

Yazoo County School District

“Re-Start SMART... Creating Next Generation Learners...”



2020-2021 School Year
#YCSDNexGenLeaders

Board Approved on July 28, 2020

First Update Board Approved on October 3, 2020

Second Update Board Approved on January 12, 2021

Note:

The intent of this document is to create a template and provide guidance for the school sites within the Yazoo County School District in regards to reopening schools and is not meant to be a “one-size-fits-all” document. Additionally, the material in this document is ever evolving, by the day, as new information and recommendations are issued by federal and state agencies. The Yazoo County School District will continue to work with the local health department and local stakeholders to ensure that the information provided aligns with the most current scientific knowledge and community expectations. It is also reasonable to expect that the protocols that schools implement could/will change as local conditions may change.

Updated Note (January 8, 2021) in Regards to Timeframes for Leave:

Currently, in reference to the **Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) and Administrative Leave for School Employees**, the **requirement** to provide paid leave under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) expired Dec. 31, 2020. However, school districts may **voluntarily choose** to extend the leave entitlements under the FFCRA to employees through March 31, 2021. This extension does not provide additional FFCRA leave time to employees who have previously exhausted their leave allotment under the FFCRA.

The YCSD Board of Education will meet to approve the extension of employees leave to March 31, 2021, on Tuesday, January 12, 2021. Please note that the amount of days has NOT changed in that there are a cumulative of 10 total days granted. If an employee has utilized those ten days, then he/she will have to utilize accumulated sick leave when absent.

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“Happy Students; Healthy Relationships on a Journey in Becoming Next Generation Leaders!”

Introduction to Full Plan Document

This guidance should be used by the schools of the Yazoo County School District as general parameters, along with current MSDH and CDC guidance, to formulate school-specific plans regarding interactions of teachers, staff, parents, visitors, and students along with the use of school facilities.

The number one consideration of any plan should be to prioritize the safety of all students and staff while providing the most equitable and most highly effective education possible regardless of the schedule run by the school.

The following is a list of terms found in this document and has come to be understood as the “new normal” for “new school considerations:”

- Social Distancing;
- Hygiene Measures;
- Mask/Face Covering Etiquette;
- Temperature Screenings;
- Heightened Cleaning Procedures;
- Extended Distanced Seating;
- Controlled and Scheduled Plans for Hand-washing;
- Proper Spacing in Classrooms;
- Shift Instruction Outside When Possible; and
- Possess an LMS for the District for “Robust Distance Learning.”

General Public Health Considerations for In-School Instruction in Regards to Students, Teachers, and All Staff

The virus that causes COVID-19 can infect people of all ages. Research from the Centers for Disease Control, among others, has found that while children do get infected by COVID-19, relatively few children with COVID-19 are hospitalized. However, some severe outcomes have been reported in children, and a child with a mild or even asymptomatic case of COVID-19 can spread the infection to others who may be far more vulnerable. While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of furthering the spread of COVID-19, the current science suggests there are many steps schools can take to reduce the risks to students, teachers, staff, and their families significantly.

Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if that person is 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified in these protocols, all of which facilitate a safe and measured reopening of the Yazoo County School District.

All staff will need to be trained specifically on the protocols outlined in this document and the practices adopted by their school. Additionally, schools should continue to monitor daily and weekly updates from the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE), Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH), the Governor's office, Mississippi High School Activities Association (MHSAA), and the Center's for Disease Control (CDC).

Yazoo County School District
Re-Opening Plan Summary (Published on July 7, 2020;)
(Has Been Revised!)
2020-2021 School Year
#YCNexGenLeaders

The Yazoo County School District Administrative Team has been working plans for the ***“re-opening” of the 2020-21 school year*** for several weeks, utilizing data we derived from a survey of community, parents, faculty and staff. The results of the survey are very telling. Over 70% of our respondents want a hybrid style of instructional setting (less than five days of students attending school each week), with only 24% wanting to return to a traditional school day. A further dive into this data shows that the majority of our parents at Bentonia Gibbs want an option where students are on campus for at least a portion of time, while Linwood parents leaned more to the virtual option. The Middle and High School responses were fairly evenly split between a hybrid or virtual schedule with less than 20% selecting a return to a traditional schedule.

