



COOK COUNTY SCHOOLS

2020-2021

REOPENING PLAN



The Cook County School District believes that in-person instruction is best for student learning, while acknowledging that the threat of the Coronavirus has placed great difficulties and uncertainty on our ability to provide face-to-face instruction as our sole method for teaching children. We understand that anything less than a full-time, in-person school schedule strains many of our parents who have to go to work and cannot be home with their children. We also recognize that because of medically fragile students, at-risk family members, or other issues, some families may not be comfortable with their children returning to a traditional classroom until a vaccine for COVID-19 is widely available.

With that noted, the district seeks to offer our families two options for the start of the 2020-2021 School Year: (A.1.) traditional learning model, with guidelines based upon *Georgia's Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools* that protect the health and well-being of students and staff as much as possible, or (A.2.) online learning from home, with explicit expectations set forth in this document. Please note that all plans are fluid and subject to change, as the safety of our students and staff is our top priority.

<p>A.1. Traditional Learning Model</p> <p>-OR-</p> <p>A.2. Online Learning from Home</p> <p>*When there is low or no community spread. School building is open and will implement preventive and proactive practices for the safety of all students and employees</p>	<p>*Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures. Traditional learning is taking place in a classroom setting.</p> <p>*Prepare for potential future distance/remote learning by increasing current blended learning.</p> <p>*Learning is a combination of traditional instruction and online instruction offering a blended learning opportunity. Lessons are designed for in-class instruction with the possibility of shifting to online learning. Google classroom is used for the learning management system.</p> <p>*Professional development is provided based on the needs of teachers, staff, and parents regarding the use of remote instruction if needed during preplanning.</p>
<p>B. Hybrid Learning Model</p> <p>*When there is minimal to moderate community spread. School building opened and has limited or staggered use of school buildings.</p>	<p>*Traditional learning continues with a staggered schedule.</p> <p>*Schedule to be determined if needed</p>
<p>C. Remote Learning Model</p> <p>*When there is substantial spread. School building is closed for school wide cleaning and will implement distance learning.</p>	<p>*Online learning is taking place outside the traditional setting using various media and formats. Teachers provide video conferencing and telephone conferencing. Online learning material is accessed through Google Classroom.</p>

A.1. Traditional Learning Model

In the traditional school setting, the following health and safety measures will be established and implemented based on the current spread rate as determined by local and state health agencies. All strategies will be utilized in both Low/No Spread (Level 1/Green) and Minimal/Moderate Spread (Level 2/Yellow) conditions.

- ❖ We have contracted with Ecovasive to protect our employees, teachers, and students more effectively in our buildings and on our buses. Ecovasive improves the overall health of facilities by controlling and killing pathogens such as Flu, Norovirus, Strep, Staph, MRSA, Coronavirus, E Coli, and Tuberculosis. Ecovasive kills 99.9% of bacteria upon contact. These products are natural and safe for young children with no harsh smelling or corrosive chemicals. Ecovasive's combination of safe and natural EPA registered Botanical Disinfectants and Electrostatic delivery system results in full coverage with a 3-minute kill rate, and the treatment lasts up to 90 days per application.
- ❖ Check employee and staff temperatures before entering the building.
- ❖ Check student temperatures at a minimum before getting on the bus, before entering the school building, and before entering larger group settings.
- ❖ Allow and encourage students and staff to use face coverings, particularly when social distancing is difficult.
- ❖ In key areas throughout the school, post signs on how to slow the spread of COVID-19 and teach students how to stop the spread of germs.
- ❖ Reinforce hand washing/hand sanitizing guidelines and covering coughs and sneezes among students and staff.
 - If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer will be available for students and staff.
- ❖ Intensify cleaning and disinfecting throughout the day.
 - Ensure safe and correct application of all disinfectants.
 - Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces throughout the day (door handles, sink handles, shared objects).
 - Isolate and deep clean classrooms and spaces following positive COVID-19 test results.
 - Turn off water fountains and encourage students and staff to bring water bottles from home.
 - Clean buses following each route.
- ❖ Limit sharing.
 - Keep each student's belongings separated and in individually labeled containers as appropriate.
 - Increase supplies to minimize sharing of frequently used materials.
- ❖ Promote social distancing when feasible and consider practices for transitioning, such as lanes for travel, throughout the school.
 - Allow additional time for transitions and designate areas of the hallway as flow paths to minimize congregation of students.

