

DOTHAN CITY SCHOOLS  
2020-2021

# ROADMAP TO REOPENING

COVID-19 REOPENING PLAN



ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED

**JULY 2020**

THIS PLAN IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDELINES ARE UPDATED  
LAST UPDATED DECEMBER 15, 2020

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# DEPARTMENTS

Dr. Dennis Coe, Acting Superintendent

Mrs. Meagan Dorsey, Public Information Officer  
Mr. Jay Bruner, Director of Transportation Services  
Mr. Jeremy Green, Director of Technology Services  
Ms. Tonya Grier, Director of Child Nutrition  
Mr. Tim Holley, Director of Facilities  
Mrs. Doretha James, Lead Nurse  
Mrs. Heather Johnson, Healthcare Liaison

Mrs. Lee Jacobs, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Accountability

Mr. Chris Duke, Director of CTE/Workforce Development  
Mrs. Alicia Hales, Director of Exceptional Student Services  
Mrs. Andrea Zavitz, Mental Health Services Coordinator  
Mrs. Maria Johnson, Director of Curriculum Services

# SCHOOLS

	Phone Number	Principal	School Nurse(s)
Beverly Intermediate School	(334) 794-1432	James Williams	Tomoko Turner
Carver School	(334) 794-1440	Donnie Chambers	Jenny Ray
Dothan Preparatory Academy	(334) 794-1400	Scott Faulk	Jacquelyn Pearce Teresa Shipman
Dothan High School	(334) 794-1410	Bill Singleton	Jennifer Locke Jennifer Smith Kara Youngblood
Jerry Lee Faine Elementary School	(334) 794-1455	Jeff Torrence	Nicolia Fletcher
Girard Intermediate School	(334) 794-1426	Beth Bouchard	Celona Cotton
Girard Primary School	(334) 794-1467	Sue Clark	Sara Phillips
Heard Elementary School	(334) 794-1471	Tamika Fleming	Elizabeth Nolen
Hidden Lake Elementary School	(334) 794-1491	Vanessa Gunn	Mary Hanchey
Highlands Elementary School	(334) 794-1459	Blakelynn Barker	Irene Yeager
Kelly Springs Elementary School	(334) 983-6565	Wanda Dismukes	Hope Nix
Selma Street Elementary School	(334) 794 - 1463	Dionne Blair	Lynn Chan
Slingluff Elementary School	(334) 794-1479	Christina Johnson	Karen Cooper Pam Galloway
Head Start Center	(334) 794-1447	Yolanda Vincent	Janice Horne
PASS Academy	(334) 671-1474	Latesha Weatherington	Doretha James
Dothan Technology Center	(334) 794-1436	Joey Meigs	Jennifer Locke Kara Youngblood
Accelerated Recovery Center (ARC)	(334) 793-1397	Jessica Bradshaw (Lead Teacher)	Doretha James
Dothan City Early Education Center	(334) 794-1420	Christy Martin	Doretha James

# INTRODUCTION

We have created this plan to aid in navigating the reestablishment of our school where employees, students, and families feel safe and to reduce the impact of COVID-19 conditions upon returning to the district. The guidelines referenced in this plan are based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), Alabama Governor's Office, and the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE). This plan may be modified to fit the requirements established by the local health department, the Alabama High School Athletic Association, or the Alabama Department of Public Health.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Five principles should guide all planning, decision making, and execution of plans to return to school for the 2020-2021 school year.

1. We will be transparent. We will share what we know and what we don't know and be clear about what we can control and what is outside of our control.
2. We will be equitable. We will center decisions on what is best for all students, families, and educators.
3. We will listen. We will bring together diverse stakeholders and experts to understand realities on the ground and to provide creative solutions.
4. We will put safety first. We will leverage science, data, and public health leadership to inform the decisions we make.
5. We will be decisive. Given the size and scope of the challenge, we must move deliberately and make tough choices. We may make mistakes but will adapt quickly as variables change.

# WELLNESS

## VISITOR RESTRICTIONS

Visitor restrictions will be determined based on the level of infection threat as identified by the Department of Public Health. To help prevent the spread of the virus and reduce the risk of exposure to our staff and students, we are conducting a simple screening questionnaire and a temperature check once schools reopen. Participation is important to help us take precautionary measures to protect you and everyone in the building.

## STUDENT SCREENING AND PROTOCOLS

**HOME:** Families should be encouraged to self-report symptoms of illness, which could include fever, new onset of cough, etc. Self-reporting mechanisms should include calling the school and your healthcare provider.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Buses should use clearly visible signage to communicate the symptoms students should not have while traveling on a school bus. Bus drivers and aides will be required to wear a mask. Buses will be sanitized before and after each route.

**SCHOOL:** School staff should visually check for symptoms (which include temperature checks) and/or confirm with families that students are COVID-19 symptom-free. All screening information will be kept confidential.

## EMPLOYEE SCREENING AND PROTOCOLS

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the potential risk of exposure to our employees, we will be requiring employees to complete a self-screening form daily upon entrance to the building. This form will include a temperature reading and answering a set of questions related to COVID-19 symptoms:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Loss of taste or smell
- Diarrhea

- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit
- Known close contact with a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19

All screening information will be kept confidential.

## **GUIDANCE IF EXPOSED**

If the staff member or someone he/she has been in contact with has been exposed to the virus, contact the individual healthcare provider. Should additional measures be required, he/she will be contacted by the Department of Public Health to begin the contact tracing protocol.