Our plan, at this time, is for **faculty and staff** to return to school on **Tuesday, August 11th** for their first day on contract. Faculty and staff will work on **Tuesday and Wednesday** of that week only. Next, on the week of August 17th, faculty and staff will work on **Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday; August 18th, 19th, and the 20th**. Then, the following week of August 24th, faculty and staff will work on **Monday, August 24th** and the first day for students to come to school will be on Tuesday, August 25th. Additionally, there will be specified times and procedures given for a device (Chrome book) to be checked-out by parents and guardians of each student. Again, **Tuesday, August 25th, will be our first student day** of the school year.

Please Note: It is imperative that our teachers receive the training that they need in order to implement a fluid distance learning platform coupled with face-to-face instruction and have a strong knowledge base in regards to the different communication platforms as well as the processes and procedures for recording instructional videos.

Our **“Re-Opening Plan and Daily Schedule”** (at this point unless the governor and/or MDE directs otherwise) will be implemented as follows:

- **Pre-K through 5th grade students** will come to school Tuesday through Friday as normal with the implementation of social distancing where possible, heightened cleaning, increased disinfecting and other recommended CDC health and safety safeguards in place; and
- **6th through 12th grade students** will be divided into two groups (Group A and Group B), one group will attend school on Tuesday and Thursday and the other group will come on Wednesday and Friday. Virtual assignments will be provided for students on the weekdays they are not physically on campus as well as instructional videos reinforcing concepts taught in their face-to-face classroom settings.

Parents will be given the option to select the "Totally Distance/Virtual Option" in which students will still receive a "checked-out" device (Chrome book) and receive their instruction digitally. Once the choice is made, it will stand for the nine weeks period and cannot be changed due to capacity of students in the building; etc. **Update:** Virtual learners were given the option to come back to school in a hybrid format, like other students, the week of September 22, 2020, and until the CDC and/or other governmental entity changes and/or relaxes the guidelines regarding the amount of students in the classroom and the spacing of students in the classroom, there will be no more opportunities for virtual students to come back to school in this same hybrid format. **Update:** During the months of November, December, and part of January, the numbers of COVID-19 cases and close contacts to positive cases increased; therefore, a decision was made that allowed any of the hybrid students to be virtual until the first semester ending point (January 15th) with the understanding that student athletes must attend school for face-to-face instruction on the days of practice, games, and/or performances.

Additionally, in preparation for moving to a "1:1 technology device school district," we conducted a reverse auction on Tuesday, June 30th, to obtain bids on Chrome books, bringing the total to a number of devices for each student to have one assigned to him/her. We are also procuring (1) **Canvas** as a distance learning platform as well as (2) **Nearpod** to increase student engagement; (3) **Edgenuity** for the 6th through 12th grade students for virtual/distance learning platform (for students who have a compromised immune system or for whatever reason can't come to school) and credit recovery; (4) **Newsela** for digital text; (5) **MyOn** for over 16,000 pieces of digital text (both narrative and informational); (6) **USA Test Prep** (to aid in determining any academic regression of our students due to time missed in the spring due to the COVID-19 pandemic); and (7) a supplemental, adaptive, and on-grade level instructional practice software package for standards' mastery. We will also utilize the assessment pieces from the various supplemental curricular programs to form a baseline of our students' achievement in August/September to aid in remediation and the potential regressional slide,

and then a post-test in April/May to determine growth (if MDE does not conduct state testing as was the case this past year.) This will give us a model of growth for student achievement through this year.

Each and every Monday, teachers will report to school for (1) PLC meetings; (2) potential virtual parent-teacher conferences; and (3) instructional planning duties. Students will have virtual assignments to complete and the students' time stamp on his/her document(s), log-ins; etc. or website will serve as our method of counting their attendance for the day. **Update: In reference to attendance in regards to virtual students and/or students who are temporarily virtual, a student must adhere to the following two sets of minimal requirements:**

Set One -- Provide Evidence of Engagement in Instruction Such As the following:

- Evidence of a log-in to the Learning Management System (LMS), for the District, for a specified amount of time;
- Evidence of a download of assigned instructional activities;
- Evidence of submittal of assigned instructional activities/assignments in the Learning Management System (LMS) for the District;
- Participate actively in a conference and/or a progress update with one or more of the student's teachers; and/or
- Be "authenticated" via the Learning Management System (LMS) by the Yazoo County School District.

