

DOTHAN CITY SCHOOLS

COVID IN-PERSON

REOPENING PLAN



ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED
JULY 2020

THIS PLAN IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDELINES ARE UPDATED
REVIEWED AND UPDATED AUGUST 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Departments	3
Schools	4
Introduction	5
Guiding Principles	5
Wellness	6
Visitor Restrictions	6
Student Screening and Protocols	6
Guidance If Exposed	6
Suspected COVID-19	7
Health Protocol for Employees & Students	7
Quarantine	8
DEFINITIONS:	8
COVID-19 Symptoms:	8
Social-Emotional Wellbeing of Students and Staff	12
Operations & Facilities	13
Classrooms	13
Shared Workspaces/Offices	13
Facility Cleaning	13
Bus Driver and Bus Protocols	14
Cafeteria and Meal Periods	14
Technology & Instruction	16
Technology	16
Instruction	16
When Will School Begin?	16
What Will School Look Like in August 2021?	16
WHAT HAPPENS IF OUTBREAKS OCCUR?	18
WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE IS A COMPLETE SHUTDOWN OF THE DISTRICT, AGAIN?	18
Remote Learning/Virtual Program Training for Teachers	18
Exceptional Student Services	18
English Language Learners	19
Athletics & Extracurricular Activities	20
Group Size and Physical Standards	20
Environmental Cleaning and Personal Hygiene	20
Communication	20

DEPARTMENTS

Dr. Dennis Coe, Superintendent

Mrs. Meagan Dorsey, Public Information Officer

Mr. Steve Parrish, School Safety

Mrs. Sharla Godwin, Director of Facilities

Mr. Patrick Mallory, Director of Human Resources

Ms. Jessica Noble, Director of Athletics

Mrs. Lee Jacobs, Assistant Superintendent of Accountability and Compliance

Mrs. Alicia Hales, Director of Exceptional Student Services

Mr. Jeremy Green, Director of Technology Services

Mrs. Maria Johnson, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services

Mr. Chris Duke, Director of CTE/Workforce Development

Dr. Debra Wright, Assistant Superintendent of Auxiliary Services

Mr. Jay Bruner, Director of Transportation Services

Ms. Tonya Grier, Director of Child Nutrition

Mrs. Stephanie Walker, Chief School Financial Officer

SCHOOLS

	Phone Number	Principal	School Nurse(s)
Beverlye Intermediate School	(334) 794-1432	Erica Hall	Teressa Shipman
Carver School of MST	(334) 794-1440	Chris Payne	Jenny Ray
Carver 9th Grade Academy	(334) 794-1415	Todd Mitchell	Jackie Pearce
Dothan Preparatory Academy	(334) 794-1400	James Williams	Quatina Wilson Tymeshia Horton
Dothan City Virtual School	(334) 794-7444	Christina Johnson	Quatina Wilson Tymeshia Horton
Dothan High School	(334) 794-1410	Keith Bland	Jennifer Smith Kara Youngblood
Jerry Lee Faine Elementary School	(334) 794-1455	Tina Garst	Nicolia Fletcher
Girard Intermediate School	(334) 794-1426	Tracy Horne	Celona Cotton
Girard Primary School	(334) 794-1467	Sue Clark	Sara Phillips
Heard Elementary School	(334) 794-1471	Tamika Fleming	
Hidden Lake Elementary School	(334) 794-1491	Vanessa Gunn	Mary Hanchey
Highlands Elementary School	(334) 794-1459	Beth Bouchard	Irene Yeager
Kelly Springs Elementary School	(334) 983-6565	Monica Montalvo	Latrece Dawsey
Selma Street Elementary School	(334) 794 - 1463	Dionne Blair	Lynn Chan
Slingluff Elementary School	(334) 794-1479	Darius McKay	Karen Cooper Pam Galloway
Head Start Center	(334) 794-1447	Krystal Cochran	Janice Horne
PASS Academy	(334) 671-1474	Latesha Weatherington	Quatina Wilson Tymeshia Horton
Dothan Technology Center	(334) 794-1436	Joey Meigs	Jennifer Smith Kara Youngblood
Accelerated Recovery Center (ARC)	(334) 793-1397	Jessica Bradshaw (Lead Teacher)	Rachel Shepard
Dothan City Early Education Center	(334) 794-1420	Christy Martin	Sonja Hall

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 in-person instruction. 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 in-person instruction this 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 when at the Substantial to High Risk level. 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. 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.

GUIDANCE IF EXPOSED

If a student, staff member, or someone he/she has been in contact with has been exposed to the virus, contact the building administrator/school nurse and the individual healthcare provider. Should additional measures be required, he/she will be contacted by the Department of Public Health, Principal and/or School Nurse 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.

