

• COFFEE COUNTY SCHOOLS •

Douglas, Georgia



Back to School Plan

2020-2021

The following is based on information within [Guidance for Georgia K-12 Schools and School-based Programs](#). It is not intended to be an exhaustive or detailed list of expectations, but will provide an overview of the anticipated guidance for re-entry to the traditional setting on August 17, 2020.

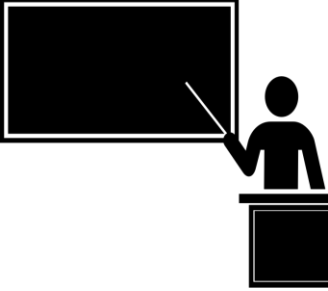

Coffee County Schools understands the seriousness of the health risks of COVID-19. Therefore, we have enhanced our safety and health practices to provide an environment that is conducive to learning while also putting mechanisms in place that mitigate the risks of COVID-19. All of our schools, programs, and offices will follow the guidance of this document. It is understood that each building has different dynamics and situations; therefore, each building may provide additional information about specific needs. However, at all locations, the health and safety of our staff and students will be our primary focus and priority. This information may be subject to change based on additional guidance received from the Georgia Department of Education, and the Department of Public Health.

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TEACHING AND LEARNING OPTIONS

Coffee County School System will ensure appropriate and efficient use of available time for preparation, collaboration, instruction, assessment, and remediation. This includes offering families two options for student learning during the 2020-2021 school year:

<p>Traditional</p> 	<p>School buildings are open and implementing more intensive prevention strategies to curb the spread of the COVID virus. Enhanced social distancing and face coverings will be strongly encouraged for students and teachers. Face-to-face instruction is scheduled using the appropriate content standards and grading practices while providing rigorous learning opportunities.</p> <p>Each student (Grades K - 12) will have access to a system-issued Chromebook.</p> <p>Students and staff are strongly encouraged to wear masks/face coverings. Visitors are required to wear a mask.</p> <p>Should a school closure occur, all traditional option students will remain at home to learn remotely via Google Meets.</p>
<p>Virtual Learning through Google Classroom/Google Meets</p> 	<p>Virtual instruction will be facilitated by a Coffee County School System teacher. Instruction will be via Google Meets and other instruction resources using the appropriate content standards and grading practices while providing rigorous learning opportunities. Instruction will be facilitated by a teacher, daily. Students will be expected to log in and participate daily. Pre-K students are not eligible for the virtual learning option.</p> <p>Each student will have access to a system-issued Chromebook, if requested at virtual registration. It is the parent's responsibility to ensure access to a reliable internet connection on a daily basis.</p> <p>Elementary school students must commit to this model for nine weeks at a time. Middle school students and high school students must commit to this model for a full semester.</p> <p>The deadline to enroll is Monday, July 27, 2020 on the Coffee County School System website</p> <p>*Please understand that virtual students' schedules may be modified based on virtual course availability.</p>

CLEANING AND HYGIENE



Washing hands with soap for 20 seconds or using hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol reduces the spread of disease.

Supplies will be provided to support healthy hygiene behaviors throughout the day (ex. hand soap, hand sanitizer, paper towels, wipes). Parents may also send in sealed hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, disinfecting wipes, and facial tissues.

Hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol will be provided at the building main entrance, in the cafeteria, and in classrooms. These will be systematically checked and refilled. Children will be supervised in the use of these products.

Students will be directed to use proper handwashing techniques with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and shall be allowed regular hand washing breaks throughout the school day. Signage will be posted throughout the school.

Staff and students will be encouraged to cough and sneeze into their elbows or to cover with a tissue.

Coffee County Schools custodial staff will clean and disinfect on a regular basis to ensure viral spread via surfaces is minimized.

Shared items that cannot be consistently disinfected will be discouraged (stuffed toys, balls, etc.) Student personal items (such as pens, crayons, and scissors) should be kept separately in individual lockers, cubbies, or containers.