Additionally, the Yazoo County School District has implemented the Asynchronous Offline Mode (Digital-Virtual) methodology of distance/remote and/or virtual learning mode of instruction. In implementing this model, several parameters shall be in place and they include:

Set Two -- Minimal Requirements are as follows:

1. Daily assignment [a minimum of 240 minutes of instruction] completed = hours toward daily attendance;
2. Student must attend scheduled weekly interactions [one-on-one or in groups] = hours toward daily attendance;
3. In regards to reporting attendance to MDE from YCSD, the following shall be completed:

In the event that none of the aforementioned can be documented, the student will **NOT** be counted present for the school day in question.

Additionally, on Mondays, classified employees will travel, on the bus fleet, to students' houses to deliver their lunches (accompanied by cafeteria staff members). Two breakfast meals and two lunch meals will be provided to our 6th through 12th grade students on the days of their face-to-face attendance (TTh or WF).

In reference to the Yazoo County School District bus fleet, the school bus is often the student's first point of contact with the school in the morning and the last point of contact in the afternoon. The Yazoo County School District is paying particular attention to protocols in regards to student transportation to minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus and protect both the students and the employees. The YCSD will work with our local health department to ensure the protocols align with the most current guidance and recommendations from the CDC and the National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT). The Yazoo County School Districts will thoroughly disinfect all buses and student transportation vehicles on a daily basis. In the same realm, the Driver's Education car is included in these statements of protocol.

The following list represents some; but not inclusive of all, of the heightened precautions that will take place as the students return to school for the 2020-2021 school year:

- Touchless water dispensers;
- Touchless soap dispensers;
- Touchless hand sanitation dispensers in each room;
- Restricted access to the buildings by the public;
- Extra disinfecting and sanitizing of the buildings;
- Breakfast will be picked up as they enter the buildings;
- Lunch will be served in the classrooms;
- Social distancing **where possible and as much as possible**;
- ~~Mask usage is at the discretion of the parent/guardian and will be provided by the parent/guardian for safety and health protocol;~~ **Update to Read: Masks are required in schools statewide. The Governor has ordered masks to be worn outdoors on school grounds and inside school buildings statewide at all times until January 15, 2021. See the Governor's [executive order 1535](#) for details. Additionally, masks are required indoors for selected counties to include**

Yazoo County. The Governor has ordered masks to be worn indoors in all businesses and places open to the public until January 15, 2021;

- Dividers between sinks in restrooms and other high traffic areas; and
- Temperature checks upon entry into buildings.

Additional Heightened Precautions for School Events Grades Pre-K Through 12th Grade

Organized extracurricular school events (including sports events, music and theater performances and others) for kindergarten through grade 12 are subject to these restrictions:

- Attendance at **outdoor** events is limited to 50% of the venue's seating capacity to ensure social distancing of at least six feet between persons from different households.
- Attendance at **indoor** events is limited to four attendees per student participant, not to exceed 250 ticketed attendees (excluding school faculty and staff, media and medical personnel).
- Face coverings **must** be worn at all times by those over five years old, in indoor events, when not seated, and any time when closer than six feet to others not of the same household.
- Indoors or outdoors, strive to maintain a distance of six feet or more from those not in your household.
- Face coverings are still strongly recommended at outdoor events even while social distancing.

We will reassess this plan after Labor Day, and if need be make adjustments in accordance with guidance given from the state government, Mississippi Department of Education, and/or other governmental agencies who provide daily and weekly guidance regarding COVID-19. **Update:** Group A/Group B hybrid students who were only attending school either Tuesday/Thursday or Wednesday/Friday were allowed to begin attending Tuesday through Friday together beginning the week of September 15th. Virtual learners were given the option to come back to school in a hybrid format, like other students, the week of September 22, 2020, and until the CDC and/or other government entity changes and/or relaxes the guidelines regarding the amount of students in the classroom and the spacing of the students in the classroom, there will be no more opportunities for virtual students to come back to school in this same hybrid format. **Update:** During the months of November, December, and part of January, the numbers of COVID-19 cases and close contacts to positive cases increased; therefore, a decision was made that allowed any of the hybrid students to be virtual until the first semester ending point (January 15th) with the understanding that student

athletes must attend school for face-to-face instruction on the days of practice, games, and/or performances.

Please Note: The Yazoo County School District will publish a detailed plan document of all of the processes and procedures that are currently being put into place for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year.