Employees, please do the following:

1. Quarantine yourself in a specific room away from others in your home.
2. Contact the following (in order of priority), let them know you have been exposed to COVID19, and then follow their instructions.
  - a. Your healthcare provider
  - b. DCS HR department
  - c. Your supervisor (Your supervisor will work with HR to determine the appropriate next steps.)

Parents/Guardians, please do the following:

1. Quarantine your child in a specific room away from others in your home
2. Contact the following (in order of priority), let them know your child has been exposed to COVID19, then follow their instructions.
  - a. Your healthcare provider
  - b. School Nurse
  - c. Teacher

## **SUSPECTED COVID-19**

If an employee or student becomes ill on-campus/district, he/she will immediately report to the school/district nurse's isolation room and the case form will be completed.

Once the employee or student arrives at the isolation room, the nurse should immediately provide the individual with a mask.

- The nurse must complete the Suspected COVID-19 Case Form, call the local health authority, and seek advice regarding transportation and location.
- The nurse and others caring for the suspected infected person should also wear a protective mask and gloves.
- The nurse will direct the ill employee to leave work or call the parent of the student to be picked up and go home within one hour.



- The nurse will advise employees that they may have been in contact with an employee suspected of exposure. The exposed employee will need to carry out self-screening every morning; based on the results, contact the HR department.
- The isolation area and suspected employee's or student's work area/classroom must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected, in addition to all other common surfaces recently touched by the employee or student.

## HEALTH PROTOCOL FOR EMPLOYEES & STUDENTS

If an employee or student has been diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to work or school depends on different factors for different situations.

Below are recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) for various situations.

### A. I think or know I had COVID-19, and I had symptoms.

You can be with others after:

- At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared and;
- At least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication and symptoms have improved.

### B. I tested positive for COVID-19 but had no symptoms.

If you continue to have no symptoms, you can be with others after:

- 10 days have passed since the test.

### C. I have weakened immune system (immunocompromised) due to a health condition or medication.

When can I be around others?

- [People with conditions that weaken their immune system](#) might need to stay home for longer than 10 days. Talk to your healthcare provider for more information. If testing is available in your community, it may be recommended by your healthcare provider. You can be with others after you receive two negative test results in a row, at least 24 hours apart.

### D. For anyone who has been around a person with COVID-19

It is important to remember that anyone who has close contact with someone with COVID-19 should stay home for 14 days after exposure based on the time it takes to develop the illness.

If a student or staff member has a fever or other symptoms that could be from COVID-19 and does not get tested, it is assumed they have COVID-19 and may not return to school until the 3 following criteria is met: At least 24 hours have passed since recovery (no fever without the use of medication), **AND** has improvement of symptoms, **AND** at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

**All must have a release from a medical provider to return.**

## QUARANTINE

Quarantine is used to keep someone who might have been exposed to COVID-19 away from others. Quarantine helps prevent spread of disease that can occur before a person knows they are sick or if they are infected with the virus without feeling the symptoms. People in quarantine should stay home, separate themselves from others, monitor their health, and follow directions from their state or local health department.

Staff members quarantined should fill out a FFCRA leave form found on the Dothan City School Operations and Personnel Services page under [Personnel Resources](#). Please return this form to the Personnel Department.

For more information regarding CDC recommendations for duration of isolations and precautions, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/duration-isolation.html>

## QUARANTINE PROCEDURE

DCS has taken measures to prepare for COVID-19. DCS will respond promptly upon suspicion of illness associated with coronavirus in efforts to identify, treat, and prevent the spread of the virus.

### PROCEDURE EXPLANATION AND COMPLIANCE GUIDELINES

1. DCS has designated a Healthcare Liaison who will serve as the Coronavirus Coordinator. The Healthcare Liaison will assess system risk associated with COVID-19.
2. The Healthcare Liaison will identify COVID-19 risk for county based on ADPH risk identifier:
  - A. **Low Risk**- Visitors allowed on DCS campuses; visitors must be screened and masked.
  - B. **Moderate Risk**- Limited visitors on DCS campuses; visitors must be screened and masked.
  - C. **High Risk**- Visitors by appointment only on DCS campuses; visitors must be screened and masked.
  - D. **Very High Risk**- No outside visitors on DCS campuses.
  - E. Each school will be responsible for ensuring appropriate signs are in place to display risk category.
3. All staff will be required to wear a mask appropriately when within 6 feet of another individual as long as it is mandated by the Governor.
4. All students grade 2-12 will be required to wear a mask appropriately when within 6 feet of another individual as long as it is mandated by the Governor.
5. All individuals will remain 6 feet apart when possible.
6. Suspected cases are defined as an individual who develops one or more of the major COVID-19 symptoms, as identified above, without known contact with a confirmed case,

or has been in contact with a confirmed case in the last 14 days and develops symptoms (minor or major).