Cloth covered items, such as drapes, pillows, cushions, furniture, area rugs, and all other items not essential to learning, should be removed from classrooms to the degree practicable. Such items not removed must be disinfected on a daily basis or at each exchange of user, using an aerosol disinfectant.

Teachers and students should utilize disinfectant and/or wipes in the classroom to clean and sanitize desks and tables once per day where the same student stays at the same desk or table throughout the day. If a different student uses the desk or table, surfaces must be disinfected between uses. Teachers should also clean frequently touched surfaces such as door handles, light switches, computer keyboards/Chromebooks, mice, interactive boards, and telephones with the wipes. Disinfecting wipes and disinfectants should be kept out of the reach of children.

Teachers and students will be expected to pick up all items from the floor and clear desktops and tabletops at the end of each day to allow for more thorough cleaning each evening.

When there is a COVID-19 positive student in a classroom, the students will be removed from the infected classroom on Day 1 and relocated to another classroom, the infected classroom will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected on Day 2 and the students will return to the cleaned and disinfected classroom on Day 3.

****Day 2 and 3 may be modified.**

In accordance with Practicing Prevention and Responding to COVID-19 in K-12 Schools, July 13, 2020: In the event of an exposure, custodial staff will also isolate and deep clean impacted classrooms and spaces. In some cases, facilities or portions of facilities will be closed and deep clean and sanitize impacted classrooms and areas. Closure may be for a period up to 14 days.



CLINICS AND STUDENT HEALTH

According to CDC guidelines, symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever (100.4 or higher) or chills
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- New loss of taste or smell
- Congestion or runny nose
- Cough
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Sore throat
- Headache

All parent/guardians must complete a Student Locator Card. This card provides student information for the nurse to ensure appropriate care for students and allowed medications are administered.

Students who require the nurse's care at school (e.g. medication, first aid, or other regular treatments) will be sent to the school nurse clinic. If students have COVID-19 like symptoms, the student will be provided a mask if they do not have one and isolated from other students in the isolation room. Isolation will be in another location other than the nurse's clinic.

- Students who are sick must be promptly picked up from school and staff members who are sick must promptly leave school. Both are subject to the *Return to School Guidance (See page 17)*.
- Students and staff who become ill are required to seek medical treatment and follow the Department of Public Health guidance prior to returning to school. If warranted, a COVID-19 test is required. Staff and parents can self-report positive tests or potential exposure to this form. This form will follow HIPPA and FERPA compliance.
- When cases of COVID-19, for students or staff, are confirmed, the system will work with local health authorities to determine appropriate response. Response will be dictated by the nature of each case.
 - CCSS will notify student's parents, staff, and teachers who have been potentially exposed of any positive case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality, as required under FERPA.
 - CCSS will inform those who have had close contact to a person diagnosed with COVID 19 to stay home and follow state DPH guidance.
 - Recommendations may include quarantine of the individual, quarantine of a specific classroom or grade level, and in extreme circumstances may result in the entire school returning to Virtual Learning for some period depending on the guidance from Department of Public Health. Refer to the *Return to School Guidance (See page 17)*.

In the clinics, nurses will wear medical grade personal protective equipment. Touchless thermometers will be used in schools when taking student or staff temperatures.

CLOSE CONTACT/EXPOSURE IDENTIFICATION

Elementary Students

- Do an exposure assessment to identify close contacts if feasible. Anyone who was within 6 feet of the case for > 15 minutes in a school setting such as a classroom, school bus, extracurricular activity, meeting, etc. should be quarantined.
- Social distancing may not be feasible for young students in a classroom. For this reason, there may be circumstances when all students, teachers, and staff in a classroom with a case may be considered close contacts and require quarantine.
- If there is uncertainty about the length of exposure or proximity to the case, the individual should be considered a close contact.
- All close contacts must be excluded from the school until fourteen days after last contact with case (usually last day the case attended). If a close contact becomes ill and is diagnosed with COVID-19, they must remain excluded for their isolation period and until told they are no longer contagious. *Refer to page 17.*
- If a quarantined student, teacher, or staff member is tested while in quarantine and receives negative results, he/she must remain in quarantine for the entire 14 days.
- **See below

