



FAQ DOCUMENT FOR OHA'S PLAN FOR REOPENING SCHOOLS

Q: Will staff be trained in safety and wellness measures?

A: Yes. Staff members will be presented Standard Precaution Training as a preventative measure to support student knowledge on how to prevent the spreading of virus and other airborne illness. Health tips regarding hygiene will be shared on social media and website.

Q: What are the steps in the COVID-19 screening process?

A: Parents (First Screening)

If a child has a pre-existing condition, parents are advised to speak with their child's primary care physician about returning to school.

Parents will be encouraged to take students' temperatures and assess students before sending to school. Students who have an elevated temperature greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit and/or are exhibiting symptoms should stay at home.

School (Second Screening)

School is the next point on the screening continuum. Faculty and Staff will visually check for symptoms (which will include temperature checks and/or confirmation with families that the students are COVID-19 symptom free.)

Faculty will limit the items sent home with students that need to be returned. Items sent home will be sanitized as feasibly as possible.

Q: What are the expectations for student attendance during the 2020-2021 school year?

A: Students who attend traditional school will be expected to attend on a regular basis in accordance with the board-approved attendance policy. The local school administration will consider extenuating circumstances related to COVID-19.

If traditional school transitions to a remote learning environment, attendance will be taken through participation in the assigned remote learning activities.

Regardless of whether instruction is face-to-face or virtual, students who are absent should submit a note explaining their absence in a timely fashion to the school administrator in accordance with board policy.

In the case of COVID-related absence, the student is strongly encouraged to notify the school administrator and submit a physician's note in a timely manner.

Q: Will visitors be allowed on campus for events, eat lunch with students, walk students to class, etc.?

A: Visitors should have minimal access to the campus during the COVID-19 pandemic. This means that family members will not be allowed to eat lunch with their children in the cafeteria for the time being. Because we strongly desire parent and community engagement, we will work to engage our community and family partners in new and innovative ways. *Note: athletic pep rally attendance will be determined by the weather or not they will be held outdoors or indoors.*

Q: If a student or teacher tests positive for COVID-19, will the entire class be asked to quarantine?

A: In the event that a student or employee tests positive, persons within that class setting will be notified to the greatest extent possible without revealing any confidential information, as required by law. Others will not be asked to quarantine, but should be closely monitored for symptoms.

All employees and students who are diagnosed with COVID-19 must test negative OR be quarantined for 14 days and should be asymptomatic (FEVER FREE) for 3 days before returning to school. (Note: distance learning will be available during this time for these students)

The MSDH has defined direct exposure as being in contact closer than 6 feet for more than 15 minutes. The local school administration will work closely with parents and students to be flexible and work with parents as it relates to individual exposure and school absences.

Q: What should I do if anyone has been around a person with COVID-19?

A: Anyone who has had close contact with someone with COVID-19 should stay home for 14 days **after their last exposure** to that person.

However, anyone who has had close contact with someone with COVID-19 and who:

- developed COVID-19 illness within the previous 3 months **and**
- has recovered **and**
- remains without COVID-19 symptoms (for example, cough, shortness of breath)

does not need to stay home.

Q: When will students be able to return to school if they are sick?

A: All students who are diagnosed with COVID-19 must test negative OR be quarantined for 10 days and should be asymptomatic (FEVER FREE) for 3 days before returning to school. (Note: distance learning will be available during this time for these students)

Q: Who will make decisions whether campus will be opened or closed?

A: The decision to close campus or parts of the campus will be made by administration in conjunction with the Clay County Educational Foundation Board, MAIS and MSDH.

Q: Will students and teachers be required to wear face coverings?

A: All employees are highly encouraged to wear face coverings where social distancing cannot be maintained. Students may choose to wear their face covering all day. (Note: more guidance on this policy will be given by the administration as information is received from state and local mandates.)

Q: Will students/teachers practice social distancing?

A: Teachers will maximize the distance between desks as much as possible. Unnecessary furniture should be removed from rooms in an effort to create more space between desks.

Students will have assigned seats. At the secondary level, where students change classes, desks will be cleaned and sanitized at the end of each period.

Q: Will classes be allowed to take field trips?

A: Currently, classes will not be allowed to take off-campus field trips. Updated guidance will be provided once field trips are deemed allowable.

Q: Will I be notified if a classmate of my child has tested positive for COVID-19?

A: It is the responsibility and duty of the Mississippi Department of Health to notify individuals of possible exposure to COVID-19. However, in the event that a student or employee tests positive, persons within that class setting will be notified to the greatest extent possible without revealing any confidential student information. Student information will remain confidential as required by law.

Q: Will students eat in the cafeteria?

A: Generally speaking, students will eat in the cafeteria or outside. However, administration may be able to schedule small groups with social distancing practices in place. This will be a school based decision.

Q: What are OHA Distance Learning Plans?

A: OHA will use a distance learning program called Google Classroom/FACTS for grades K-12.

Q: How will attendance be taken through distance learning?

A: Attendance through distance learning will be taken through daily participation.

Q: How will teachers identify and address learning gaps created by March - May 2020 school closure?

A: Teachers are expected to provide formative assessments during the first week of school to all students. Teachers will collaborate with fellow teachers and administrators to plan for addressing the gaps in learning.