



Meriwether County School District

Reopening Plan 2021–2022

Every Student Matters, Every Moment Counts

Meriwether County Schools Reopening Plan for 2021-2022 is based on information within *Georgia's Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools*. This plan is not intended to be an exhaustive or detailed list of expectations, but it will provide an overview of the anticipated guidance for re-entry to the **traditional in-person setting** on **August 16, 2021**.

We know how important it is for our students and staff to come back to school. This past 2020-2021 school year has shown us that students need to receive in-person instruction, and our students and staff need social-emotional support. As the CDC and GaDPH continue to provide us with new guidelines, we feel confident in our ability to reopen our schools by providing full-time “traditional in-person” instruction to students. The partnership between the schools and the parents is more important now than ever before. By supporting one another and increasing communication, we can make the best decisions for our students, staff, and community. The safety measures, quarantine protocol, DPH reporting, and communication addressed in the Reopening Plan are all subject to change at any time based on COVID-related data or outbreaks.

Additional Safety Measures for 2021-2022

<p>Illness</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily screenings will be school-based and optional (daily if required during outbreaks). • Those who become sick, exhibit symptoms, at school or work will be sent home immediately. • Individuals must be fever-free (temperature under 100.4) for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication before returning to school or work. • All schools will have a room to isolate symptomatic individuals. 	<p>School Bus Safety</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buses will be cleaned and disinfected daily or as needed between routes. • Bus drivers will have hand sanitizer available for use. • Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be provided upon request. • Students will be required to wear masks to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Masks are required on buses per a Federal Order.
<p>Hand Hygiene</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequent handwashing will be encouraged. • Hand Sanitizing stations will be available throughout the school. 	<p>Masks/Face Coverings</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students and Staff will be required to wear masks inside school buildings for the 1st 9-weeks of school. After such time, pandemic data will be analyzed regarding any continuation of a mask mandate.
<p>School Nutrition</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools may utilize multiple areas in addition to the cafeteria for breakfast and lunch to reduce the number of students in one area. • Disposable plates and utensils may be used for meals. 	<p>Cleaning and Disinfecting</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily cleaning protocols will be followed. • High-touch surfaces will be disinfected more frequently throughout the day. • All buses and facilities will be treated quarterly with a treatment to eliminate the spread of germs, disease, virus, and bacteria.
<p>Water Fountains</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional water fountains will be closed and replaced with water bottle filling stations (contingent upon availability). • In the event water bottle filling stations are unavailable, water fountains will be utilized as filling stations. • Students will be encouraged to bring their own "clear" water bottle for filling. 	<p>Athletics/ Extra-Curricular</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school district will follow Georgia High School Association (GHSA) guidelines for sporting events and practices. • Large Groups at outdoor events are encouraged to practice social distancing and wear masks. • Masks will be required for large groups at indoor events (excluding students engaged in a physical activity).

Quarantine Protocol and Frequently Asked Questions

Individuals who are POSITIVE for COVID should adhere to all GaDPH guidance and medical advice regarding quarantine protocol. These individuals may return pending a negative diagnostic COVID test and be symptom-free for 24 hours without medication.

Individuals identified as close contacts who are NOT symptomatic will NOT be required to quarantine. Individuals identified as close contacts who are symptomatic must quarantine and may return immediately pending a confirmed negative diagnostic COVID test and are symptom-free for 24 hours without medication.

Is my child allowed to attend other school events while quarantined?

No, when a student/staff member is quarantined, he/she is not allowed to attend any school events, including sports, after school activities, practices, club gatherings, etc.

DPH Reporting

Schools are required to report cases and clusters through notifying the public health department immediately when a positive COVID-19 case is identified, and schools are required to report aggregate count of new cases, contacts identified, and clusters in the school setting to the DPH weekly.

Communication

To remain transparent in our communication regarding COVID-19, parents will be contacted via phone if their child is a close contact to someone who tests positive for COVID-19. Close contacts need not quarantine as long as they are NOT symptomatic unless the parent or guardian voluntarily chooses to quarantine. Individuals who have any questions regarding the Reopening Plan are encouraged to contact your child's school or the Meriwether County Board of Education.