Middle or High School

- A thorough exposure assessment should be performed to identify close contacts.
- Any individuals with whom the case spent 15 minutes or more within less than 6 ft.
- Any teachers or staff members who did not observe proper social distancing with the case should be considered close contacts.
- If there is uncertainty about the length of exposure or proximity to the case, the individual should be considered a close contact.
- All close contacts must be excluded from the school until fourteen days after last contact with case (usually last day the case attended). If a close contact becomes ill and is diagnosed with COVID-19, they must remain excluded for their isolation period and until told they are no longer contagious. *Refer to page 17.*
- If a quarantined student, teacher, or staff member is tested while in quarantine and receives negative results, he/she must remain in quarantine for the entire 14 days.
- **See below

Notify the parents of close contacts and inform them of [DPH Return to School Guidance](#) (refer to page 17) and when their child can return to school.

****A person who has clinically recovered from COVID-19 and then is identified as a contact of a new case within 3 months of symptom onset or first positive test of their most recent illness does not need to be quarantined. However if a person is identified as a contact of a new case 3 months or more after symptom onset or first positive test, they should follow quarantine recommendations for contacts.**

Close off areas used by a sick person and do not use before cleaning and disinfection. The students will be removed from the infected classroom on Day 1 and relocated to another classroom, the infected classroom will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected on Day 2 and the students will return to the cleaned and disinfected classroom on Day 3. **Day 2 and 3 may be modified.

COMMUNICATION



We are focused on communicating as clearly and thoroughly as possible during these times. We disseminate information, as it is available.

- Please confirm your contact information is up-to-date for your child(ren).
 - For change of address, please visit or contact the Central Enrollment Center at (912)389-6890. Proof of the new address is required.
 - Changes in phone numbers and/or email addresses can be submitted to your child(ren)'s school or by the Central Enrollment Center at (912)389-6890.
- Updates will be shared on our school and district websites, Facebook, Instagram, Douglas Now, The Douglas Enterprise and Kinolved.
- Video messages will be shared on our school and district websites, Facebook, Instagram, Douglas Now, The Douglas Enterprise and Kinolved.
- Signs provided by the Department of Public Health will be posted throughout all school buildings reminding students and staff of recommended healthy hygiene practices.
- There may be situations where a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19. Each case will be evaluated individually. Schools will communicate with the involved students and families as needed. Due to HIPPA and FERPA privacy requirements, we will not be identifying individuals with COVID-19, and we ask that others not speculate about such instances.



COPING AND WELLNESS

Coffee County Schools recognizes the impact COVID-19 has on families emotionally. Therefore, mental health support will be provided to support the emotional wellbeing of students and staff.

- Counselors, teachers, wellness teams, and social workers will establish processes to determine individual student needs.
- Social workers and counselors will provide services including access to mental health support. Please contact your school's counselor for more information.
- Student support staff will work with community partners to establish support services available to students following CDC guidance.

Resources:

[COVID-19 Toolbox for Students, Parents, & Professionals](#)

[Coronavirus Tips for Families](#)

[Talking to Kids about the Coronavirus Crisis](#)

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND ATHLETICS



Students enrolled in the Virtual Learning Program will not be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities or athletics.

Any modifications must be approved by the system Principal or Athletic Director.

All athletic programs that are governed by the Georgia High School Association (GHSA) will follow GHSA rules and regulations. Guidance from local health officials will also be considered. Middle school athletic programs will follow the same guidance as the GHSA high school programs. Any modifications must be approved by the system Principal or Athletic Director.

Coffee High School student athletes should report the following to the Athletic Trainer, Ben Swafford at ben.swafford@coffee.k12.ga.us, and freshman and middle school athletes should report to the school athletic director.

