



2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR AT A GLANCE REOPENING PLAN

Planning continues for the 2020-2021 school year in the Dothan City School District. Although there are still many unknowns at this time, we wanted to share an “at a glance update” of our vision for reopening.



Safety is our top priority. Dothan City Schools Head Start Program will follow state and local public health guidelines with the safety of our students, staff, families, and broader community at the forefront of everything we do.



Health/Wellness:

- Frequent handwashing will be encouraged with breaks scheduled for handwashing.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in classrooms and designated areas
- Sanitation stations will be placed strategically throughout the building
- Students and staff not feeling well or displaying should stay home and follow the Health & Wellness guidelines outlined in the system wide plan
- Any staff who display symptoms at school will be isolated to complete paper work and sent home
- Any student who develops symptoms while at school will be isolated in the staff supervised sick station and designated family member of contact will be called to pick child up (Must be within one hour.)
- Students and staff who have been sent home should not return to school until they have met the criteria in the Health & wellness section of the system wide plan.
- All employees will self screen daily prior to entering the work spaces and will document findings on a screening log.
- The use of masks can be challenging for students. Masks will not be mandatory, but are encouraged for those who wish to utilize them. Students will be provided with a face shield if available.
- Employees will be provided masks and expected to follow state guidelines regarding wearing them in the work setting.
- Parents will be encouraged to allow children to wear slip on /velcro tennis shoes (no laces) and pants that require no belt in efforts to decrease the spread of germs. We encourage no jewelry/accessories.



Social Distancing: Social Distancing is an effective way to prevent potential infection. DCS employees, students, parents, and visitors should practice staying approximately 6 feet away from others and eliminating contact with others. However, maintaining physical distance will not always be practical in the school setting. Traffic flow and interaction gatherings shall be modified to comply with directives from the Department of Health. Head Start will limit face to face enrollment to 12 children per class for the first 9 weeks. Children selected for enrollment and placed on the waiting list will be enrolled in the virtual learning option. All children that receive services must be eligible for Head Start. Increased face to face enrollment will be based on the status of COVID-19 in our county.



DCS has developed a **Roadmap to Reopening** that outlines specific procedures/protocols that will be implemented when school begins in August. The plan was developed to aid in the navigation of reopening so that employees, students, and families feel safe and to reduce the impact of COVID-19 conditions upon returning to school. The entire plan can be viewed at www.dothan.k12.al.us/reopening



Shared Spaces: Shared spaces will be cleaned and sanitized, on a regular basis, using the recommended practices developed by the Center for Disease Control and guidance from the administrative staff of DCS. A few examples of “shared areas” include food prep areas, tables, play centers, hallways, toileting areas, and sleeping areas.



Meals and Snacks: We plan for our students to be served breakfast, lunch, and snacks in their classrooms. Parents or caregivers will not be allowed to eat with children during these times until further notice.



Visitor Restrictions: Visitor restrictions will be determined based on the level of infection threat 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. Visitors are required to follow state guidelines regarding face mask/coverings. We highly encourage wearing a mask in the school building.

Arrival & Dismissal



Arrival and Dismissal: Car line will begin at 7:45am and will end at 8:00am. After this time, you must report to the school entrance and sign your child in. Drivers/passengers should remain in the vehicle to ensure safety and efficiency of the car line. End of the day car line will begin at 2:15pm. You will be assigned a carpool “group” that provides you with a specified time range for your child’s pick up time. Buses will arrive between 8:20-8:50am and afternoon bus arrival time will begin at 1:40pm.



Parents: Please take time every morning to check your child’s temperature before he/she reports to school. Your child should remain home if he/she is not feeling well or has a fever. Please self-report symptoms of illness, which could include fever, new onset of cough, etc. Self-reporting mechanisms should include calling the school and your health care provider. If your child happens to become sick while at school, the parent is required to pick the child up within **ONE HOUR** after being notified. Please ensure an up to date, working telephone number is on file at all times. We also ask that blankets, backpacks, coats, etc. are washed every week. We strongly encourage parents to stay in contact with teachers using the “REMIND” system, telephone, or email.

OPEN HOUSE

Open House/Home Visits:

- Virtual tours of classrooms will be posted on social media
- Open House will be offered at designated times/dates. One parent may accompany the child attending Head Start.
- Visitors will be screened before entering the building. Visitors are required to follow state guidelines regarding face mask/coverings
- Home visits are a requirement of Head Start. These visits will be completed on “zoom” or via phone. There will be no face to face visits.



Remote Learning:

- Parents who prefer to register for remote learning as an alternative to face to face instruction should register at www.dothan.k12.al.us/reopening. Children receiving remote learning through Head Start must be Head Start eligible.
- All instruction at DCSHS will be designed to align with Head Start Early Learning Framework and Alabama Standards for Early Learning and Development.
- Families who are in need of technology at home, if remote learning is provided, are encouraged to follow the Technology procedures detailed in the reopening plan.
- Virtual resources will be provided for students that are quarantined or staying home as a preventative measure.

More Info

Additional Information:

Head Start standards require daily brushing of teeth. In order to prevent unnecessary spreading of germs, we will be sending tooth brushing supplies home with the students. Head Start staff has made numerous changes, in addition to the above stated items, in preparation for the return of students. Some of these changes include individualized student storage areas, decreasing items in centers, no sharing of supplies, individualized classroom water supply, limited mixing of student groups, detailed cleaning/sanitizing schedules, breakfast and lunch served in the classrooms, decreased furniture in class to promote social distancing, decreased classroom sizes, elimination of field trips, and numerous additional measures have been put in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Contact me!

Contact Information:

- Y. Denise Vincent, Project Director yvincent@dothan.k12.al.us (334)790-6670
- Buffie Kinsey, Education Manager bukinsey@dothan.k12.al.us (334)790-5481
- Janice Horne, Health/Nutrition Coordinator jahorne@dothan.k12.al.us
- Ruby Davis, Parent/Family/Community Engagement Coordinator rudavis@dothan.k12.al.us
- Head Start Office Number: (334)794-1447