



# Monroe County School District

## Reopening Plan

**2020-2021**  
Approved 7-14-2020

**Disclaimer:** Due to the unique circumstances with Covid-19, certain attendance, instructional options, procedures, rules, policies and regulations found within this document may be superseded by updated guidance from MDE, the Governor, MSDH, or other governing agencies. This plan is not inclusive of all circumstances. Responses may vary after considering all factors. These guidelines will be updated with new information as it becomes available. The information provided is a set of general guidelines and expectations. Our decisions will be made in coordination with local and state guidelines as they are updated. Depending upon the impact of Covid, there may be times when all students will do distance learning for periods of time or all students may return to regular “at school” attendance.

This document is in addition to handbooks, policies, and normal procedures.

Monroe County School District is preparing for a traditional start for students on August 6, 2020. The decision is based upon recommendations from school administration, school leadership teams and parent surveys. The majority of MCSD parents that responded preferred a traditional start with added sanitation and safety procedures in place.

## Health/Safety Guidelines

### Prior to School

- Students and staff should not come to school if:
  - You have been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19.
  - You are experiencing a cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat with fever of 100 or higher
  - You have had a fever of 100 or more in the 48 hours prior to the school day.
  - You have experienced new loss of taste or smell.
  - You have experienced vomiting or diarrhea in the 24 hours prior.
  - You should call the office of your particular school to self-report symptoms.

### 1. Buses

- a. Buses will run normal routes
- b. Students will be asked to wear a mask while riding the bus, if social distancing is not possible.
- c. Drivers will wear face mask/shield.
- d. Parents that can transport child to school will be encouraged to do so.
- e. Students will have assigned seats.
- f. Students within the same home will sit together or in close proximity
- g. Students will be allowed to lower the mask below the nose if they become too hot or have trouble breathing while on the bus or at school.
- h. When possible, windows will be lowered to provide maximum ventilation
- i. Drivers will be trained on Covid safety measures/ procedures

### 2. Screening (Digital Thermometers will be used to measure temperature)

- a. Staff will have temperatures taken when entering the building
- b. Staff will take the temperature of students and staff prior to entering the building.
- c. Staff may randomly and discretely take the temperature of any student or staff when there is reason to believe someone is showing signs of illness.
- d. If a parent tells us that a student is sick, we may ask about the symptoms.
- e. If an employee calls in sick, we may ask about the symptoms.
- f. A designated isolation area will be used for any student that becomes sick (fever, etc) to be placed by the school nurse and the parent/guardian will be notified that student can't remain at school. Face coverings will be required in this area.
- g. Any students or staff who may show symptoms or who has fever will be referred to the school nurse for further evaluation and possible isolation.
- h. Students or staff with a consistent temperature of 100 or higher will be sent home to self-monitor and seek medical attention from their health care provider.

### **3. PPE (This is for the protection of everyone)**

- a. Staff will be asked to wear PPE while around other staff and students.
- b. Students will be asked to wear mask on buses and in classrooms where 6 feet distances can't be maintained.
- c. Classroom teachers may designate a spot for a student to lower the mask below the nose as needed and feasible.
- d. Face coverings/Shields significantly reduce transmission according to Dr. Dobbs.
- e. Staff and students will be provided initial cloth face coverings.
- f. Disposable face coverings will be available as supplies last.
- g. MCSD understands there will be certain medical issues that may limit or prevent facial coverings.

### **4. Health Services**

- a. Parents will need to bring medication to the nurse for drop off. Parents are encouraged to schedule a time with the nurse, if needed.
- b. Covid safety training will be provided to staff.

### **5. Sanitation**

- a. Buses will be sanitized daily.
- b. All classrooms, restrooms, indoor athletic facilities, cafeterias and other high traffic areas will be sanitized daily.
- c. Hand sanitizer will be available at the entry of each building.
- d. Frequent washing of hands with soap will be encouraged, especially of younger students.

### **6. Movement of students and staff during the day**

- a. As feasible, the number of students in the cafeteria at one time will be reduced by providing lunches in classrooms for certain grade levels/classes
- b. Elementary students will remain in their classroom and the teachers will rotate, as feasible.
- c. 7-12 students will follow a normal schedule with staggered class changes, as feasible.
- d. While changing classes, students will be encouraged to maintain social distancing and wear a mask.
- e. Face coverings will be encouraged for those going through the cafeteria serving line.
- f. Everyone will be asked to walk on the right of the hallway and keep the center hall way clear.