- If a student athlete tests positive,
- If a member of a student athlete's household tests positive, and/or
- The athlete's close contact/exposure to COVID-19.

For all other extracurricular activities, positive tests and close contact/exposure to COVID-19 should be reported immediately to the school principal or school nurse.

FACE COVERINGS/MASKS



Wearing a face covering or a mask is strongly encouraged for all students and staff.

Wearing a face covering or a mask is required to ride a school bus.

Visitors to any school or to the Coffee County Board of Education are required to wear a mask.

Masks should cover both the nose and mouth when worn. Face shields may be worn when social distancing; if face shields are used without a mask, they should wrap around the sides of the wearer's face and extend to below the chin. **Decorative designs on face coverings shall be limited to school mascots/logos or prints that adhere to the dress code guidance.**

Face coverings are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not yet have symptoms.

Individuals should be reminded frequently not to touch the face covering and to wash their hands. Attaching the face covering to a lanyard will help the student keep up with the mask and reduce cross contamination.

[CDC Guidance on wearing and removing cloth face masks](#)

[CDC's use of cloth face coverings](#)

[CDC Considerations for face coverings](#)

MEDIA CENTER PROCEDURES



All students may visit the Media Center to check out books. Limit the number of students in the Media Center to maintain social distancing. Students wear masks while in the media center. Hand sanitizer should be available for students to use. Designate a location for students to place books that they touch, but decide not to check out. Sanitize these books prior to returning to the shelf. Quarantine returned books for a minimum of 72 hours (as per COVID-19 recommendations from American Association of School Libraries (AASL) before check-in and returning to circulation.

MONITORING FOR SYMPTOMS



Conducting regular screening for symptoms and ongoing self-monitoring throughout each school day can help reduce exposure. All CCSS staff is required to self-monitor for symptoms using the COVID-19 Self Screening Questions. Additional health screenings, including temperature checks, may occur in the building as directed by the principal or school nurse.

The most critical tool in preventing the spread of COVID-19 is to ensure any student or staff who is ill or has been in close contact/exposed to someone confirmed to have COVID-19 does not attend work/school. Thus, no staff or student who has a temperature of 100.4 or higher, is COVID-19 positive, or has been in close contact/exposed to someone confirmed to have COVID-19 within the previous 14 days will be allowed to be in school. To return to work/school, the ill or exposed individual must meet requirements outlined in the Return to School Guidance.

As car riders (students) arrive on campus, their temperature will be taken to ensure that they are fever free. Student(s) should remain in the vehicle until cleared to exit by school staff. Upon arrival, please lower the windows and have the student(s) positioned for touch-free temperature scanning. If more than one student is in the vehicle, each student will be checked and allowed to exit individually. Students with a temperature at or above 100.4, will not be allowed to exit the vehicle and must return home with the parent/guardian. When multiple students are in a car, only the student(s) with a temperature of 100.4 or higher will return home. The other students will be allowed to go to school. Testing is encouraged for the student(s) with a temperature of 100.4 or higher.

As students who ride a bus to school arrive on campus, their temperature will be taken as they exit the bus to ensure that they are fever free. Students that have a fever at or above 100.4 will be sent to an isolated area to be assessed by the school nurse.

Please also keep in mind that children will still get sick with illnesses that are not COVID-19. To err on the side of caution, additional safety measures will be taken regarding all health issues. All students who are out sick with a fever will be required to be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine before being allowed to return to school.

By sending your child to school, you are attesting that your child is healthy, has been fever-free for 24 hours, and has met these requirements in the *Return to School Guidance (See page 17)*.



OPEN HOUSE

Open House information is listed below for all Coffee County Schools.

- Please limit visitors to two per household in addition to the student.
- Please observe social distancing.
- Visitors are strongly encouraged to wear a mask.

Any student daily medications should be signed in by parent or guardian to the school nurse clinic during open house.