7. A close contact is defined as anyone who has been within 3-6 feet of a known or suspected COVID-19 case. Distance will be based on individual exposure/cases. Close contact tracing will only identify individuals who have been in contact with a known or suspected case in the last 48 hours.
8. The school nurse will assess students/staff for possible COVID-19.
  - A. Any student/staff with the following symptoms will report to the school nurse for evaluation: Minor symptoms- fever, headache, chills, diarrhea, sore throat, fatigue, nausea or vomiting, congestion or runny nose; Major symptoms- shortness of breath, new onset of cough, new loss of taste and/or smell.
  - B. The school nurse will evaluate the risk for COVID-19 and report known or suspected cases to the Healthcare Liaison and other appropriate staff.
  - C. School nurse will initiate COVID-19 School Procedure guidelines.
9. Quarantine guidelines for students are as follows:
  - A. Positive cases with symptoms will be quarantined for 10 days from the onset of the first symptom and return to school on day 11.
  - B. Positive cases without symptoms or unknown symptom onset will be quarantined for 10 days from the positive test date and return to school on day 11.
  - C. Suspected cases without a confirmed diagnosis will quarantine for 10 days after the onset of the first symptom and return to school on day 11.
  - D. Close contacts to a suspected case with only the symptom of a new onset of loss of taste and/or smell will be quarantined for 10 days and return on day 11.
  - E. Close contacts to a positive case will quarantine for 10 days and return on day 11. If a close contact develops symptoms (major or minor), quarantine starts over from the date of the first onset of symptoms and the individual will quarantine for 10 days and return on day 11.
  - F. If a suspected case tests negative, students that were considered close contacts will immediately return to school and the suspected case will return when symptoms have subsided.
  - G. If an individual has a loss of taste/smell but tests negative, that individual will isolate for 10 days and return on day 11.
  - H. Close contacts to an individual with a loss of taste/smell that tested negative will quarantine for 10 days and return on day 11.
  - I. If the positive student is in Kindergarten or 1<sup>st</sup> grade, the whole class will be quarantined for 10 days from the last known date of exposure and return on day 11.
  - J. Seating charts will be utilized when determining close contacts in the classroom.
    - a. Only the students to the left, right, front, and back of the known or suspected case will be quarantined for seats that are in a row, unless other students are perceived to be a close contact, then those students will be considered.

- b. If a classroom has a table, all students at the affected table will be quarantined, unless other students are perceived to be a close contact, then those students will be considered.
  - c. For buses, the students that sit in the same seat, in front or directly beside the suspected or known case will be quarantined, unless other students are perceived to be a close contact, then those students will be considered.
10. Students CANNOT test out of quarantine early.
11. Quarantine guidelines for staff are as follows:
- A. Positive cases with symptoms will quarantine for 10 days from the onset of the first symptom and return to work on day 11.
  - B. Positive cases without symptoms or unknown symptom onset will quarantine for 10 days from positive test date and return on day 11.
  - C. Staff with symptoms will be evaluated on an individual basis and a decision will be made by the Healthcare Liaison and/or appropriate staff.
  - D. Staff that is potentially a close contact will be evaluated on an individual basis and a decision will be made by the Healthcare Liaison and/or appropriate staff. If staff is considered a close contact after evaluation, individual will quarantine for 7 days and return on day 8 with a negative Covid test within 48 hours of return or 10 days without a negative test and return on day 11.
  - E. If a staff member lives in the same household with an individual that has tested positive, the staff member will quarantine for 10 days and return on day 11. (In this situation, the 7-day rule does not apply)
  - F. In order to return after the 7-day quarantine, the individual will have to provide documentation of the negative test result from the MD.
12. If a student or staff has tested positive in the last 90 days, individual does not have to follow quarantine guidelines unless individual becomes symptomatic.
13. All athletics will be evaluated on an individual basis and a decision will be made by the Healthcare Liaison and/or other appropriate staff.
14. If an individual has not been a close contact, but is experiencing symptoms, the MD will determine if the individual has Covid and needs to be isolated or has an alternate diagnosis and can return to school/work with a note.

This procedure is subject to change at any time based on individual circumstances and risk level.

## SOCIAL DISTANCING

Social distancing is an effective way to prevent potential infection. DCS employees, students, and visitors should practice staying approximately six (6) feet away from others or eliminate contact with others. However, maintaining physical distance will not always be practical inside a school setting.

- Traffic flow and interaction gatherings shall be modified to comply with directives from the Department of Public Health.

## **PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)**

Face masks are an important part of employee protection, as well as are personal hygiene, social distancing, and frequent cleaning efforts. Under the current health order, employees are required to wear a mask when within six (6) feet of others from another household.

DCS will provide two (2) washable face masks per employee. ALSDE will provide three (3) additional masks per employee. Under the health order, amended to take effect July 16, students seven (7) and older are required to wear masks. The July 16 amended health order also includes an exception for anyone with a medical condition or disability that prevents him or her from wearing a mask. ALSDE will provide three (3) masks per student. Parents/guardians may provide additional masks. Visitors will be required to wear a mask when permitted in the building. Gloves will be required by school nurses, custodians, and food service workers.

Please note that social distancing should still be practiced even with the use of gloves and masks.

In addition to using PPE, please remember to:

- Wash Your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.

## **SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL WELLBEING OF STUDENTS AND STAFF**

The campus counselors will develop videos and resources for parents and teachers to access. As a Tier 2 intervention, counselors will work with students individually or in small groups to address any wellbeing needs. The counselors will develop a student and staff survey. This survey will allow for individuals to give feedback on how to develop a stronger outreach program and support their needs. To address students' specific social-emotional needs, counselors will initiate the S4 (School-Based Mental Health) referral process for parents/students to access individualized therapeutic services.

# OPERATIONS & FACILITIES

## CLASSROOMS

All teachers and students are expected to limit visits to another classroom outside of their team or grade level. Employees are expected to disinfect their own personal workspace (teacher desk, phone, etc.) throughout the day, giving special attention to commonly touched surfaces. All classroom desks and tables will be sanitized on a daily basis by night custodians. The teacher will be given spray bottles and a trowel with a microfiber pad to wipe down surfaces during the day. Social distancing will be practiced when feasible.