### **7. Classrooms**

- a. As feasible, desks will be arranged to maximize distance between students and students facing the same direction.
- b. Any excess furniture will be removed, as feasible, to make additional room for social distancing
- c. Students will be encouraged to use their own supplies to reduce transmission with sharing
- d. Students will be encouraged to wear face coverings to avoid "Close Contact" situations.
- e. Any school equipment that is shared will be sanitized between uses.
- f. All classrooms will have student assigned seats to assist with contact tracing.

### **8. Playground/Breaks/PE**

- a. Students will be encouraged to maintain social distancing as feasible.
- b. Elementary students will be allowed recess time. This may mean each class has their own activity zone (possibly rotating weekly) when multiple classes are present at the same time.
- c. As feasible, classrooms will stagger recess time to limit the number of students in the area at one time.
- d. Students will not be asked to wear a mask while participating in recreational activities.
- e. Hand sanitizer/hand washing will be done upon re-entering the building.

### **9. Response to Positive Covid Cases**

- a. Individuals will be quarantined for 14 calendar days.
- b. Nurse will notify MSDH when made aware.
- c. Staff will assist with identifying "close contacts" with infected individuals and they will be sent home for 14 calendar days.

- d. Staff will notify parent(s) of those within a group/class.
- e. Students and staff that are identified as being in “close contact” with someone who tests positive for Covid must stay isolated at home for 14 calendar days and fever free 3 days prior to returning.

#### 10. Exclusions from School

- a. Anyone that has a fever of 100 or higher will be sent home.
- b. A person has to be fever-free for 72 hours without medication prior to returning.
- c. Anyone that tests positive for Covid must isolate at home for 14 calendar days and must be fever –free for 72 hours at the end of this time prior to returning to school.
- d. **Close Contact (less than 6ft for 15 or more minutes while not wearing face PPE)** must quarantine for up to 14 calendar days and can’t return until fever free for 72 hours at the end of the timeframe.
- e. All staff and student that are excluded from attending school are encouraged to avoid the public and other family (not living in the home) during this time.
- f. Immediate family members living in the same home will be monitored for signs and symptoms and may be excluded from school as well.
- g. Depending upon the number of cases, specific students and staff may be excluded, classrooms may be excluded, grade levels, etc. If more than three people in a group test positive for Covid, all members should be quarantined up to 14 calendar days.
- f. If the entire school has to close, it would be for a minimum 14 calendar days.
- g. If a student or employee has recently had “close contact” with a person who has tested positive for Covid or has recently traveled to an area identified by the CDC with elevated cases, the school may exclude them up to 14 calendar days.

#### 11. Academics

The MCSD will begin school in August 2020 using the Traditional Learning Model. However, students who choose to learn from home through the MCSD Blended Learning Model will be allowed to do so if they meet certain conditions. **Face-to-face instruction is the best, research-based model for learning. Decisions to learn through distance learning should be made carefully and thoughtfully as distance learning is not equitable to traditional learning models.**

- a. MCSD will have a traditional start. A hybrid/blended learning option will be available for certain families who need to keep their child(ren) at home. Students will become distance learners if they are quarantined or if the school has to close for certain periods of time. All learning models must meet the required 240 minutes of instruction per day. Attendance will be taken daily.
  1. Traditional Learning is “at school” instruction with safety guidelines are followed, as feasible.  
**\*Parents should be prepared for some closures where traditional students may have to participate in Distance Learning for certain time periods.**
  2. Blended learning allows students, who can, to learn from home the majority of time with “at-school” learning for designated classes. Students will be required to schedule times to take assessments, screeners, and obtain additional help. This learning model is not equal to traditional learning.  
  
**Parents must make a request to participate in the Blended/Hybrid learning model and complete the agreement form.**
  3. Distance learning-All students will become Distance learners during quarantine and school closures. Instruction will continue to be provided by the teacher and attendance will be taken. Once quarantine has ended or the school re-opens, the students will return to their original instructional model. This learning model is not equal to traditional learning.

Once Covid-19 subsides or an approved vaccine is available, MCSD will return to traditional learning.