- Elementary Schools: 3:00-6:00 PM
 - August 4 - Household Last Names A-G
 - August 5 - Household Last Names H-Q
 - August 6 - Household Last Names R-Z
- Coffee Middle School: 4:00-7:00 PM
 - August 11 - 6th Grade
 - August 12 - 7th Grade
 - August 13 - 8th Grade
- George Washington Carver Freshman Campus
 - August 4,5, & 6 - Drive-thru schedule pickup from 9:00 AM-3:00 PM
 - August 4 & 5 - Question & Answer stations in gym from 9:00-11:00 AM & 3:00-6:00 PM
- Wiregrass Regional College and Career Academy: 3:00-6:00 PM
 - August 4 - New Students
 - August 5 - Returning Students in grades 10-11
 - August 6 - Seniors
- Alternative Education Center
 - August 4,5, & 6 3:00-6:00 PM
- Coffee High School - To Be Announced

PROCEDURES FOR SAFE AND HEALTHY SCHOOLS



- Parents should pre-screen students before sending them to school or bus stops. Any student with a measured temperature of 100.4° F or higher should not be sent to school.
- All employees will be screened for temperature daily.
- All classrooms will be supplied with additional hand sanitizer and disinfectant.
- Best practices for hand washing and social distancing will be implemented and

reinforced.

- Masks - Everyone is strongly encouraged to wear masks.
- Wellness procedures will be implemented to teach students how to better protect themselves.
- Custodial staff will be provided with additional disinfecting equipment and supplies.
- Classrooms, cafeterias and high-traffic areas will be sanitized as much as possible.
- Contact among students will be limited when possible.
- Visitor procedures:
 - Volunteer programs are on hold until further notice.
 - Visitors will be limited and will be screened for temperature and symptoms (questioned).
 - Visitors **are required** to wear a mask.
 - No one with a measured temperature of 100.4° F or higher will be allowed in the schools.
 - The Raptor Visitor Management System will be implemented. Background checks will be conducted and photo identification will be issued to visitors.
- Pre-K/Kindergarten parents will be allowed to walk children to class for the first two days. Parents will be screened for temperature and **are required** to wear a mask.
- Procedures for School Nurse visits will be modified.
 - Well visits will be separated from sick visits.
 - Precautions will be taken to isolate suspected COVID-19 cases.
- Assemblies/Large gatherings are on hold until further notice
- Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors, using fans, or other methods. Do not open windows and doors if they pose a safety or health risk to people using the facility.
- As car riders (students) arrive on campus, their temperature will be taken to ensure that they are fever free. Students should remain in the vehicle until cleared to exit by school staff. Upon arrival, please lower the automobile windows and have the student(s) positioned for touch-free temperature scanning. If there are more than one student in the vehicle, they will be checked and allowed to exit individually. If a student's temperature is at or above 100.4, the student will not be allowed to exit the vehicle and must return home with the parent/guardian. When multiple students are in a car, only the student(s) with a temperature of 100.4 or higher will return home. The other students will be allowed to go to school. Testing is encouraged for the student(s) with a temperature of 100.4 or higher.
- Students are required to wear a mask in order to ride the bus. Please be aware that as students arrive on campus, their temperature will be taken as they exit the bus to ensure that they are fever free. Students that have a fever at or above 100.4 will be sent to an isolated area to be assessed by the school nurse.
- All visitors **are required** to wear a mask when visiting any Coffee County Schools campuses or offices. For safety purposes, campus visitation will be limited during the 2020-2021 school year. When possible, we will implement web-conferencing/virtual meetings. If a meeting requires campus visitation, please note that your temperature will be taken prior to admission into the building.



SCHOOL CALENDAR

Please note that all currently scheduled breaks (Fall, Thanksgiving, Winter and Spring) will remain as listed in the 2020-21 school calendar. However, the entire 2020-2021 calendar may have to be modified during the year to accommodate circumstances or the spread of COVID-19.