## SHARED WORKSPACES/OFFICES

Employees are expected to disinfect their own workspace multiple times throughout the day, giving special attention to commonly touched surfaces. DCS has hand sanitizer stations throughout the workplace and in common areas. Cleaning sprays and wipes are also available to clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces such as telephones and keyboards. The DCS Custodial Team will clean all workspaces at their designated cleaning time unless extenuating circumstances arise that require more frequent cleaning. Secretary/Main Office Staff and Media Specialist stations will have plexiglass partitions installed on their desk to assist with the social distancing from parents and students. Maintenance will be installing Ozone machines/air scrubbers in all vestibules, gyms, media centers, cafeterias, auditoriums, nurses stations, and the front offices at each school.\*

*\*Please note that proper equipment such as acceptable disinfectant and PPE should be used when cleaning individual workspaces.*

There will be limited access to certain workspaces such as the copy room and office area to reduce exposure to risks and ensure employee safety.

## FACILITY CLEANING

The safety of our employees and students are our first priority. Upon reopening, our schools will have been completely cleaned and disinfected, and we will continue to adhere to all necessary safety precautions. In addition to the cleaning of the office and school before employees and students return, the cleaning steps outlined below are to be taken to disinfect workplace surfaces, chairs, tables, etc. to protect employees and reduce the risk of spreading the infection. We will require employees to maintain this safety standard by continuously cleaning and disinfecting based on the frequency stated below.

- Custodians will wipe the door handles at all entryways numerous times throughout the day.
- Front offices and nurses' stations will be sprayed with a small handheld fogger nightly.\*
- The restrooms will be fogged with the handheld fogger device twice during the day and once at night.\*
- The night shift custodian will spray the playground equipment with a backpack fogger to sanitize all the equipment.\*
- All schools' lead custodians will have a backpack fogger and a small handheld fogger on campus for immediate situations.
- Hands-free hand sanitizer stations will be installed throughout each school for all students and employees.
- A drum with the chemical H2Orange that will be used to sanitize will be set up at each school so that teachers can refill their bottles when empty. H2Orange is a sanitizer/virucide cleaner. It kills 99.9% of specified viruses such as Herpes, Influenza A2, Hepatitis B, and HIV-1.
- Any inside door that can be propped open to eliminate cross-contamination should be opened. This will include (restrooms if applicable, cafeteria, auditorium, classrooms, etc.).
- Each principal shall develop a plan to provide for the movement of teachers and students that will adhere to social distancing standards.
- Maintenance staff will be assigned to spray the playground equipment nightly until adequate equipment arrives for each facility. After which, the night school custodians will perform those duties.

\* Materials have been ordered but may not ship until mid-November.

## **BUS DRIVER AND BUS PROTOCOLS**

If we implemented the current social distancing guidelines of six feet, we would only be able to carry four passengers at a time. Understanding that these restrictions are not feasible, Dothan City Schools will implement the following precautions:

- Parents/Guardians are advised to check their child's temperature and assess their health at home before boarding the bus. If the child is sick, parents should keep the child at home.
- Employees' temperatures will be checked each morning.
- Drivers will be provided a mask to wear.
- School buses will be sprayed twice daily with H2Orange. We do have access to chlorinated tablets. The tablets, when mixed with water, have a very high success rate in destroying COVID-19.

All buses will have hand sanitizer during the pandemic. Students that ride school buses will be encouraged to wear a mask to help eliminate the spread of COVID-19.

Bus drivers must not report to work if they suspect they are sick, or if they have symptoms such as fever or difficulty breathing, or have been in contact with other people who have any confirmed respiratory illness or disease within the last 7 days.

## CAFETERIA AND MEAL PERIODS

**Breakfast:** Breakfast In the Classroom (BIC) will be utilized for all Pre-K through 6th grade students. Students will pick-up packaged breakfast meals in the hallway and eat meals in the classroom. A small bucket for liquids and a bag for garbage will be provided. Liquids and garbage should be placed in the hallway outside the classroom for pickup by custodial and/or Child Nutrition Program (CNP) staff.

At Dothan Preparatory Academy and Dothan High, breakfast will be “grab & go” at carpool and bus drop-off points, and students will eat in the classroom. A small bucket for liquids and a bag for garbage will be provided. Liquids and garbage should be placed in the hallway outside the classroom for pickup by custodial and/or CNP staff.

**Lunch:** Some students will be served in the cafeteria while practicing social distancing and proper sanitation between meal groups. The numbers for cafeteria feeding will be based on 25% occupancy of the current seating capacity. The remaining students will pick-up meals from the cafeteria and return to the classroom to eat. Meal pick-up will be scheduled so that students maintain social distancing in hallways and cafeteria pick-up lines. Proper sanitation practices will be observed in the serving area and in the classroom. A small bucket for liquids and a bag for garbage will be provided. Liquids and garbage should be placed in the hallway outside the classroom for pickup by custodial and/or CNP staff.

**Staff Gear:** Each employee is being provided two (2) washable masks that are to be worn at all times inside the building. Food safe disposable gloves and aprons will be worn when serving meals.

**Cleaning/Sanitizing:** Kitchen prep areas will be cleaned between prep jobs (standard procedure) and serving areas will be sanitized (wipes or spray) between groups. Recommended that classrooms be sanitized before and after meals.

**Menu Changes:** Menus will remain basically the same. Soups, grits, and other pourable foods will be eliminated to reduce spills. Initially, one menu will be offered at the middle school and high school until the system has been established; then a second choice will be added as long as safety guidelines can be maintained and service times are not slowed down.



