's class group if they meet the criteria for close proximity exposure which is defined by the CDC/MSDH as an individual who has had close contact (< 6 feet for ≥15 minutes) to an individual who could spread the virus. If however the infected individual does not meet the criteria for "close proximity exposure" then only the infected individual has to quarantine for 14 days.

For example, three classes are taught by a single science teacher, and a student in one of those classes' contracts COVID-19, all three classes are considered a single class group for purposes of potential exposure, because they all have the possibility of "close proximity exposure." If the class is

self-contained, then perhaps only the single class group and teacher would have to self-isolate for two weeks if they were found to have “close proximity exposure.”

9. When students must be taught by multiple teachers, it is better for students not to be brought together with those in other classes for shared instruction or mixed with other classes during elective or other periods or between classes.
 - Rather than having students change from classroom to classroom, consider having teachers rotate between classes while students stay in one class to minimize students encountering others in the hallway.
 - Alternatively, schools could stagger class start and end times to minimize the number of students in the hallway during passing periods.
10. Those students with documented and verifiable underlying health considerations should be offered alternative instructional access, whether online or in the form of paper-and-pencil packets if no device or connectivity is available. These options are offered with the understanding that there is no substitute for direct instruction from a highly skilled and effective teacher. All student attendance should be verified via current school district and state attendance policies, and should virtual instruction be required, schools should monitor engagement and attendance through the Learning Management System (LMS). If students are not attending virtually or appear to be disengaged, then this should be addressed by the schools Teacher Support Team (TST) through the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) as if the student was in school under normal conditions.
11. Universal Screeners and other content-specific screeners should be used in a formative method to address any learning gaps or deficits as needed for students due to the extended school closure. This should allow teachers to move beyond skills students have already mastered and hone in and spend more time on those areas of growth for students.

Health and Hygiene Practices

1. Teachers and staff should self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming onto campus. Any concerns should be reported to the school level COVID-19 Contact person. Before coming onto campus and at the start of every week of instruction, all students and staff will be prompted to pre-screen for COVID-19 symptoms (using Alert Now message) that they or others living in their house could experience. The symptoms to screen for are listed at the bottom of this document.
2. The temperature of each student will be taken when they arrive on campus each day.
3. Signs should be posted in all washrooms and near all sinks regarding hygiene practices.
4. Sanitation supplies (ex. Hand sanitizer, soap, paper towels, etc.) should be kept on hand at schools and easily accessible to all that work and enter the school.
5. Schools should have hand sanitizer at each entrance and require students, teachers, and staff to use it whenever they enter the building. Hand sanitizer should also be available in every classroom, when possible, and students and teachers should be encouraged to use it frequently. Students, teachers, and staff should also wash hands or use hand sanitizer after they have touched something another person recently touched.
6. Students should be instructed in good handwashing techniques and given frequent opportunities to wash their hands.

7. Students should engage in supervised handwashing, where possible, for at least twenty (20) seconds at least two (2) times each day, in addition to being encouraged to wash hands after using the restroom and before eating.
8. Consistent with the actions taken by many organizations across the state, the Jones County School District will require all employees to wear cloth face coverings or shields (over the nose and mouth) unless there is a verified medical reason as to why they cannot or if they work in an isolated area alone. All employees who prefer not to use their own face mask will be provided a non-medical grade washable/reusable face masks/shields.
9. All students for whom it is developmentally appropriate will be required to wear cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth) on all Jones County School District buses. It is most likely not developmentally appropriate for students younger than five (5) years old and for some students with disabilities to wear masks or face coverings.

Training will be provided in the appropriate use of face masks by the attached handout from the CDC. Schools should also consider requiring students to wear face masks, when developmentally appropriate and no medically documented reason exists to prevent their use, on campus when social distancing is not feasible.