**SCHOOL
NUTRITION
SERVING**

AND

MEALS

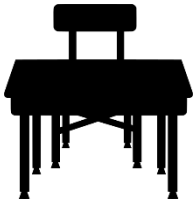
- We will follow the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) and Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) guidance.
- Every School Nutrition employee will have a temperature check and health screening before being allowed to work each day.
- Servers and cashiers will wear face masks. Some will wear face masks and shields.
- Food safety sanitation practices are even more rigorous.
- Customers will not use serving utensils or keypads.
- There will be no salad bars at any of the cafeterias.
- We work with local health officials and GADOE state health experts to maintain safety practices, ensuring that your child is served in the safest way possible.
- We work with principals to minimize contact while serving our students.
- To make the purchase of additional items safer, parents or guardian are encouraged to use MySchoolBucks to add money to your child(ren)'s account or to pay the school cafeteria directly (cash or check only). Breakfast and lunch are free to all students in the Coffee County School System, but additional items are not.



STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Coffee County Schools will still be required to take student attendance and report student attendance data to the Georgia Department of Education. Students are considered to be in attendance when participating in live or virtual instruction. For students choosing the virtual learning option, lack of participation in the course will result in absences and could be a violation of the Georgia Compulsory School Attendance Statute.

Coffee County Schools cannot completely waive truancy requirements in Georgia law, but will modify the process to avoid punitive action due to COVID-19 related absences. Schools will work with parents to resolve attendance issues related to illness.



STUDENT ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

Coffee County Schools Central Enrollment Center is open under the following regulations and guidelines for getting children (PK-12) enrolled for the 2020-2021 school year. Please visit the following [website](#) for detailed information.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to call (912)389-6890 to make an appointment to register new students. Please limit visitors when enrolling students in the CCSS. Only the custodial parent or guardian should enter and complete the enrollment process. Students are not required to attend the enrollment process. Masks are strongly encouraged by all visitors.

All required documentation is required at enrollment appointment

TRANSPORTATION



Physical distancing is most challenging on a school bus due to the limited space available. Strict physical distancing between riders of 6 feet is not practical as it would require as few as 12 riders per bus. It is required that **all students and staff wear a face covering while riding the bus to and from school**. CCSS transportation is also taking the following steps:

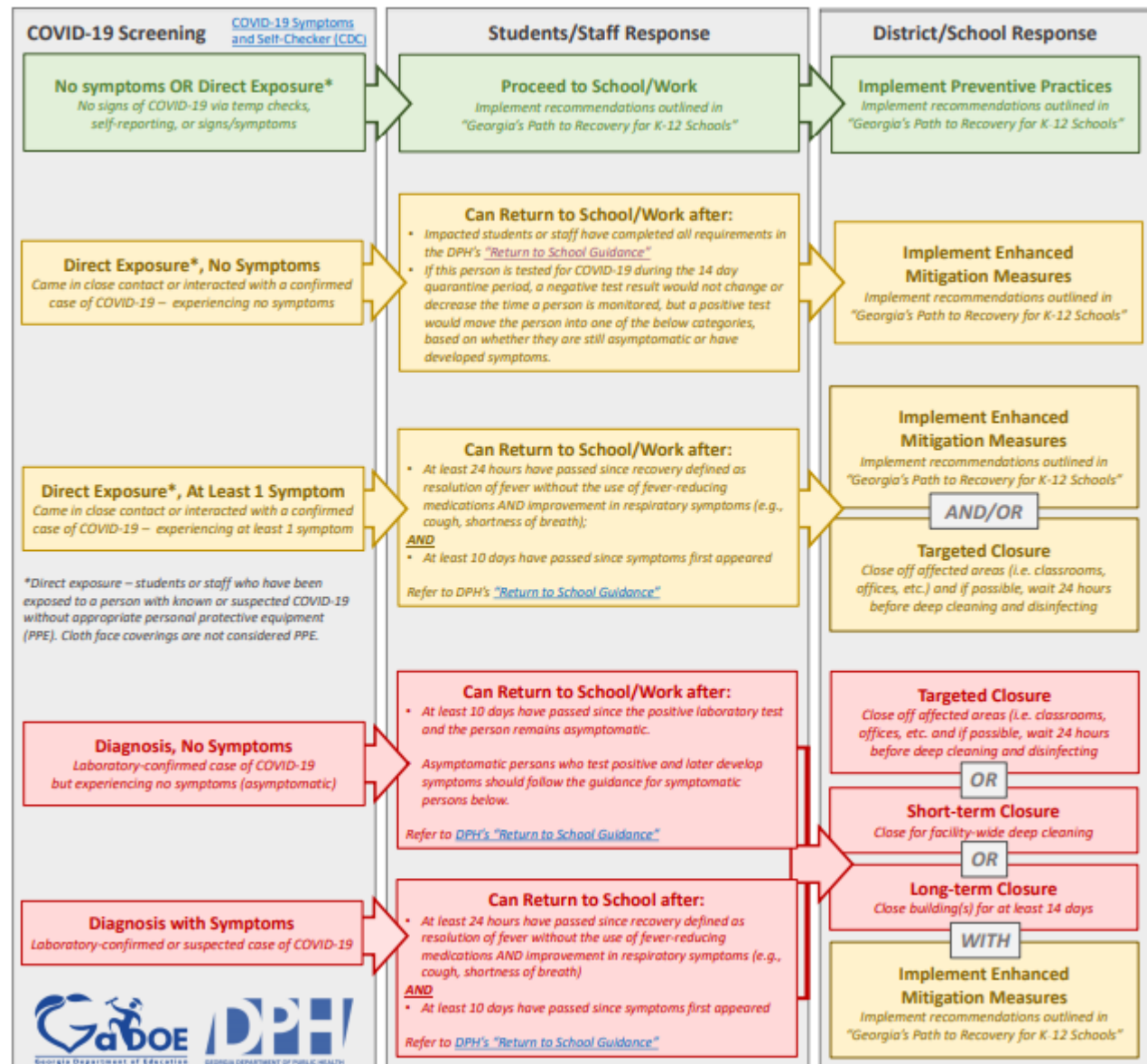
- Buses will be cleaned between the morning and the afternoon routes each day. As much as possible, buses will be wiped down with disinfecting wipes between routes (MS/HS and ES).
- Hand sanitizer will be available on all buses.
- Assigned seats will be utilized where practical.
- Students who become sick during the school day may not ride the bus home.
- In an effort to reduce the number of students on a bus, parents are encouraged to transport their students to and from school when possible. This is especially encouraged if you are not comfortable with your student riding the school bus under these safety measures.



CLASSROOM PARTIES/CELEBRATIONS

Students are to remain with their student cohort (class). There should be no food deliveries or visitors. Classroom parties/celebrations are permissible as long as it does not involve food deliveries or visitors. Students may bring pre-packaged snacks or drink items, but there should be no deliveries.

COFFEE COUNTY SCHOOLS RESPONSE FLOWCHART



DPH DOES NOT recommend using a test-based strategy for returning to school for children or adults (2 negative tests at least 24 hours apart) after COVID-19 infection. * CDC has reported prolonged PCR positive test results without evidence of infectiousness. Although persons may have PCR-positive tests for up to 6 weeks, it remains unknown whether these PCR-positive results represent the presence of infectious virus. At this time, PCR positive specimens capable of producing disease have not been isolated more than 9 days after onset of illness.

More information about the science behind the symptom-based strategy for discontinuing isolation can be found [here](#).

Daily Home Screening for Students

Parents: Please screen your child(ren) each morning before your child leaves for school. Report any information to your child(ren)'s school.



SECTION 1: Symptoms

If your child has any of the following symptoms that indicates the possible illness that may decrease the student's ability to learn and also put them at-risk for spreading illness to others.