**Disposable Utensils:** All schools currently use disposable trays and utensils. Types of disposable items used will be adjusted for pick-up service (i.e. carryout containers instead of trays), but all packaging will be disposable.

**Outdoor Seating:** Outdoor seating will be optional at Dothan Preparatory Academy and Dothan High School. Social distancing measures will remain in effect for these areas. Building principals may opt to alter meal schedules to offer this option for students depending upon capacity and weather conditions. Students not eating outside will have meals packaged for pick-up, and will eat in the classroom.

## **STAFF TRAINING**

It is very important that all employees understand the safety requirements, protocols and expectations to ensure everyone and their communities stay safe and prevent the spread of the virus. We will structure the training plan to effectively disseminate information to all teams and audiences.

# TECHNOLOGY & INSTRUCTION

## TECHNOLOGY

The Dothan City Schools Technology Department will support distance learning during the COVID-19 pandemic by providing students who do not have a computer or internet at home with a Chromebook that has cellular data capabilities built in, or a Chromebook and a separate mobile hotspot device. This will allow for instructional materials to be delivered to the children who stay at home for various reasons during a portion of the school year.

These Chromebooks are to be used for educational purposes only and the internet accessed on these devices will be filtered and logged in the same way as devices on any DCS campus. This will ensure that every student has a safe and secure online experience while continuing their education from home.

The included “Chromebook Loaner Agreement” must be filled out and signed. Included are special instructions for cleaning and disinfecting these devices to reduce spread of bacteria and viruses such as COVID-19. It is the responsibility of the student and the parent/guardian to care for these devices. Any damages are to be reported to the DCS Technology Department immediately.

The Technology Department will also be building on our current Knowledge Base articles to help with resolving common issues, provide How-To guides, and best practice recommendations relative to technology. The Media Specialists and Technology Specialists at DCS will go through training to support the new hardware and software involved with distance learning to assist with issues as they arise.

## INSTRUCTION

Dothan City Schools has been careful to create a plan to reopen schools with an eye toward flexibility. Our intent is the reopening of school in a traditional fashion. Naturally, any plan is contingent on the track that the coronavirus takes and also on complying with any executive or statewide orders. Thinking forward, the following illustrates the formats that Dothan City Schools will put into effect in order to continue providing education while putting safety first for students and staff.

### WHEN WILL SCHOOL BEGIN?

#### **For teachers on August 24, 2020; For students on September 8, 2020**

- This date is a week later than originally expected to allow time for cleaning supplies, thermometers, and other supplies to be on hand. The materials were ordered in June, yet there is much demand by all school systems in the state and the country.

## WHAT WILL SCHOOL LOOK LIKE IN SEPTEMBER 2020?

DCS will offer parents a dual instructional approach, Traditional and Remote/Virtual. Parents can send their children to school in the traditional model, or parents may choose to keep their children at home and participate in remote/virtual instruction. Elementary and Dothan Preparatory Academy students will be allowed to make changes to their schedules at the end of the first and second grading periods. Dothan High School students will be allowed to make changes at the end of the first semester due to block scheduling of classes this year. At that time, they can continue virtual or reenter traditional schools.

### **ELEMENTARY: REMOTE LEARNING**

Students will engage with DCS classroom teachers each day for daily instruction in all core subjects via an online secure video platform. Students will complete assignments through Google Classroom. In addition, feedback from teachers will be provided on assignments and assessments. All instruction will align with the Alabama Course of Study Standards. Intervention and enrichment will be provided. Edgenuity will be used to provide supplemental work for students to review and practice.

### **SECONDARY: VIRTUAL PROGRAM**

DCS has chosen Edgenuity for its virtual program. Edgenuity is a leading provider of K-12 online learning solutions. Edgenuity provides courses aligned with the Alabama Course of Study Standards and offers individualized learning paths. The Edgenuity team will work with our district team to provide an optimal learning experience for all students enrolled in the DCS Virtual Program. DCS teachers will monitor students' progress and communicate as needed. This model works well for students who desire flexible hours and self-paced learning.

**TO READ MORE ABOUT THE DISTANCING LEARNING PROGRAMS ABOVE,  
PLEASE VISIT OUR REOPENING SCHOOLS WEBSITE  
[WWW.DOTHAN.K12.AL.US/REOPENING](http://WWW.DOTHAN.K12.AL.US/REOPENING)**

### **WHAT HAPPENS IF OUTBREAKS OCCUR?**

Classrooms or grade levels in one school may be affected for a few days or a week, depending on guidance from the Alabama Department of Public Health. During these times, the system will switch to the distance learning instruction and communication model until students can return to school. In preparation for possible outbreaks, we will go to a blended approach where students and teachers will go from a traditional setting to a full-time remote learning/virtual program and reopen with a gradual rate before implementing a full traditional method. At the same time, we will implement the deep clean protocol for that school. When we begin to reopen the specific areas of a school or the entire school it will have to be at a gradual rate reopening with a staggered schedule.

## **WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE IS A COMPLETE SHUTDOWN OF THE DISTRICT, AGAIN?**

Should there be any type of large-scale outbreak or the Governor issues an order to stay at home, the system will continue instruction through virtual means. The system has purchased a new online platform to be used at both elementary and secondary levels.

If this occurs and the system is able to reopen (after a full shut down), the system may elect to reenter the traditional mode of instruction and will continue to offer the virtual model as parents wish. However, to reenter the school buildings and keep the numbers of students limited to half the student body, we will reopen on an adaptable schedule.