## **Blended Learning**

**Students will be expected to meet the same academic requirements as traditional students. Students** need to have reliable internet and a device other than a cell phone. **Students** must commit to daily attendance checks, completing assigned work on time, report to school for all teacher and state assessments as well as screeners and at least for any additional academic support. Reporting day(s) and times weekly will be arranged with the teacher.

Blended learning may be revoked for failure to complete assignments, lack of attendance/participation, discipline, etc.

Students, who do not have a device at home, will be able to check out a device, as available, by completing the required form. Students who don't have access to the internet will receive teacher recorded lessons and instructional materials that students can download on their device. These lessons will be completed weekly and returned to the school for teachers to grade. When students return the lesson they will receive the next week's lesson. There will be more details on this at a later time. Students may request printed materials in addition to downloaded assignments that meet the minimum 240 minutes daily requirement.

**Parents must ensure student is in attendance daily during the instructional schedule, completes all assigned work on time, and reports to school for identified screeners and assessments.**

**Due to the requirements of certain classes (CTE, lab based, etc) will not be available by blended learning**

Students with internet access will be expected to attend/participate in classes daily during their regularly scheduled times. They will also be responsible for all assignments, assessments, and deadlines. In the event of an entire shutdown, they will be expected to attend all virtual classes/Distance Learning. JK- FERPA laws

- b. Instruction will continue with distance instruction during partial or full closures.
- c. Unless staff has requested leave, is sick, or has tested positive for Covid, they will be expected to continue to report to their classroom to continue instruction for students during closures. Google Classroom or similar will be the Learning Management System used.
- d. Teachers will be able to live stream, record instructional lectures, and upload Google docs for students to complete.
- e. During closures or isolations of students that do not have internet will have the capability to drive to the school or any other establishment providing Wi-Fi to download/upload assignments. Additionally, students who do not have a device can receive a packet each week that includes work that will meet the minimum of 240 minutes of instruct per week. The packets will be provided and returned on a weekly basis. Attendance will be verified according to MDE guidelines.
- f. Grade level/Class Field trips may not be allowed this year

## **12. Grading and Attendance**

- a. Attendance will be taken daily, even during closure. (Exceptions will be weather related closures)
- b. MCSD will follow Mississippi Department of Ed's required attendance procedures.
- c. Specific reasons for absences will be identified, including Covid related absences.
- d. Grades will be assigned based on the MCSD grading scale.
- e. Truancy laws will continue to be applicable.

## **13. Travel Restrictions**

- a. Class and Grade level Field trips may be restricted until further noticed.
- b. Staff travel to conferences may be restricted until further noticed

### **13. Athletic Events**

- a. MCSD will follow MHSAA guidelines.
- b. All spectators will be encouraged to wear face coverings
- c. Events may have a limited number of spectators.
- d. Temperatures will be taken of all players and may be taken of spectators prior to entry.

### **14 . Visitors**

- a. There will be a limited amount of access for visitors during the school day. If a visit to school is necessary, appointments will be made.
- b. Temperatures will be taken of each visitor.
- c. Guests/visitors will not be permitted to visit during lunch

### **15. Meal Services**

- a. To help reduce the number of students in the cafeteria at one time, students will be allowed to eat breakfast and lunch in classrooms, on a rotation schedule. There will be times when meals may be delivered to the classroom to help reduce student movement.
- b. Parents are strong encouraged to use MY SCHOOL BUCKS for cafeteria payment. This will help reduce transmission by eliminating money exchange.

### **16. Hydration**

- a. Due to the nature of covid and other infectious diseases, water fountains may not be available. We encourage you to send a "name-labeled" bottle of water with your child.

### **17. Educating employees and students about Covid Transmissions**

- a. Post signs in classrooms, hallways and entrances to communicate how to prevent the spread
- b. Demonstrate proper use of hand sanitizer and face coverings
- c. Help students understand the importance of social distancing

### **18. Large Group Meetings**

- a. Assemblies with multiple grades will be avoided where social distancing can't be maintained.
- b. There will be separate entry and exit points for buildings where feasible.

### **19. Communication**

- a. Teachers, students, and parents will need to check email often
- b. Check the school and district websites
- c. Sign up for Twitter for each school and district
- d. Calls from the school and district.