	Temperature 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher when taken by mouth
	Sore throat
	New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline)
	Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
	New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever

SECTION 2: Close Contact/Potential Exposure

	Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes with a person confirmed COVID-19)
	Traveled to or lived in an area where the local, Tribal, territorial, or state health department is reporting large numbers of COVID-19 cases as described in the Community Mitigation Framework
	Live in areas of high community transmission (as described in the Community Mitigation Framework while the school remains open

COVID-19 Pandemic: Returning to School

When a person contracts the virus, symptoms may develop within 2-14 days from exposure, although some people never show symptoms. It is very important for your own safety and for the safety of others that you monitor your health for 14 calendar days from your last exposure to COVID-19, and that you remain at home, avoid congregate settings and public activities, and practice social distancing. Below are the requirements for returning to school.

14-calendar day Quarantine for COVID-19



SYMPTOMATIC

Individuals with a **confirmed case of COVID-19 or suspected COVID-19** that are **showing multiple symptoms**, which may include: fever (100.4+), cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea.

10 calendar days

At least 10 Days since:

*Symptoms first appeared &

*At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without fever reducing medication

*Who had mild/moderate illness & are not severely immunocompromised

OR

20 calendar days

At least 20 Days since:

*Symptoms first appeared &

* At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without fever reducing medication

*Who had severe/critical illness (hospitalized for shortness of breath, pneumonia, low oxygen levels, respiratory failure, septic shock, and/or multiple organ failure.

Return
to
School

Child, Teacher or Staff with Symptoms (No Testing and Not Linked to Positive Case)

When a student, teacher, or staff member has symptoms, they should immediately be sent home and the school's existing illness management policy should be implemented (e.g., the person cannot return until symptom-free for 24 hours without fever reducing medications).

Exceptions: If a healthcare provider suspects COVID-19 they should remain out of school and follow the "Return to School and Child Care Guidance After COVID-19 Illness or Exposure." Quarantining close contacts is not necessary. However, the school should continue to monitor children and staff for clinical signs and symptoms. Exception: If while quarantined, the individual identifies exposure to a laboratory confirmed COVID case, the recommendations for a "Probable Case" should be followed.

If you have any of the following **symptoms** such as runny nose, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, loss of smell or taste, abdominal pain, headaches, fever of 100.4 or higher, subjective fevers (feel hot), chills or diarrhea in the past 48 hours, stay home, isolate, and self-monitor for 10 days or you may return sooner if your COVID-19 PCR Swab is negative. It is recommended that you or your child consult with your physician and have COVID-19 PCR Swab performed (COVID-19 Testing is free via Public Health Department Testing Site and you can register at [Covid19.dph.ga.gov](https://covid19.dph.ga.gov) or go to collection site when it is open).

A student/person can return to school or work with a negative test and not wait 10 days if there are no other extenuating factors.

If a child/staff goes to a doctor and is diagnosed with any condition other than COVID-19 and placed on treatment, fever resolves for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication and other symptoms have improved then child/staff could return per the school's existing illness management policy.

ASYMPTOMATIC (NO SYMPTOMS)

Individuals with a **confirmed case of COVID-19 or suspected COVID-19** that are not showing symptoms, which may include: fever (100.4+), cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea.

10 calendar days



At least 10 days have passed since the positive laboratory test and the person remains asymptomatic

*Asymptomatic persons who test positive and later develop symptoms should follow the guidance for symptomatic persons above.

14 calendar days



Individuals with a known exposure/close contact to someone with COVID-19, but are not showing symptoms.

Asymptomatic persons who have known exposure/close contact to a person with COVID-19 without the appropriate PPE should:

*Complete all requirements of DPH guidance for persons exposed to COVID-19 found at <https://dph.georgia.gov/contact>

If this person is tested for COVID-19 during the 14- calendar day quarantine period, a negative test result would not change or decrease the time a person is quarantined.



****A person who has clinically recovered from COVID-19 and then is identified as a contact of a new case within 3 months of symptom onset or first positive test of their most recent illness does not need to be quarantined. However if a person is identified as a contact of a new case 3 months or more after symptom onset or first positive test, they should follow quarantine recommendations for contacts.**