For Example:

- 50% of the students will go to school on Mondays and Tuesdays
- 50% of the students will go to school on Wednesdays and Thursdays
- Fridays- all students will receive remote/virtual instruction. This will allow the system to clean and sanitize the schools weekly.

However, DCS's main objective is to hold school as naturally as possible.

## **REMOTE LEARNING/VIRTUAL PROGRAM TRAINING FOR TEACHERS**

Based on the number of students enrolled in Remote Learning and the Virtual Program, a team or teams of teachers will be trained to provide online instruction and support for students. Additional training for teachers will be provided by SREB and Edgenuity during July and August. Work with Edgenuity has already begun to develop course pacing aligned to A+College Ready resources. Training with elementary teachers will prepare them to deliver engaging lessons and form connections among their online students.

## **WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN REMOTE LEARNING AND THE VIRTUAL PROGRAM?**

Remote Learning will include interaction with a DCS teacher via an online video platform (synchronous instruction). Students will be able to interact with each other and engage in real-time learning. Students will receive feedback and grading in Google Classroom. They will also have access to practice materials in the Edgenuity platform.

Students enrolled in the Virtual Program will work with prerecorded video instruction (asynchronous instruction). They will complete assignments and receive grading feedback housed within the Edgenuity platform. Both groups will receive weekly communication from assigned teachers. Set office hours will allow students and parents to contact teachers for additional help as needed.

## **HOW DOES REMOTE LEARNING AND VIRTUAL PROGRAM DIFFER FROM ONLINE LEARNING AND PACKETS PROVIDED THIS PAST SPRING?**

Due to the short notice and grading restrictions during the spring shutdown, all work assigned was review work. Packets were given to students without online access. The assignments provided were primarily used to help students stay connected to the school. Fall online services will provide a review, new learning, and plentiful feedback on assignments and assessments to include grading. During the spring shutdown, we discovered several true “rock star” teachers using online tools to reach students. We are confident that our fall online learning experience will engage students and motivate them to log in each day to the classroom.

## **EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT SERVICES**

Upon the reopening of the school district, special education services will resume in accordance with the specialized instruction and accommodations within the students’ Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) through a blended academic plan. Parents and students will be offered the option of a completely virtual learning approach that will be supplemented by learning packets (not supplanted) if the parents feel uncertain or anxious about their child returning to the physical school setting. Otherwise, in accordance with the procedures of the District’s overall plan for social distancing, sanitizing, and caution, special education services will continue face-to-face. Related services (such as occupational therapy, physical therapy, vision and hearing services, orientation and mobility) may be in the form of telephonic therapies, therapies via online instruction using platforms such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams, or Google Streaming.

### **VIRTUAL LEARNING APPROACH**

A completely virtual learning approach will include services provided through virtual means only. Related services may be in the form of telephonic therapies, therapies via online instruction using platforms such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams, or Google Streaming. No face to face instruction will be provided with this option due to the parents’ concern for the health risks their child may face during this stage of reopening.

### **BLENDED LEARNING APPROACH**

A blended approach will encompass both virtual means and face-to-face instruction and tutorials (using social distancing and health safety precautions outlined in the District’s plan). If the student is approved by the parent to return to school using the District Reopening Plan, the student will follow the schedules provided by the school at which the student attends. Students will receive face-to-face instruction on days/times they are at the school and will be provided extra tutorial virtually as necessary in accordance with their IEPs. Related therapies, other than Speech, will be provided at the school on scheduled days. If the parent cannot provide transportation, the case manager will contact DESS to set up home visits and/or virtual options.

### **MEDICALLY FRAGILE STUDENTS**

- Students who are considered “medically fragile” will be offered the same learning approaches outlined in the district reopening plan.

- These classrooms will be equipped with air purifiers, utilization of face masks and gloves (gloves changed between all interactions with students to include feeding, learning activities, transitioning, and toileting/changing), and sanitation procedures each hour (including wiping with disinfectant wipes/spraying down tables and chairs, wiping changing areas between all student interactions, and disinfecting the air).
- Students will be transitioned directly from their mode of transportation to the classroom.
- Breakfasts, lunches and snacks will take place in the classroom.
- Social distancing with six feet between children will take place on days the students are present.
- Students may be scheduled to come on alternating days or times depending on the District attendance plan for reopening schools.
- On days the student is not present, teachers will be live streaming via Zoom or Google Classroom or pre-recording lessons to be available in Google Classroom.
- Adaptive PE will take place in the classroom or in a separate area outside from all other children and will be led by designated faculty members.

### **AUTISM UNITS**

- Students who are in the autism units will be offered the same learning approaches outlined in the district reopening plan.
- These classrooms will be equipped with utilization of face masks and gloves (gloves changed between all interactions with students to include feeding, learning activities, transitioning, and toileting/changing), and sanitation procedures each hour (including wiping with disinfectant wipes/spraying down tables and chairs, wiping changing areas between all student interactions, and disinfecting the air).
- Students will be transitioned directly from their mode of transportation to the classroom.
- Breakfasts, lunches and snacks will take place in the classroom.
- Social distancing with six feet between children will take place on days the students are present.
- Students may be scheduled to come on alternating days or times depending on the District attendance plan for reopening schools.
- On days the student is not present, teachers will be live streaming via Zoom or Google Classroom or pre-recording lessons to be available in Google Classroom.
- Adaptive PE will take place in the classroom or in a separate area outside from all other children and will be led by designated faculty members.
- Sensory Room activities will follow these same sanitation procedures listed for the classroom.

