

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The DCS Return-To-Learn Plan has been released, and we will adhere to all guidelines shared in that document. However, I am sure you and your children have several questions. Hopefully, this letter will give you guidance, ease your fears, and clarify how DCAC students, parents, and staff will be affected.

We are so excited to see our students for the beginning of the new school year! Though this school year has already presented us with unprecedented challenges, we are determined to see the light and joy in every day.

**DeSoto County Alternative Center  
Ready to Learn Plan**

1. DeSoto County Alternative Center (DCAC) will be following all current and recommended guidelines pertaining to Covid-19 from the local school board based on the framework of considerations issued by the Centers for Disease Control, the Mississippi State Department of Health, and the Mississippi Department of Education.
2. Student Safety: DCAC will be promoting social distancing and proper hygiene in an effort to mitigate any possible exposure to Covid-19. Social distancing will be maintained to the greatest extent possible, and strategies will be implemented by DCAC based on the feasibility of the unique space in each classroom.

DCAC will post signage throughout the school regarding measures to stop the spread of Covid-19. These measures include but are not limited to being aware of COVID-19 symptoms, good hygiene practices, and district guidance regarding staying at home when sick.

3. Masks: Students are required to wear a proper face covering/mask throughout the school day. Please note any face coverings must meet DCAC dress code. DCAC staff has the authority to make decisions pertaining to face masks in cases that are not specifically mentioned in the DCAC dress code.
4. Intake/Reentry: Only one parent/guardian will accompany the student.
5. Arrival/Dismissal:
  - a. School doors will open at 7:30. Car riders will be dropped off on the south side of the building in the student parking lot. Bus riders will be dismissed one bus at a time to enter the building. Once doors are open, DCAC staff members will be instructing students where to go to begin the school day.
  - b. During morning search, DCAC will reinforce procedures regarding daily health questions for students and follow guidelines for students and staff who are experiencing symptoms. Students will be asked at the beginning of each day to confirm that they are not experiencing the following symptoms: high temperature, cough, chills, shortness of breath, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, loss of taste

or smell. School nurses may conduct temperature checks and well-being checks as deemed necessary throughout the school day. An isolation area will be designated for students exhibiting symptoms while they wait on their parents.

- c. Students will board buses one class at a time starting at 2:30. Once all DCAC buses are loaded and have exited the campus, car riders will be dismissed and escorted to the car rider line located in the student parking lot.
6. Supplies: Students are required to have his or her own supplies daily. These supplies must meet DCAC guidelines mentioned in the DCAC handbook that students receive at the intake meeting.

Please follow all guidance from school officials and the Mississippi State Department of Health.

The DeSoto County Schools Return-To-Learn Plan is posted on the DCS school website and subject to change at any time. Parents/Guardians are strongly encouraged to read the Covid-19 updates on the DCS website.

We hope this answers your questions and provides some direction for you. If you have any questions, please email Mr. Stafford at [chris.stafford@dcsms.org](mailto:chris.stafford@dcsms.org).