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

- 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, when 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 I have COVID-19, and I have symptoms.

- Notify Your Healthcare Provider

B. I tested positive for COVID-19, and I have no symptoms.

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

- 10 days have passed since the test.

C. I tested positive for COVID-19 and I have symptoms.

- You can be around others after 10 days have passed since onset of symptoms
- You have been fever-free for 24 hours with no fever reducing medication.

D. 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.

QUARANTINE

Quarantine is used to keep someone who might have been exposed to COVID-19 away from others. Quarantine helps prevent the 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.

For more information regarding CDC recommendations for duration of isolations and precautions, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/>

DEFINITIONS:

Coronavirus - a virus that causes mild to severe respiratory illness. COVID-19- (short for coronavirus disease 2019) is a virus caused by a new strain of coronavirus.

Fully Vaccinated- Within 6 months of final dose of COVID-19 vaccine or a booster received if final dose was given more than 6 months ago.

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS:

Major symptoms are as follows: new onset of cough (not related to an underlying condition), shortness of breath, or a new loss of taste and/or smell

Minor symptoms are as follows: fever or chills, muscle/body aches, headache, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea and vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, sneezing

Procedure Explanation and Compliance Guidelines:

1. DCS has designated a Healthcare Liaison who will serve as the COVID-19 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 (Blue)- Visitors allowed on DCS campuses; visitors will be encouraged to wear a mask.
 - B. Moderate Risk (Yellow)- Visitors allowed on DCS campuses; visitors will be encouraged to wear a mask.

- C. Substantial Risk (Orange)- Visitors allowed on DCS campuses; visitors must be screened for symptoms and encouraged to wear a mask.
 - D. High Risk (Red)- Visitors allowed on DCS campuses; visitors must be screened for symptoms and encouraged to wear a mask.
 - E. Each school will be responsible for ensuring appropriate signs are in place to display risk category.
3. All students and staff will be encouraged to wear a mask on DCS campuses.
 4. Masks are mandatory for students and staff on any DCS transportation.
 5. Masks are mandatory for students and staff of the Head Start Program.
 6. DCS will maintain social distancing whenever possible.
 7. 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).
 8. A close contact is defined as anyone who has been within 3-6 feet for 15 minutes 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.
 9. 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.
 10. Isolation/Quarantine guidelines for students are as follows:
 - A. Positive cases with symptoms will be isolated for 5 days from the onset of the first symptom and return to school on day 6, as long as symptoms are improving and student has been fever free for 24 hours. Note that after returning on day 6, student will be required to wear a mask for 5 days to complete the 10-day isolation period.
 - B. Positive cases without symptoms or unknown symptom onset will be isolated for 5 days from the positive test date and return to school on day 6. Note that after returning on day 6, student will be required to wear a mask for 5 days to complete the 10-day isolation period.
 - C. Suspected cases without a confirmed diagnosis will quarantine for 5 days after the onset of the first symptom and return to school on day 6, as long as symptoms are improving and student has been fever free for 24 hours. Note that after returning on day 6, student will be required to wear a mask for 5 days to complete the 10-day quarantine period.

- D. Close contacts to a suspected case with only the symptom of a new onset of loss of taste and/or smell will quarantine for 5 days and return on day 6. Note that after returning on day 6, student will be required to wear a mask for 5 days to complete the 10-day quarantine period.
 - E. Close contacts to a positive case will quarantine for 5 days and return on day 6. 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 5 days and return on day 6. Note that after returning on day 6, student will be required to wear a mask for 5 days to complete the 10-day quarantine period.
 - F. If an individual has a loss of taste/smell but tests negative, that individual will isolate for 5 days and return on day 6, as long as symptoms are improving and student has been fever free for 24 hours.. Note that after returning on day 6, student will be required to wear a mask for 5 days to complete the 10-day isolation period.
 - G. Close contacts to an individual with a suspected loss of taste/smell that tested negative will return to school. If the suspected case does not get tested, all individuals involved will quarantine for 5 days and return on day 6. Note that after returning on day 6, student will be required to wear a mask for 5 days to complete the 10-day quarantine period.
 - H. If a student lives in the same household as a positive individual, student will quarantine for 5 days and return on day 6. Note that after returning on day 6, student will be required to wear a mask for 5 days to complete the 10-day quarantine period.
 - I. Seating charts will be utilized when determining close contacts in the classroom. Note: Close contacts at school will not be sent home at this time, but families will be notified to monitor for symptoms.
 - a. If a classroom has rows of desks, only the students to the left, right, front, and back of the known or suspected case will be notified by letter to monitor for symptoms.
 - b. If a classroom has a table or desks grouped together, all students at the affected table or group will be notified by letter to monitor for symptoms.
 - J. Masks are mandated on school buses so DCS will not perform close contact tracing on buses.
11. Students wishing to test out of quarantine early will be considered on an individual basis.
12. Isolation/Quarantine guidelines for staff are as follows:
- A. Positive cases with symptoms will be isolated for 5 days from the onset of the first symptom and return to work on day 6, as long as symptoms are improving and staff has been fever free for 24 hours. Note that after returning on day 6, staff will be required to wear a mask for 5 days to complete the 10-day isolation period.
 - B. Positive cases without symptoms or unknown symptom onset will be isolated for 5 days from positive test date and return on day 6. Note that after returning on day