- a. Teach and reinforce use of [cloth face coverings](#). Face coverings may be challenging for students (especially younger students) to wear in all-day settings such as school. Face coverings should be worn by staff and students (particularly older students) as feasible, and are **most** essential in times when physical distancing is difficult. Individuals should be frequently reminded not to touch the face covering and to [wash their hands](#) frequently. Information should be provided to staff, students, and students' families on [proper use, removal, and washing of cloth face coverings](#).
 - i. Note: [Cloth face coverings](#) should **not** be placed on:
 1. Children younger than 2 years old
 2. Anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious
 3. Anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance
 - b. [Cloth face coverings](#) are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not have symptoms. [Cloth face coverings](#) are not surgical masks, respirators, or other medical personal protective equipment.
10. Post [signs](#) in highly visible locations (e.g., school entrances, restrooms) that [promote everyday protective measures pdf icon](#) and describe how to [stop the spread pdf icon](#) of germs (such as by [properly washing hands](#) and [properly wearing a cloth face covering image icon](#)).
 - a. Broadcast regular [announcements](#) on reducing the spread of COVID-19 on PA systems.
 - b. Include messages (for example, [videos](#)) about behaviors that prevent the spread of COVID-19 when communicating with staff and families (such as on school websites, in emails, and on school [social media accounts](#)).
 - c. Find free CDC print and digital resources on CDC's [communications resources](#) main page.
11. Informational signs will be posted in all schools and district office buildings.
12. Campuses should institute more frequent cleaning practices, including additional cleaning by janitorial staff, as well as provide the opportunity for children to clean their own spaces before and after they are used, in ways that are safe and developmentally appropriate.
13. Arrange for additional cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces that are touched in common throughout the day. Arrange for cleaning of classrooms between different class groups if the same room will be used by multiple class groups. This would include objects such as door

handles, common tables/desks, and high touch devices such as shared laptops or tablets. The CDC has provided guidance on cleaning community buildings to prevent COVID-19 spread.

Other Operational Considerations

1. Campuses will need to plan for entry and exit procedures that reduce the number of students and parents congregating outside and/or mixing in the hallways. Consider assigning students to entries to ensure even distribution of students entering/exiting at each door, providing guidance to students to enter one at a time and wait six (6) feet apart outside the entrance, and, where appropriate, encouraging parents to remain outside during drop-off and pick-up.
2. Parents can participate in school visits if their participation is needed. In these cases, parents should follow the guidance in this document and specific guidance provided by the individual school. Conferences should be held virtually where possible. Schools and parents should consider how to minimize visits inside the school building when they are not needed to reduce the number of individual interactions during school (e.g., have parents drop off and pick up students outside the school rather than inside, call ahead to schedule any conferences, etc.).
3. To the extent possible, students should eat lunch at their desks. This should be done in the grab-and-go fashion as the summer lunch program. When this is not possible, students could have assigned seats in the cafeteria that allow students to maintain social distancing.
4. Schools will need to consider how to minimize virus spread as a result of play space use.
 - Older elementary students who can follow social distancing protocols should be asked to keep six (6) feet apart while using play spaces. For these children, it may also help to restrict class groups to specific areas of the play space using cones, caution tape, or a natural barrier, with the intent of preventing students from interacting across class groups and increasing virus spread. Alternatively, schools can send only one class group to a play space at a time.
 - For the youngest students, including early childhood and early elementary students, as well as some students with disabilities, social distancing on play spaces will not be possible or developmentally appropriate. These students are also unlikely to attend to a natural barrier or cones. In these cases, it is recommended that, as much as possible, only one class group uses a play space at a time.
 - Students in age groups who do not need to use play equipment for recreation should not spend their recreation time in play spaces, if possible, and should maintain social distance at all times when outside, just as they do inside.
5. Employees, like employees of any organization, must continue to meet the work expectations set by their employers, subject to any applicable employment contract terms. However, schools will need to plan for increased teacher attrition and potential future illness.

Bus Planning

1. Schools will reduce the number of students on the bus route to minimize group exposure.
2. Students, teachers, and staff should use hand sanitizer upon boarding the bus when available.
3. Students should be seated as far apart as possible from other students on the bus. Students should stay in their seats.
4. All students for whom it is developmentally appropriate will be required to wear cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth) on all Jones County School District buses.
5. Families will be encouraged to drop students off, carpool, or walk with their student to school to reduce possible virus exposure on buses.