We look forward to a fruitful and productive year ***“Creating Next Generation Leaders!”***

Yazoo County School District
“Re-Start SMART... Creating Next Generation
Learners...”
Academic Programming

Bell Schedules

Bentonia Gibbs Bell Schedule

Period 1: 7:52-8:30
Period 2: 8:30-9:08
Period 3: 9:08-9:46
Period 4: 9:46-10:24
Period 5: 10:24-11:02
Period 6: 11:02-11:40
Period 7: 11:40-12:18
Period 8: 12:18-12:56
Period 9: 12:56-1:34
Period 10: 1:34-2:12
Period 11: 2:12-2:50

YCMS Bell Schedule

Period 1: 7:50-8:38
Period 2: 8:41-9:29
Period 3: 9:32-10:20
Period 4: 10:23-11:11
Period 5: 11:14-12:26
Period 6: 12:29-1:17
Period 7: 1:20-2:08
Period 8: 2:11-2:59

Linwood Bell Schedule:

Period 1: 7:10-7:50
Period 2: 7:50-8:50
Period 3: 8:50-9:50
Period 4: 9:50-10:50
Period 5: 10:50-12:20
Period 6: 12:20-1:20
Period 7: 1:20-2:20
Period 8: 2:20-3:20

YCHS Bell Schedule:

Block 1: 7:55-9:30
Block 2: 9:35-11:10
Block 3: 11:15-1:20
Lunch One: 11:15-11:40
Lunch Two: 12:55-1:20
Block 4: 1:25-3:00

Explanation of Hybrid Schedule for Pre-Kindergarten through 5th Grade

Pre-K through 5th grade students will come to school Tuesday through Friday as normal with the implementation of social distancing where possible, heightened cleaning increased disinfecting and other recommended CDC health and safety safeguards in place.

Explanation of Hybrid Schedule (Group A and Group B) for 6th through 12th Grade

6th through 12th grade students will be divided into two groups (Group A and Group B), one group will attend school on Tuesday and Thursday and the other group will come on Wednesday and Friday. Virtual assignments will be provided for students on the weekdays they are not physically on campus as well as instructional videos reinforcing concepts taught in their face-to-face classroom settings. **Update:** Group A/Group B hybrid students who were only attending school either Tuesday/Thursday or Wednesday/Friday were allowed to begin attending Tuesday through Friday together beginning the week of September 15th. **Update:** During the months of November, December, and part of January, the numbers of COVID-19 cases and close contacts to positive cases increased; therefore, a decision was made that allowed any of the hybrid students to be virtual until the first semester ending point (January 15th) with the understanding that student athletes must attend school for face-to-face instruction on the days of practice, games, and/or performances.

Explanation of Total Virtual/Distance Learning

Parents will be given the option to select the "Totally Distance/Virtual Option" in which students will still receive a "checked-out" device (Chrome book) and receive their instruction digitally. Once the choice is made, it will stand for the nine weeks period and cannot be changed due to capacity of students in the building; etc. **Update:** Virtual learners were given the option to come back to school in a hybrid format, like other students, the week of September 22, 2020, and until the CDC and/or other government entity changes and/or relaxes the guidelines regarding the amount of students in the classroom and the spacing of the students in the classroom, there will be no more opportunities for virtual students to come back to school in this same hybrid format. **Update:** During the months of November, December, and part of January, the numbers of COVID-19 cases and close contacts to positive cases increased; therefore, a decision was made that allowed any of

the hybrid students to be virtual until the first semester ending point (January 15th) with the understanding that student athletes must attend school for face-to-face instruction on the days of practice, games, and/or performances.

Learning Management System of the YCSD

Canvas is a Learning Management Platform implemented in K-12 school districts as well as colleges and universities. With its highly integrated learning products, school districts can build a digital learning environment to meet the unique challenges faced by the scenario brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Because **Canvas** is a web-based system, it doesn't need to be installed on your computer.

Grading Considerations

Teachers are responsible for recording at least 9 daily grades and at least 3 test grades. In grades kindergarten through 5th grade, daily grades = 60% of the final grade and test grades = 40% of the final grade. In grades 6th through 12th, daily grades = 40% of the final grade and test grades = 60% of the final grade.