6, staff will be required to wear a mask for 5 days to complete the 10-day isolation period.

- 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 5 days and return on day 6. Note that after returning on day 6, staff will be required to wear a mask for 5 days to complete the 10-day quarantine period.
 - E. If a staff member lives in the same household with an individual that has tested positive, the staff member will quarantine for 5 days and return on day 6. Note that after returning on day 6, staff will be required to wear a mask for 5 days to complete the 10-day quarantine period.
- 13. 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. (This information will have to be volunteered by the individual).
 - 14. If both individuals (positive and close contact) are wearing a mask at the time of exposure, the close contact does not have to quarantine unless individual becomes symptomatic.
 - 15. An individual (student or staff) who voluntarily discloses that they have been vaccinated and they are considered a close contact, do not have to quarantine as long as they have been fully vaccinated and remain asymptomatic. (Note: This information has to be volunteered by the staff member or parent. DCS will not ask for this information)
 - 16. Students and staff who voluntarily disclose that they are not vaccinated will be required to quarantine.
 - 17. All athletics will be evaluated on an individual basis and a decision will be made by the Healthcare Liaison and/or other appropriate staff.
 - 18. If an individual has not been a close contact, but is experiencing symptoms, the MD will determine if the individual has COVID-19 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.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Face masks are an important part of student and employee protection, as well as personal hygiene, social distancing, and frequent cleaning efforts. Employees and Students are NOT required to wear a mask however it's strongly encouraged.

Vaccinations

Vaccinations are not required for employees and students but are strongly encouraged.

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL WELLBEING OF STUDENTS AND STAFF

The campus counselors will provide resources for parents and teachers to utilize as needed. Counselors will continue to work with students individually or in small groups to address any wellbeing needs. Small groups will maintain social distancing guidelines. Counselors will allow and encourage feedback on how to develop a stronger outreach program and support student and family 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 disinfectant spray bottles that can be refilled as often as necessary in the teacher's lounge. 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 installed 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 have installed 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.*

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.
- All schools' lead custodians will have a backpack fogger and a small handheld fogger on campus for immediate situations.
- Hands-free hand sanitizer stations have been installed throughout each school for all students and employees.
- A dispensing canister 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.

BUS DRIVER AND BUS PROTOCOLS

Dothan City Schools will implement the following precautions to reduce the risk of exposure:

- 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.
- School buses will be sprayed as needed 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. Per Federal Mandate, staff and students that ride school buses will be required to wear a mask.

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/or cafeteria serving line 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" near 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: Students will eat in the cafeteria as well as classrooms and any outdoor spaces. The numbers for cafeteria feeding will be half capacity. Proper sanitation practices will be observed in the serving area and dining area between meal groups.

Staff Gear: Food safe disposable gloves and aprons will be worn when preparing and serving meals. Employees are encouraged to wear masks while serving students, but it is not required.

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 (breakfast in the classroom).

Menu Changes: Menus will remain basically the same. Some pourable breakfast foods may be eliminated to reduce spills. Initially, one menu will be offered for lunch in grades 7-12 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.

Outdoor Seating: Outdoor seating will be optional at Dothan Preparatory Academy and Dothan High School. Building principals may opt to alter meal schedules to offer this option for students depending upon capacity and weather conditions.

TECHNOLOGY & INSTRUCTION

TECHNOLOGY

The Dothan City Schools Technology Department will support distance learning when required due to quarantine or long term absence due to COVID related situations. Through internet access, instructional materials can be delivered to the children who stay at home for various reasons during a portion of the school year.

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 post updates and information the is relative and current throughout the year to school websites and the district email and notification system.

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. DCS will continue providing education while putting safety first for students and staff.

WHEN WILL SCHOOL BEGIN?

For teachers on August 11, 2021; For students on August 16, 2021.

WHAT WILL SCHOOL LOOK LIKE IN AUGUST 2021?

