

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 ≥ 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 ≥ 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.***