## **BEHAVIOR UNITS**

- Students who are in the behavior units will be offered the same learning approaches outlined in the district reopening plan.
- These classrooms will be equipped with utilization of face masks and gloves (gloves changed between all interactions with students, and sanitation procedures each hour (including wiping with disinfectant wipes/spraying down tables and chairs, and disinfecting the air).
- Students will be transitioned directly from their mode of transportation to the classroom.
- Breakfasts, lunches and snacks will take place in the classroom and/or lunchroom as the District Plan allows.
- Social distancing with six feet between children will take place on days the students are present.
- Students may be scheduled to come on alternating days or times depending on the District attendance plan for reopening schools.
- On days the student is not present, teachers will be live streaming via Zoom or Google Classroom or pre-recording lessons to be available in Google Classroom.
- If PE is determined necessary in the District Reopening Plan, these students will follow the same sanitation and social distancing procedures outlined in the Plan.

## **COLLABORATIVE STUDENTS, RESOURCE STUDENTS, AND STUDENTS RECEIVING SPEECH SERVICES**

- Students who are collaborative and/or receiving resource room services will be offered the same learning approaches outlined in the district reopening plan.
- These classrooms will follow the same social distancing and sanitation procedures as listed in the District Reopening Plan.
- Students may be scheduled to come on alternating days or times depending on the District attendance plan for reopening schools.
- On days the student is not present, teachers will be available to assist with home assignments during scheduled hours. These teachers will collaborate with the general education teachers to align themselves with instruction provided by the general education teacher.
- PE will take place in accordance with the IEP in a location determined by the District Reopening Plan.
- If PE is determined necessary in the District Reopening Plan, these students will follow the same sanitation and social distancing procedures outlined in the Plan.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS**

Special Education Teachers will need to organize themselves and plan ahead for all services, as necessary, in accordance with the DESS Reopening Plan and the students' IEPs. Teachers will be required to provide online instruction, tutorials, and face-to-face instruction.

## **STUDENTS RECEIVING ACCOMMODATIONS WITH A 504 PLAN**

- Students whose instruction falls under a Section 504 plan will be offered the same learning approaches outlined in the district reopening plan.
- Accommodations will be provided as the 504 plan dictates.
- Classrooms will follow the same social distancing and sanitation procedures as listed in the District Reopening Plan.
- Students may be scheduled to come on alternating days or times depending on the District attendance plan for reopening schools.
- On days the student is not present, general education teachers will be available to assist with home assignments during scheduled hours.
- If PE is determined necessary in the District Reopening Plan, these students will follow the same sanitation and social distancing procedures outlined in the Plan.
- Related services will follow the Blended Option. Students with a 504 plan will be monitored monthly using a “look for” document to determine if the plan is sufficient or needs to be amended.

## **SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH (S4)**

Students will continue to receive S4 services on scheduled days and may receive services through a blended approach.

## **HOMEBOUND SERVICES OR HOME-BASED INSTRUCTION**

- Students who are restricted to the home or who meet the requirements to receive home-based instruction will be offered the same learning approaches outlined in the district reopening plan.
- These teachers will be equipped with face masks and gloves (gloves changed between all interactions with students to include feeding, learning activities, transitioning, and toileting/changing).
- Teachers will follow sanitation procedures between student interactions.
- Social distancing with six feet between teacher and student will take place on days the students are receiving services.

## **ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS**

Upon the reopening of the school district, ESL services will resume in accordance with the specialized instructions and accommodations that are specified within the students’ Individualized English Language Plans (I-ELPs). As part of DCS’s reopening plan, parents and students who are uncertain or anxious about returning to the physical school setting will be offered the option of a completely remote learning approach that will include remote ESL services, which will be supplemental (and will not supplant) in their content and approach. (In other words, ESL services will not replace general education instruction. Rather, ESL services will build upon general education instruction and content, focusing on the language development needed to access core content and in line with WIDA ELP



standards). Otherwise, in accordance with the procedures of the District's overall plan for social distancing, sanitizing, and caution, ESL services will continue face-to-face. For students opting to participate via remote options, ESL services may be in the form of telephone calls or via online instruction using platforms such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams, or Google Streaming. ESL services may also include online licenses to English Language Development software programs.

### **REMOTE LEARNING APPROACH**

ESL services for students opting to take a remote learning approach will be focused on supplemental English language instruction. ESL teachers and the system interpreter will offer assistance to general education teachers; however, general education teachers are the ones who will remain responsible for core content instruction and grading. Instruction and grading provided by general education teachers must follow the student's I-ELP (utilizing the I-ELP's specific accommodations, differentiated instruction, and alternative grading, where applicable). Special consideration regarding communication with the student and family must be given to ESL students who utilize remote learning.

### **BLENDED LEARNING APPROACH**

A blended approach will encompass both virtual means and face-to-face instruction (using social distancing and health safety precautions outlined in the District's plan). ESL services may be provided either face-to-face or virtually for students who take a blended learning approach. Collaboration with general education teachers will be required to determine when services will be provided.

### **TRADITIONAL LEARNING**

Students who attend school daily will continue to receive ESL services (as specified in the I-ELP) in face-to-face small group settings. Small groups will follow all guidelines for social distancing and all safety precautions given by DCS.