6. Buses should be thoroughly cleaned after each bus trip, particularly high-touch surfaces such as bus seats, steering wheels, knobs, and door handles. During cleaning, windows will be opened when possible to allow for additional ventilation and air flow, which is helpful in mitigating COVID-19 spread.

Screening Procedures and Mitigation Considerations for Schools (CDC)

- **Schools will identify a COVID-19 Contact** who will be responsible for COVID-19 issues and their impact at the workplace.
- **Prepare continuity plans** for significant absenteeism. Cross train employees you need to conduct the business of the school.
- **Establish an emergency communications plan.** Identify key contacts (with back-ups), chain of communications (including faculty and staff), and processes for tracking and communicating about status of school and operations.

Preparing for When Someone Gets Sick

Schools may consider implementing several strategies to prepare for when someone gets sick.

- **Advise Staff and Families of Sick Students of Home Isolation Criteria**
 - District employees should provide a copy of the diagnosis certificate to their supervisor when work is missed due to COVID related quarantine and etc.
 - Sick staff members or students should not return until they have met CDC's [criteria to discontinue home isolation](#).
 - This information should be communicated to all stakeholders through home mail-outs, on district/school website, and by the Alert Now System. This information will be required to be covered in all school's Fall in-service at the beginning of the year.
- **Isolate and Transport Those Who are Sick**
 - Make sure that staff and families know that they (staff) or their children (families) should not come to school, and that they should notify school officials (e.g., the designated COVID-19 point of contact) if they (staff) or their child (families) become sick with COVID-19 [symptoms](#), test positive for COVID-19, or have been [exposed](#) to someone with COVID-19 symptoms or a confirmed or suspected case.
 - Immediately separate staff and [children](#) with COVID-19 [symptoms](#) (such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath) at school. Individuals who are sick should go home or to a healthcare facility depending on how severe their symptoms are, and follow [CDC guidance for caring for oneself and others](#) who are sick.
 - Staff and students with symptoms will be isolated in the school nurses office, or some other designated location, until they can be picked up or leave campus.
 - Establish procedures for safely transporting anyone who is sick to their home or to a healthcare facility. If you are calling an ambulance or bringing someone to the hospital, try to call first to alert them that the person may have COVID-19.
 - Utilize the School Resource Officer (SRO) or office staff in contacting the ambulance and ask that they notify of COVID-19 concerns.
 - This information should be communicated to all stakeholders through home mail-outs, on district/school website, and by the Alert Now System. This information will be required to be covered in all school's Fall in-service at the beginning of the year.

- **Clean and Disinfect**

- Close off areas used by a sick person and do not use these areas until after [cleaning and disinfecting](#)
- Head of JCSD custodial services and the custodial site supervisor should be notified of possible infection. Room will be quarantined per guidelines.
- Wait at least 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting. If 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible. Ensure [safe and correct use](#) and storage of [cleaning and disinfection products](#)[external icon](#), including storing products securely away from children.

- **Notify Health Officials and Close Contacts**

- In accordance with state and local laws and regulations, school administrators should notify [local health officials](#)/health department staff, and families immediately of any case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with the [Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#)[external icon](#).
- Inform those who have had [close contact](#) with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 to stay home and [self-monitor for symptoms](#), and follow [CDC guidance](#) if symptoms develop.
- District staff will follow all guidelines and expectations for human resource management per state and federal law.

Positive Cases and Teachers, Staff, or Students Showing COVID-19 Symptoms

1. If a positive case is identified for a school participant, whether teacher, staff, or student, the school must identify any individuals who had regular or close contact (defined by the CDC/MSDH as an individual who has had close contact (< 6 feet for ≥15 minutes) with the affected participant. This will include the entire class (students, teachers and staff) and potentially other teachers and staff (if multiple teachers work regularly with the student or staff member). If those teachers or the students interacted with other students or staff on a regular basis or came in close contact with them, those students and staff should be considered potentially exposed as well. Anyone who is considered to have regular or close contact (defined by the CDC/MSDH as an individual who has had close contact (< 6 feet for ≥15 minutes) with someone who may have been exposed to COVID-19 must stay at home for two (2) weeks. In some cases, this may necessitate closing only a single classroom. In other cases, it may require closing multiple classes, or even the entire school, for two (2) weeks.
2. Any teacher, staff member, or student who experiences any of the symptoms of COVID-19 (listed below) should self-isolate until the below conditions have been met ([revised July 22, 2020](#)).
 - In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may come back to school after 14-day isolation **AND** if no fever for at least (24 hours) without the use of fever-reducing medications; or
 - In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and does not get evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, the individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to work or school until after 14-day isolation **AND** if no fever for at least (24 hours) without the use of fever-reducing medications; or