Professional Development Considerations and Guidance

It is hugely imperative that teachers receive quality professional development in that the teaching paradigm has quickly shifted. Some of the topics that teachers will engage include, but are not limited to the following:

- (1) ASCD Projects and Assignments (specific to school needs);
- (2) The Multitude of E-Learning Software that Teachers and Students will be Utilizing This Year;
- (3) How to Address the Learning Gaps and the Regression of Our Students;
- (4) Trauma Informed Instruction;
- (5) Team Building;
- (6) Social Emotional Learning With Regard to Students;
- (7) Family Engagement;
- (8) The Morale and Emotional Health of the YCSD Faculty; and
- (9) Dynamic Hybrid and Distance Learning Projects

Additional Instructional Protocol Considerations

All schools are asked to encourage students to practice social distancing, **to the greatest extent possible**, and minimize the number of students who they encounter regularly.

(1) All instruction will be held in spaces that allow for social distancing **to the greatest extent possible**. ~~Current Mississippi guidelines as of July 1, 2020: “Where social distancing is possible, indoor gatherings of no more than fifty (50) people and outdoor gatherings of up to one hundred (100) people will be allowed. Where social distancing is not possible, no more than twenty (20) people may gather indoors and outside, the limit is fifty (50) people; Current Mississippi guidelines as of December 22, 2020:~~ **Organized extracurricular school events (including sports events, music and theater performances and others) for kindergarten through grade 12 are subject to these restrictions:**

- Attendance at **outdoor** events is limited to 50% of the venue's seating capacity to ensure social distancing of at least six feet between persons from different households.
- Attendance at **indoor** events is limited to four attendees per student participant, not to exceed 250 ticketed attendees (excluding school faculty and staff, media and medical personnel).
- Face coverings **must** be worn at all times by those over five years old, in indoor events, when not seated, and any time when closer than six feet to others not of the same household.
- Indoors or outdoors, strive to maintain a distance of six feet or more from those not in your household.
- Face coverings are still strongly recommended at outdoor events even while social distancing.

(2) If more than one group is using a shared space that is large enough to allow for students in all groups and their respective desks to be social distanced, then multiple groups of individuals can be in the space together. However, each group must be separated from the other by an empty space of at least thirty (30) feet. Groups should not combine for activities at any time. It is encouraged that students be seated, in any area, with maximum social distancing where possible;

(3) Yazoo County School District Faculty and Staff are **encouraged required** to wear a face covering (ex. shield or cloth mask) when at work unless they are working alone in an office or performing a job function that prevents them from doing so until such that the governor declares

that the executive order has expired and no longer in effect. (Ex. A teacher showing students the mouth movement for pronouncing a letter, etc.);

- (4) Whenever possible and developmentally appropriate, there should be no group or pairs work that would require students to regularly interact within close proximity, recognizing that this is not possible for early childhood students and some students with disabilities;
- (5) Students must not be brought together in assemblies, field trips, or other group gatherings outside of their class group, unless state or district guidance changes;
- (6) When feasible and appropriate, it is great for students to gather outside rather than inside, because of likely reduced risk of virus spread outdoors;
- (7) Students on campus should not participate in activities like those listed below, except as part of Mississippi High School Activities Association (MHSAA) approved conditioning or training programs, consistent with MHSAA guidance, because of their potential for spreading the virus through respiratory droplets:
 - Choir
 - Playing wind instruments
 - Indoor sports such as: school gyms, weight rooms, and in-door workout facilities which can be open to students participating in a MHSAA-approved conditioning program while supervised by school staff consistent with MHSAA guidance. Indoor facilities are to remain closed for purposes of athletic or fitness activities to unsupervised students and to the community. Other than MHSAA-approved activities, outdoor sports are allowable only if they can be conducted in accordance with Mississippi State Department Health guidelines;
- (8) Whenever possible, students, teachers, and staff should maintain consistent groupings of people, to minimize virus spread in the school. Specifically:
 - Elementary school students should be taught in self-contained classes if at all possible. It may be possible for the teachers to rotate to a classroom instead of students changing classes;
 - ~~Secondary students will be in class settings of no more than 15 students; henceforth, two groups have been established—Group A and Group B;~~ **Update: Virtual learners were given the option to come back to school in a hybrid format, like other students, the week of September 22, 2020, and until the CDC and/or other government entity changes and/or relaxes the guidelines regarding the amount of students in the classroom and the spacing of the students in the classroom, there will be no more opportunities for virtual students to come back to school in this same hybrid format. Update: During the months of November,**

December, and part of January, the numbers of COVID-19 cases and close contacts to positive cases increased; therefore, a decision was made that allowed any of the hybrid students to be virtual until the first semester ending point (January 15th) with the understanding that student athletes must attend school for face-to-face instruction on the days of practice, games, and/or performances. In reference to the aforementioned scenarios, students will practice social distancing, to the greatest extent possible, and minimize the number of students who they encounter regularly. All instruction will be held in spaces that allow for social distancing to the greatest extent possible. It should be recognized that as more students are allowed to move from a total virtual setting back into the building for face-to-face instruction, the class sizes are larger.