### **ESL TEACHERS AND STAFF**

ESL teachers will need to plan ahead for all services, as necessary, in accordance with the DCS Reopening Plan and the students' I-ELPs. ESL teachers will be providing online instruction and face-to-face instruction. ESL teachers will also be responsible for consistent communication with general education teachers. The Parent Liaison will be responsible for timely and consistent communication with parents.

### **ALL DCS SCHOOLS, PARTICULARLY ADMINISTRATION AND OFFICE STAFFS**

All DCS Schools are asked to be especially mindful of the need for translation and interpretation of school-wide notices. Schools should be in frequent contact with the ESL Parent Liaison and also can utilize the TransAct Language Line Service.

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR GENERAL EDUCATION TEACHERS**

This year's professional development will include a reminder of essential information but will be primarily focused on how to implement I-ELPs in light of remote, blended, or otherwise altered general education instruction. The ESL program and staff are mindful of the changes and challenges faced by general education teachers, and every effort will be made to collaborate frequently and effectively. General education teachers are asked to remember that ESL teachers are responsible for language development and not core content instruction.

# ATHLETICS & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Dothan City Schools is implementing safe and healthy practices for all athletic and extracurricular activities. Dothan High School and Dothan Preparatory Academy will implement strategies adopted by the Alabama High School Athletic Association that will help provide a safer environment for student athletes. These practices include:

## GROUP SIZE AND PHYSICAL STANDARDS

- Implemented social distancing strategies to maintain at least a six-foot distance between persons from different households.
- Changed parent drop-off and pick-up processes to limit contact and building access
- Ensure school-sponsored extracurricular and cocurricular activities, including athletics and band, adhere to established safety and hygiene protocols.
- Athletes will be required to provide their own personal water bottles. No items of this nature will be shared.
- No group watering stations, team towels, or other equipment that may be shared will be used.
- Symptom monitoring will be required.
- Requirement for sick students and staff to stay home.
- Provision of an adequate number of thermometers to screen students when necessary.
- Implement isolation measures if a student becomes sick, then follow with cleaning and disinfecting processes.

## ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANING AND PERSONAL HYGIENE

- Ensure healthy personal hygiene practices.
- Establish hand hygiene stations at facility entrances.
- In weight rooms, all surfaces including, but not limited to: door handles, sinks, faucets, knobs, toilets, tables, soap dispensers, locker handles etc., will be cleaned and sanitized thoroughly before groups arrive and once groups have left the area.

## COMMUNICATION

- Coaches/Athletic Director will communicate with the Lead Nurse, Health Department, and visiting municipal officials to identify any local requirements that may be imposed on our players, coaches or fans while visiting another campus for competitions.

## **GAME ATTENDANCE**

The Alabama Department of Public Health notes that a memo issued Thursday, August 6th, by the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) says spectators will be allowed to attend football games and other athletic events, but attendance likely will be significantly reduced. Under the state's current Safer at Home public health order, players, coaches, officials, and spectators may not congregate within 6 feet of a person from another household except to the extent necessary, and only to the extent necessary, for players, coaches, and officials to directly participate in the athletic activity.

Due to limited seating and COVID-19 guidelines, it is encouraged that parents do not drop off their children unsupervised to attend athletic events. Dothan City Schools Administration and the Dothan Police Department will work hard to provide a safe and enjoyable environment for all spectators. However, due to COVID-19 guidelines, younger children need to attend athletic events with their parents or guardians and remain with their parent or guardian throughout the athletic contest.

Due to seating capacity limitations, ALL spectators, regardless of age, must have a ticket.

Concessions stands at Rip Hewes Stadium will be open, and fans are encouraged to attend. Concession stands will close at the beginning of the 4th quarter.

## **SAFETY AND SECURITY**

Dothan City Schools will implement the same safety and security measures as last year in addition to guidelines put forth by the CDC, ADPH, and AHSAA. Fans are required to wear masks or facial coverings while entering and exiting the gates, while in the stands and elsewhere.

City of Dothan Leisure Services will mark off rows in which spectators can use at Rip Hewes Stadium. Spectators sitting in rows indicated by Leisure Services as not available will be asked to move to the designated rows. If spectators choose not to comply, they will be asked to leave the stadium. Family members from the same household may sit together. Non-family members from different households must abide by the social distancing guidelines. Dothan City Schools ask all spectators and game participants to immediately exit the stadium after the game. No loitering in the parking lot. Once the game is over, please leave the stadium and parking lot immediately.

## ATHLETIC VENUES AND ADJUSTED MAXIMUM SEATING CAPACITY

We will adjust our venues' seating capacity as restrictions are lifted. The current guidelines are through August 31, 2020.

Venue	Maximum Capacity
Rip Hewes Stadium	2,458 (1,204 home and 1,250 visitors)
Dothan High School Main Gym	156
Dothan High School Convocation Center	84
Dothan Preparatory Academy Davis Gym	160

Due to Rip Hewes' limited seating capacity, Dothan City Schools Athletics Department will utilize the Go Fan ticket selling platform for high school football games to help limit ticket sales at the gate. This platform will minimize lines at the gate, exchange cash, and allow the administration to adequately prepare for game management.

Face to face tickets will still be sold at the gate, but we cannot guarantee tickets will be available if sold out online. It is strongly encouraged that fans purchase their tickets in advance through the Go Fan app.

## PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

Spectators must wear a mask or other facial covering that covers the nostrils and mouth at all times while within 6 feet of a person from another household.

Limited exceptions are allowed, such as for children who have not yet entered second grade and for people with medical conditions that prevent them from wearing a facial covering.