- If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to work before completing the above self-isolation period, the individual must obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis.
3. Any student, teacher, or staff member living with someone who experiences any of the symptoms of COVID-19, whether they have a positive COVID-19 test or not, should self-isolate for 14 days. If they do not experience any COVID-19 symptoms during that period, they can return to school. If they experience symptoms, they must self-isolate until the conditions outlined above have been met.

Direct Guidance from the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) from Webinar with Dobbs and Byers, June 23, 2020

COVID-19

- Respiratory virus that spreads in manner similar to the flu
- Similar symptoms with some additional manifestations (loss of taste and smell)
- Primarily via air but also contaminated surfaces
- Incubation period roughly 5 days (up to 14 days)
- Contagious up to 10 days from onset of symptoms
- Asymptomatic spread common (asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic)
 - Wearing a mask is 80 to 90% effective in preventing sick people from spreading virus

Case Investigation and Outbreak Response General Considerations

- Students and staff will become infected with COVID-19 (whether through transmission in the community or within the school)
- All COVID-19 cases must be isolated at home for 14 days
 - Can return if no fever for at least 3 days without use of fever reducing medicines (ex. Tylenol)
- Close contacts to COVID-19 cases must be quarantined for 14 days
- Source Control and Safety measures in schools can prevent most transmission
- Please follow general guidance of CDC

Dismissals/Closures

- Elevated cases within a group or classroom may require more extensive quarantine
- Certain case levels may necessitate temporary dismissal of students in particular classes or buildings, or closure of the entire school
- School closures and dismissals may be reactive or If schools are dismissed temporarily, discourage students and staff from gathering or socializing anywhere, like at a friend's house, favorite restaurant, or the local shopping mall

Case Response for COVID-19

- Case identified in student or staff—
 - In most instances the school will become aware before MSDH. Notify your local Epidemiology staff when student or staff are positive

- MSDH will notify the school when aware if not previously reported. Parents will be encouraged to notify the school as well. In the event that MSDH is aware of COVID-19 case, school will be notified
- The school should communicate the expectation that all cases notify the school and stay in isolation at home for a full 14 days (School COVID-19 Contact Person)
- Parents should be notified when a student or teacher are positive- this may be targeted notification based on the group size.

Sample Parent Notification

- A student (or teacher/coach) in your child's class (group/team) has been diagnosed with COVID-19
- All individuals should monitor for symptoms and consult your child's physician as needed.
- Some children may receive a separate notification to quarantine at home for 14 days.
- As a reminder, always keep your child home if they are ill.

Response Process for Case of COVID-19

Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH)

- Case investigation/isolation order
- Notify school (if not previously notified)
- Contact investigation and quarantine orders of close contacts (MSDH will work with school to ascertain close contacts)
- Recommend testing all of close contacts

School

- Notify MSDH
- Arrange for education plan/staffing for the absent student/staff
- Environmental cleaning of affected areas
- Assist with identifying close contacts
- Send all close contacts home x 14 days

Close contact = less than 6 feet for 15 minutes or more

Outbreak

- In the event of an outbreak (equal to or greater than 3 cases in any group, e.g., class, team) – all group members should be quarantined for 14 days
- Closure of School Building (or School)
 - Difficult to create hard and fast rules
 - Evidence of uncontrolled spread in the school is a good indicator that building closure might be prudent
 - Triggers might include:
 - Multiple spontaneous outbreaks or affected groups (i.e., ≥ 3 separate groups impacted)
 - Pre-set % of students or staff (exceeding normal school absences)
 - Difficulty conducting education work due to student and staff absences
- Re-opening – minimum 14 days appropriate

