

Update to Jones County Schools Mask Requirement October 5, 2021

The Jones County School Board met on October 4, 2021, at the regularly scheduled monthly Board meeting and has made the decision to make mask use on the campuses of the Jones County School District optional due to a decrease in the number of positive COVID-19 cases within the schools.

This change in policy of required mask use is contingent on the number of positive cases staying below a threshold of 3.5% of the total enrollment for any particular school. For example, if a school has 500 students and the number of positive cases rise above 18 students, then that specific school would be placed under a mandatory mask order for a minimum of ten (10) school days in an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

***Important Note** - Students that are close contacts of a confirmed case of COVID-19 will have to quarantine per the current quarantine policy for close-contact exposure if they choose to not wear a mask.

This policy update also applies to all faculty, staff, students, and visitors of the school district.

Faculty or staff that are close-contacts of a confirmed case of COVID-19 may continue to work as “essential” personnel as long as they meet the following criteria:

- They remain symptom free
- They wear a mask
- They monitor their symptoms throughout the day
- They maintain social-distancing as much as possible
- They are encouraged to get tested for COVID-19 three to five days after exposure

Thank you.