- Class release times can be staggered so that all are not in the hallway for a class change at the same time or departing school all at the same time. The rationale for this limitation is that each additional individual exposure presents greater opportunity for virus spread;
- A positive COVID-19 case in a school ~~will typically~~ **could** require a two (2)-week closure of the individual's class group if they meet the criteria for close proximity exposure which is defined by the CDC/MSDH as an individual who has had close contact (< 6 feet for ≥15 minutes without the affected individual wearing a cloth face mask/covering) to an individual who could spread the virus. If however the infected individual does not meet the criteria for "close proximity exposure" (they were >6 feet, less than 15 minutes, and had a face covering then only the infected individual has to quarantine 14 days. For example, three classes are taught by a single science teacher, and a student in one of those classes' contracts COVID-19, all three classes are considered a single class group for purposes of potential exposure, because they all have the possibility of "close proximity exposure." If the class is self-contained, then perhaps only the single class group and teacher would have to self-isolate for two weeks if they were found to have "close proximity exposure."
- When students must be taught by multiple teachers, it is better for students not to be brought together with those in other classes for shared instruction or mixed with other classes during elective or other periods or between classes.
 - Rather than having students change from classroom to classroom, consider having teachers rotate between classes while students stay in one class to minimize students encountering others in the hallway; and/or
 - Alternatively, schools could stagger class start and end times to minimize the number of students in the hallway during passing periods.

- Those students with documented and verifiable underlying health considerations are being offered alternative instructional access such as virtual learning. These options are offered with the understanding that there is no substitute for direct instruction from a highly skilled and effective teacher and the student’s parents/guardian will be asked to sign a “**Statement of Assurances Form;**” **Please Note:** One does not have to turn in medical documentation to commit to a virtual/distance remote option **at this time. Please note this could change at a later date.**
- All student attendance will be verified via current school district and state attendance policies, and should virtual instruction be required of everyone, at some point, schools should monitor engagement and attendance through the Learning Management System (LMS) Canvas. If students are not attending virtually or appear to be disengaged, then this should be addressed by the schools Teacher Support Team (TST) through the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) as if the student was in school under normal conditions; (**YCSD Board Policies** (1) Section I Policy Code IAAA – Distance/Online Learning; (2) Section J Policy Code JBDB – Attendance Monitoring/Accounting; (3) Section J Policy Code JBD -- Attendance, Tardiness and Excuses; and (4) Section A Policy Code ADB – Average Daily Attendance)
- Universal Screeners and other content-specific screeners will be used in a formative method to address any learning gaps or deficits as needed for students due to the extended school closure. This will allow teachers to move beyond skills students have already mastered and hone in and spend more time on those areas of growth for students.

Social Emotional Learning Protocol(s)

The Yazoo County School District is conscious of the level of trauma that students are experiencing and understand that children respond differently to trauma, so that we adjust and provide the resources that are necessary—whether that is social workers, guidance counselors, or teachers. In order to improve the academic work of students, the District must focus more on relationships and building a safe community rather than solely on academics. We can communicate that in a hundred different ways, whether it’s videos, emails, letters, or video chats. We need to align our resources of who’s available to help with trauma. And finally, we need to continue to tap into student voice through surveys and focus groups.

Play #1: Start with adult mindsets:

Great leaders know that social-emotional learning starts with adults. The way that administrators, teachers, and staff show up at school can have a profound impact on students' academic, social, and emotional development.

Play #2: Embed SEL into your vision, mission, and strategic plan:

The social curriculum is just as important as the academic curriculum. Build a comprehensive and systemic approach to SEL that aligns resources and learning around the whole child.

Play #3: Build SEL into curriculum and instruction:

Social-emotional learning doesn't happen on its own. Your district should take an intentional approach to SEL — whether it is taught explicitly or integrated into existing curricula.