Risk Decision Matrix

Factor	Lower Risk	Higher Risk	Mitigation Strategies
Proximity	> 6 feet	< 6 feet	
Duration	< 15 Minutes	> 15 minutes	
Group Size	< 10	> 10	
Congestion	Low	High	
Movement	Directed	Undirected	
Touch	Low	High	
Respiratory Control	Normal	Increased	

*Does the event or activity put the broader population at risk

Procedure

Step 1: Identify the event or activity to analyze

(E.g., Classrooms, class changes, meals, choirs, sports practice and/or games, transportation)

Step 2: Complete the risk matrix assignment for each risk factor

(See matrix)

Step 3: identify if the broader population is at risk vs. individual or small group

Step 4: Identify mitigation strategies that address higher risk factors

Brainstorm as many mitigation strategies as possible in each area. Many ideas can be found on various education examples:

- Proximity – increase distance; wear cloth face coverings; hold activities outdoors
- Duration – limit duration
- Group Size – Break into smaller groups; keep groups cohorted together without intermingling; limit spectators
- Congestion – Stagger entry and exit; hold activities outdoors
- Movement – Place directional guides in entrances and hallways
- Touch – Limit gathering of items; hand hygiene
- Respiratory Output – Avoid singing or shouting in activities as possible

Be innovative and specific.

Step 5: Make a determination if the activity is allowable or requires additional modification

Is the risk high for >2 elements?

Are mitigation steps adequate?

Is there risk to the entire student body?

Does the educational value of the activity justify the risk?

Example: High School Show Choir

Risk Decision Matrix

Factor	Lower Risk	Higher Risk	Mitigation Strategies
Proximity	> 6 feet	< 6 feet	Wear masks and increase distance
Duration	< 15 Minutes	> 15 minutes	Limit duration
Group Size	< 10	> 10	Smaller choirs; Limit Spectators
Congestion	Low	High	Ensure staggered entry and exit
Movement	Directed	Undirected	Conduct orderly flow
Touch	Low	High	Hand hygiene
Respiratory Control	Normal	Increased	Cannot be mitigated

*Does the event or activity put the broader population at risk

Procedure

Step 1: Identify the event or activity to analyze

(E.g., Classrooms, class changes, meals, choirs, sports practice and/or games, transportation)

- Show Choir

Step 2: Complete the risk matrix assignment for each risk factor

- (See matrix)

Step 3: identify if the broader population is at risk vs. individual or small group

- No (example of “yes” would be football game with a large number of students – putting entire student body at risk of exposure)

Step 4: Identify mitigation strategies that address higher risk factors

Brainstorm as many mitigation strategies as possible in each area. Many ideas can be found on various education examples:

- Proximity – increase distance; wear cloth face coverings; hold activities outdoors
- Duration – limit duration
- Group Size – Break into smaller groups; keep groups cohorted together without intermingling; limit spectators
- Congestion – Stagger entry and exit; hold activities outdoors
- Movement – Place directional guides in entrances and hallways
- Touch – Limit gathering of items; hand hygiene
- Respiratory Output – Avoid singing or shouting in activities as possible

Be innovative and specific.

- See matrix

(JUST AN EXAMPLE – NOT A REAL DETERMINATION...)

Step 5: Make a determination if the activity is allowable or requires additional modification

Is the risk high for >2 elements?

- Yes

Are mitigation steps adequate?

- No

Is there risk to the entire student body?

- No

Does the educational value of the activity justify the risk?

- No

Additional Considerations

- What is the COVID-19 activity locally?
- What could trigger discontinuation of the activity?
 - Increasing community spread?
 - Increased cases at the school?
- Proper documentation in the event of an outbreak (to identify those in need of quarantine or testing)

Decision

- Due to the high risk of COVID-19 transmission at Show Choir, there will be no group practice or competition for the first semester of 2020-2021 school year.
 - A determination will be made prior to Spring whether or not Show Choir may begin second semester.
-

Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) Guidance as of June 16, 2020

Steps to Take After Being Tested

Isolate yourself

If you have symptoms of COVID-19:

- While waiting for the results of your test, your household contacts should stay at home. (If household contacts are healthcare workers, they are encouraged to contact their employer. They may still be allowed to work while wearing a mask).
- Stay in a specific room and away from other people in your home to the extent possible. Use a separate bathroom, if available. Household members can consider staying in a separate location, if available, to decrease their risk of exposure.
- For more information, see the [CDC's guidance on preventing the spread of COVID-19 at home](#).
- If you must leave home, such as to seek medical care, wear a surgical mask if available.
- If your results are positive, you will need to isolate for 14 days from the time your symptoms started.