- Stagger recess to allow classes to remain as static as possible (times, activities, and/or locations).
- Monitor traffic flow to decrease the number of students entering/exiting school at the same time.
- ❖ Provide lunches served by cafeteria staff.
 - Allow students to eat in classrooms or reduced group sizes.
- ❖ Limit all field trips, grade-level assemblies, and whole school assemblies.
- ❖ Implement a protocol for visitors in the building.
 - Call or email when feasible.
 - Request the use of masks inside the building.
 - Limit access to classrooms, lunchrooms, etc.
 - Restrict nonessential visitors and volunteers.
- ❖ Follow Georgia High School Association guidelines for sporting events and practices.
- ❖ Parent/Guardian Responsibilities
 - Require parents to check their children's temperature before sending them to school.
 - Require parents to keep sick children home.
 - If a student is exposed to COVID at school, the parent/guardian will be contacted, and the child will need to be kept at home for a minimum of 5 days while monitoring for symptoms.
 - If the student is exposed to COVID away from school, the parent/guardian will be required to contact the school and keep the child at home for a minimum of 5 days while monitoring for symptoms.
 - Educate teachers and staff to recognize COVID-like symptoms including fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, new loss of taste or smell, vomiting or diarrhea, and/or sore throat.
 - Send students with COVID-like symptoms to the nurse to have temperature checked and, when appropriate, to be screened for separation until parents arrive.
 - Students with temperatures at or above 100.4 degrees will be separated and sent home.

If a staff member or student tests positive for COVID-19, the district will:

- ❖ Work with school administrators, nurses, and other healthcare providers to identify an isolation room or separate area for anyone who exhibits COVID-like symptoms;
- ❖ Close off areas used by a sick person and disinfect thoroughly;
- ❖ Notify district office staff and, based on contact tracing, notify affected families and/or staff while maintaining confidentiality consistent with applicable federal and state privacy laws; and
- ❖ Require staff and students to remain at home until they have been released to return to school by their physician.

A.2. Online Learning from Home

The following model will be implemented by parental choice based on family needs and ability to support student learning from home. Families with medically fragile children, at-risk family members, or other concerns with their children returning to school due to COVID-19 may elect to have their children learn from home through remote learning, recognizing and agreeing to the following conditions:

- ❖ Last year, Cook County Schools provided optional online resources to families. This year, online distance learning will be much more rigorous, will include new learning, and will hold students accountable for their work.
- ❖ Parents must commit to providing learning support for their children in this environment, including the monitoring of completion of student assignments.
- ❖ Students will be assigned to a teacher who will be responsible for assigning and assessing all work until the student returns to school.
- ❖ The remote learning option is by semester for Cook High School and Cook Middle School students and by grading period (9 weeks) for Cook Primary School and Cook Elementary School students.
- ❖ Parents must follow the rules for how long children may be left unattended as set forth by the Georgia Department of Family and Child Services.
 - Children eight years or younger may not be left alone.
 - Children between the ages of nine years and twelve years, based on level of maturity, may be left alone for brief periods of time (less than two hours).
 - Children thirteen years and older, who are at an adequate level of maturity, may be left alone for up to twelve hours.
 - It may not be advisable to leave an older child who has a special condition or disability alone.

C. Remote Learning Model

The following model will be implemented under the condition Substantial Spread (Level 3/Red).

- ❖ School building is closed for cleaning, and distance remote learning will be implemented.
- ❖ Remote learning model will be rigorous, will include new learning, and will hold students accountable for their work.
- ❖ Parents must commit to providing learning support for their children in this environment, including the monitoring of completion of student assignments.
- ❖ Parents must follow the rules for how long children may be left unattended as set forth by the Georgia Department of Family and Child Services.
 - Children eight years or younger may not be left alone.
 - Children between the ages of nine years and twelve years, based on level of maturity, may be left alone for brief periods of time (less than two hours).
 - Children thirteen years and older, who are at an adequate level of maturity, may be left alone for up to twelve hours.
 - It may not be advisable to leave an older child who has a special condition or disability alone.