Play #4: Invest in ongoing professional development:

SEL is not a "one and done" initiative. It takes continued education and training over time. Ongoing professional development will increase staff buy-in and help you find SEL champions in your buildings.

Play #5: Collaborate and connect with other leaders:

No matter where you are in your social-emotional learning journey, seek out opportunities to learn from other leaders and educators embarking on this critical work.

Play #6: Model caring for yourself:

You can't pour from an empty cup! Consider how you are attending to your own social and emotional well-being and mindfulness as a leader.

Operations Programming

General Guidance:

1. Campuses will need to plan for entry and exit procedures that reduce the number of students and parents congregating outside and/or mixing in the hallways;
2. Consider assigning students to entries to ensure even distribution of students entering/exiting at each door, providing guidance to students to enter one at a time and wait six (6) feet apart outside the entrance, and, where appropriate, encouraging parents to remain outside during drop-off and pick-up;

3. Parents can participate in school visits, **face-to-face**, if their participation is needed **and pre-arranged**. In such cases, parents should follow the guidance in this document and specific guidance provided by the individual school;
4. Conferences should be held virtually where possible. Schools and parents should consider how to minimize visits inside the school building when they are not needed to reduce the number of individual interactions during school (e.g., have parents drop off and pick up students outside the school rather than inside, call ahead to schedule any conferences, etc.).
5. To the extent possible, students should eat lunch at their desks. This should be done in the grab-and-go fashion;
6. Schools will need to consider how to minimize virus spread as a result of play space use.
 - Older elementary students who can follow social distancing protocols should be asked to keep six (6) feet apart while using play spaces. For these children, it may also help to restrict class groups to specific areas of the play space using cones, caution tape, or a natural barrier, with the intent of preventing students from interacting across class groups and increasing virus spread. Alternatively, schools can send only one class group to a play space at a time;
 - For the youngest students, including early childhood and early elementary students, as well as some students with disabilities, social distancing on play spaces will not be possible or developmentally appropriate. In these cases, it is recommended that, as much as possible, only one class group uses a play space at a time; and
 - Students in age groups who do not need to use play equipment for recreation should not spend their recreation time in play spaces, if possible, and should maintain social distance at all times when outside, just as they do inside.
7. Employees, like employees of any organization, must continue to meet the work expectations set by their employers, subject to any applicable employment contract terms.

Transportation Guidance:

Daily Cleaning Protocols for School Bus Personnel Include:

- High-touch areas, including buttons, steering wheels, door handles, and dashboard controls will be cleaned more frequently;
- Dust-and wet-mopping floors;
- Remove trash;
- Wiping heat and air conditioner vents;
- Spot cleaning walls and seats;

- Dusting horizontal surfaces;
- Cleaning spills; and
- The interior of each vehicle will be cleaned and either swept or vacuumed thoroughly after each morning and evening route and/or at least once each day.

Other Daily Protocols with Buses:

Routing:

Yazoo County School District has determined social distancing expectations for student transportation, and because of this, various strategies may be employed to reduce the number of students on a given bus at one time. These strategies, however, require communication with the family and must be planned to implement effectively.

- **Reduce Ridership:** Through a pre-opening family survey, transportation needs dictated that fewer families plan to use bus transport in the upcoming school year. The survey and enrollment communications are also opportunities to encourage alternative modes of transport if feasible for students so that the pool of students needing bus transport may be minimized. This change also requires the revision of routes; and
- **Alter Routes:** While requiring additional adjustments to pick-up times and longer personnel shift hours, transportation needs may dictate existing routes to become altered in some way thereby changing the potential pick-up and drop-off times.

Bus Stops:

Transportation, in the Yazoo County School District, should provide careful considerations to any new expectations of students/families while waiting on buses for pick-up or drop-off at stops and will communicate often to families. The YCSD will explain to students and families all new and existing protocols, including:

- **Family Responsibility:** If at all possible, a family member is expected to wait with students at his/her pick-up location to provide guidance while social distancing from his/her peers;
- **Social Distancing:** Students should socially distance themselves from peers while waiting for the bus or lining up to board; and
- **Bus Loading/Exiting:** Students should continue to socially distance as they board the school bus from his/her pick-up location as well as when he/she arrives at school and disembarks the

school bus. Students wait until the student in front of them is fully seated and/or off the bus before proceeding to board or exit the school bus.