If you are awaiting results of a routine screening test:

- If you are awaiting results from routine screening, but have no symptoms, you may return to work under the guidance of your employer (unless otherwise directed by the Mississippi State Department of Health).

Monitor your health

- Get plenty of rest, stay hydrated and if needed, take medication to reduce your fever.
- If your symptoms get worse and you need to seek healthcare, call ahead and tell the provider that you have been tested for COVID-19. This will help the healthcare provider's office take steps to keep other people from getting infected or exposed.

Practice healthy habits

- Cover your cough, or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use alcohol-based hand rub if soap and water are not available.
- Clean and disinfect objects and surfaces regularly, including your phone.

Guidance for your household contacts

- While waiting for the results of your test, your household contacts should stay at home if you have symptoms of COVID-19.
- They should not go to work or school and should avoid all public places.
- If your results are positive, your household contacts should immediately quarantine themselves for 14 days.
- Household contacts should monitor for fever, cough and shortness of breath and contact their healthcare provider with symptoms. If they need medical assessment, they should call the health clinic or hospital before they visit.

If your results are negative (or not detected)

Continue to reduce your risk of illness:

- Isolate yourself until fever-free for at least 48 hours (if fever was present)
- Practicing social distancing
- Wash your hands
- Avoid non-essential outings

Returning to work after isolation or quarantine

If you received a State Health Officer's Order to isolate or quarantine yourself, this Order should suffice as the appropriate documentation to return to work (if needed or requested). The Mississippi State Department of Health does not provide any other form of return-to-work documentation for any individual.

If you are issued isolation/quarantine orders, be sure to keep a copy of the orders in case documentation is needed to return to work.

COVID-19 Symptoms for Screening

Symptoms may appear **2-14 days after exposure to the virus**. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- *Cough*
- *Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing*
- *Fever or Chills*
- *Fatigue*
- *Repeated shaking with chills*
- *Muscle pain or body aches*
- *Headache*
- *Sore throat*
- *New loss of taste or smell*
- *Congestion or runny nose*
- *Nausea or vomiting*
- *Diarrhea*
- *Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit*
- *Known close contact* (defined by the CDC/MSDH as an individual who has had close contact (< 6 feet for ≥15 minutes) *with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19*

*This list does not include all possible symptoms. CDC will continue to update this list as we learn more about COVID-19.

Possible Screening Questions from the CDC:

1. "Have you felt like you had a fever in the past day?"
2. "Do you have a new or worsening cough today?"
3. "Do you have any of these other symptoms?"
 - *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*

References:

Retrieved from: https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,22051,420,874.html on June 16, 2020.

Retrieved from: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/public-health-recommendations.html> on June 19, 2020.

Retrieved from: <https://www.mdek12.org/COVID19> on June 26, 2020.

MASS Webinar (June 17, 2020)

MDE Webinar (June 16, 2020; June 23, 2020; June 25, 2020)

JCSD Frequently Asked Questions

Will attendance be taken?

JCSD will take attendance for all students participating in traditional classes and distance learning via guidance from policies set by the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) and JCSD Board of Education.

Is distance learning an option for students?

Parents will have the options of enrolling student(s) in distance learning/home-based instruction on a case by case basis or traditional instruction. Parents who choose and are approved for distance learning must enroll their child for a nine (9) week period.

What about grading?

Assignments will be graded for traditional and distance learning students using the traditional grading scale established in JCSD Handbook policy.

What if school closes due to COVID-related illness?

The superintendent may be required to close a school and/or the district due to a possible outbreak. If this is required, all students will be provided instruction through virtual learning activities and/or printed packets.

Will students be required to wear a mask?

Students and staff will be required to wear masks where physical distancing is not possible. This includes bus routes, common areas, and entering and exiting the building.