Traditional Learning: Students will return to traditional school with safety measures in place to reduce the spread of COVID. These measures are discussed in detail on pages 7-14.

Remote Learning: Occurs outside of the brick-and-mortar environment of a classroom. It may follow a traditional schedule with live lessons, logins, or engagements being mandatory. The instructional delivery format tends to be more synchronous than asynchronous and follows a traditional in-person format. The curriculum is typically teacher-created, and most students work at the same pace. This method of instruction applies to all traditional students who may be absent for extended periods due to COVID sickness and/or social isolation.

Full-Time Virtual Learning: Is typically asynchronous and a full-time method of instructional delivery with flexibility in pacing and completion of assignments within identified parameters. Attendance is determined by evidence of indicators identified to equate to engagement participation and completion of assignments in a timely manner. Evidence of attendance and achievement are determined and agreed upon by all parties prior to enrollment in a virtual program. Learning management systems are often utilized. **For secondary students this method of instruction is only offered at our Dothan City Virtual School (grades 7-12 only)** and will have to adhere to the policy and procedures of the school and district. Contact the school for more information (334)794-7444.

Pursuant to Section 16-46A-1 -Adoption of policy governing virtual school program:

(a) Before the 2016-2017 school year, each local board of education shall adopt a policy providing, at a minimum, a virtual education option for eligible students in Grades 9-12, inclusive, beginning with that school year. Any virtual school operating in this state that provides educational services to public school students shall comply with this chapter.

(b) The policy adopted by the local board of education pursuant to this chapter shall govern the virtual school program offered by the local board of education. The policy shall offer students in Grades 9-12, inclusive, an online pathway for earning a high school diploma and, at a minimum, shall include all of the following:

(1) The scope and delivery of virtual options.

(2) Student eligibility criteria for initial and continuing participation in the virtual program.

(3) Specific requirements for monitoring performance and testing protocol consistent with this chapter.

(4) Attendance requirements, if any.

(c) A local board of education shall not be required to utilize a state program or vendor for the provision of virtual school options.

For elementary students this method of instruction is only offered for medical exceptions. Dothan City Schools (DCS) Virtual Learning option will be different from the 2019-2020 school year. We have connected with OdysseyWare to offer virtual services for students in grades K-6. Students will receive assignments through OdysseyWare **without** direct interaction with DCS teachers via Zoom. DCS teachers will **monitor** the progress of completed assignments, record grades, and communicate with parents as needed. **This option will be full-year-only**, meaning students **will not move** from face-to-face to virtual or vice versa throughout the school year. Dothan City Schools **does not** recommend Virtual Learning for Kindergarten through sixth-grade students except in extenuating circumstances. The Alabama Literacy Act specifically

increases expectations for all Kindergarten through third-grade students. For this reason, DCS highly recommends students in K-3 attend face-to-face. **The deadline to notify your school for consideration for virtual learning is August 13, 2021.**

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. 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. If this occurs and the district is able to reopen (after a full shut down), the district may elect to reenter the traditional mode of instruction and will continue to offer the virtual model as parents wish. However, our main objective is to conduct school as naturally as possible.

REMOTE LEARNING/VIRTUAL PROGRAM TRAINING FOR TEACHERS

All teachers will be trained to provide online instruction and support for students. Training teachers will prepare them to deliver engaging lessons and form connections among their online students as well as ensure that all teachers are prepared to continue effective online instruction in the case of school closing.

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 in grades 7-12 will be offered the option of a completely virtual learning approach through enrollment in the Dothan City Virtual School (DCVS). 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) will continue in person unless students are in DCVS. These services may be in the form of telephonic therapies or therapies via online instruction using platforms such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams, or Google Streaming.

ALL STUDENTS WITH INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PLAN/SECTION 504 PLANS

- Students with special needs will be offered the same learning approaches outlined in the district reopening plan.
- Medically Fragile classrooms will be equipped with air purifiers, utilization gloves (gloves changed between all interactions with students to include feeding, learning activities, transitioning, and toileting/changing), and sanitation procedures.

SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH (S4)

Students will continue to receive S4 services on scheduled days and may receive services through a face-to-face approach unless the students in grades 7-12 are enrolled with DCVS, where their services may be through digital or telephonic platforms.

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.

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). 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.

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 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.

ATHLETICS & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Dothan City Schools is implementing safe and healthy practices for all athletic and extracurricular activities. Dothan High School, Dothan Preparatory Academy and Carver 9th Grade 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

- Ensure school-sponsored extracurricular and co-curricular activities, including athletics and band, adhere to established safety and hygiene protocols.
- 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.