Will there be large group assemblies?

There will be no large assemblies where social distancing cannot be practiced.

Will schools allow visitors and volunteers?

JCSD has established the following protocol for visitors entering the building:

- Call the office before entering.
- Temperature screening will be performed on visitors.
- Face masks/coverings will be required when in the building.

NON-ESSENTIAL VISITORS WILL BE LIMITED!

- Parents may not come to school to eat lunch with their children or walk them to class.

JCSD will have staff available to accompany students to their classrooms on the first day of school.

What is the plan for cafeteria service?

Each school cafeteria will serve breakfast and lunch using a plan developed by individual school sites. Options include: grab and go breakfast/lunch, delivery to classrooms, one class a day dine-in, etc. Your school will share detailed information with you.

Will students be able to use the water fountain?

Water fountains will not be in use. Water will be made available.

Will students with IEP's/504 plans continue to receive accommodations?

Student services will be managed by the IEP committee or the 504 plan due to the highly individualized nature of these accommodations.

What about the first day of school?

Students will be supported by school staff to find their classrooms on the first day of school. Parents will not be allowed to enter the building to walk students to class.

Will schools still have Open House and Parent Conferences?

There will be no Open House. Pre-K and Kindergarten parents will have appointments with teachers between August 7, 2020 and August 24, 2020. Principals will share information via websites. Options for parent-teacher conferences include virtual meetings, appointment-only meetings, phone calls, and drive-through meets.

Will schools continue to provide transportation?

Yes. The use of face coverings is required on all school transportation. Buses will be disinfected between routes. We may require family members to sit with one another in order to maintain CDC guidelines.

Can students have backpacks/lunchboxes/purses?

Backpacks, lunchboxes, and purses are allowed and will follow previous rules set forth in the student handbook.

Will older students be allowed to use lockers?

Each school that uses lockers will provide students with expectations for locker use.

Will younger students be allowed to have recess?

Yes. Recess plans for elementary students will be developed by each campus administrator and will be similar to what they have been in the past with the following changes: Recess time will allow for a reduced number of students in any one location at the same time. This will be shared with parents by the school.

Will students be allowed to participate in athletics?

Schools will follow all rules and regulations provided by the Mississippi High School Activities Association (MHSAA).

What will classrooms look like?

Classrooms will be structured to support social distancing with enhanced cleaning procedures. Classroom supplies will not be shared.

Jones County School District

COVID-19 Response

Screening

- Students and staff will be prompted to self-screen at the start of each week
- All students, staff, and visitors will be screened each day before the day begins - including individual temperature checks

PPE

- All students and staff will be given 2 washable face coverings – masks will be encouraged at all times
- Masks/face coverings will be required on all buses
- All teachers/staff will be required to wear face coverings

Enhanced Environmental Cleaning

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

Social Distancing

- No large gatherings will be allowed (assemblies, etc.)
- Desks/tables will be distanced as much as possible
- Class numbers will be adjusted to keep numbers as low as possible
- Entry/exit will be staggered in halls
- Buses will be double-routed to keep numbers down
- Schedules will be arranged to insure fewer students per class
- No group work or activity will be allowed without a mask

Food Service

- Meals will be served in small groups (in the cafeteria; grab and go; or delivered to the classrooms)
- Social distancing will be in place at all times

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
- All persons with close proximity exposure (contact of less than 6 feet, for more than 15 minutes, without a mask) to a person that tests positive will be quarantined for 14 days
- Quarantined students will be given ongoing educational opportunities
- Each school will have a COVID Contact person that should be notified of positive test results – individual student and staff test results will be kept confidential per FERPA laws
- Visitors to the schools will be by appointment only
- Informational signs will be posted in all buildings regarding safety practices

Important Procedural

Considerations:

- An online/paper packet option will be available with restrictions, on a case-by-cases basis, for those students with verified underlying health conditions that would cause them to remain quarantined.
- Families with health concerns will have to discuss the virtual learning opportunity with their school's principal by July 31.
- Extracurricular activities and some elective courses will not be available for students that will take part in the online/ paper packet model.
- If you have questions, contact your child's principal. All offices open July 22, 2020.

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