Bus Ride(s):

Central to any revisions to the transportation strategy, for the Yazoo County School District, must be the desired goals and feasibility of changes to the bus riding experience. Social distancing is required on the bus as well as other safe guard measures and these expectations are being communicated to students and families, in addition to transportation staff members and drivers. CDC guidance encourages school bus operations to limit close contact with others by maintaining a distance of at least 6 feet, when possible. Recognizing the feasibility of social distancing relies heavily on strategies listed above; however, there are still important considerations that may factor into bus riding protocols such as:

- **Spacing Seats:** Consider as much spacing among students as possible by taping off every other row and placing fewer students per seat. If possible, consider having the first two rows behind the driver remain vacant to ensure proper distancing from the driver, even if student distancing is less feasible;
- **Assigned Seats:** In collaboration with the state health department and to support any contact tracing needs, drivers will assign seats on the bus, making it easier to note when a student is not present for a bus ride;
- **Face Coverings:** Drivers are expected to wear masks or other face coverings; and
- **Siblings:** Siblings will share seats while other students maintain individual seats, noting that families are already regularly in contact with one another.

Source: <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/education/health-&-safety/Transportation.pdf>

Summary of Bus Planning Operations and Programming

1. Schools will reduce the number of students on the bus route to minimize group exposure;
2. Students should be seated as far apart as possible from other students on the bus;
3. Students should stay in their seats;
4. All students for whom it is developmentally appropriate will be highly encouraged to wear cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth) on all Yazoo County School District buses;
5. Families are encouraged to drop students off, carpool, or walk with their student to school to reduce possible virus exposure on buses;

6. Buses should be thoroughly cleaned after each bus trip, particularly high-touch surfaces such as bus seats, steering wheels, knobs, and door handles;
7. In regards to high touch areas, clean high-contact surfaces first and most frequently, including buttons, steering wheels, door handles, and dashboard controls;
8. Utilize disinfecting wipes for quick disinfecting between cleanings and rides as a good way to limit the spread of germs;
9. During cleaning, windows and doors will be opened when possible to allow for additional ventilation and air flow, which is helpful in mitigating COVID-19 spread.

Source(s):

- (1) Retrieved from: https://www.aft.org/sites/default/files/covid19_info_buscleaning.pdf
- (2) Retrieved from: <https://www.schoolbusfleet.com/10111942/8-tips-for-cleaning-school-buses-in-the-age-of-coronavirus>

Enhanced Cleaning and Sanitization of School Campuses

There are three tiers of enhanced cleaning taking place in terms of each respective school site in the YCSD and they are the following:

Tier One: First, enhanced cleaning begins with the pre-opening and reentry phase which is critical to occupant health and safety. The 3 most significant components of this phase are to

- Ensure proper staffing levels and implementation of specialized training and certification for team members to perform enhanced disinfection services;
- Securing inventory of products and materials and incorporating new technologies and innovations and;
- Managing expectations for increased service levels.

Tier Two: This is the day-to day-model we've developed prior to building opening – this is the “new” way of operating. Preventative disinfection measures will be repeated consistently at intervals appropriate to each school site. There will be daytime disinfecting as well as nighttime disinfecting.

Tier Three: This tier of cleaning is defined by periodic holistic disinfection as this will become necessary as each school site begins to gain more foot traffic. Periodic disinfection will ensure that we continue to “reset” and reinforce our day-to-day program.

In each of the three tiers of the enhanced cleaning and sanitization plan, there are three steps and they are as follows:

STEP ONE: Return Safely

The first step starts with planning and preparing for building and occupant health and safety. The custodial team will perform a school site assessment that includes the following:

- A thorough walkthrough using our facility reentry checklists to identify high touch points where frequent disinfection is needed and perform a checkup of your entire facility;
- Identify the most effective locations to add hand sanitizing stations or disinfecting wipes;
- Evaluate opportunities to reduce high touch points by replacing manual fixtures/dispensers with touchless products;
- Recommend the incorporated centralized trash collection to support social distancing practices; and
- A comprehensive disinfection service will be performed to prepare your student’s school for re-entry.

STEP TWO: Frequent High Touch Disinfection

The second step puts cleaning and disinfection frequency recommendations in action to perform ongoing appropriate disinfection of high touch surfaces like door handles, photocopy rooms, turn-styles, seating areas, and in some cases, conference room service after each use.

Communication kits will be provided, to pro-actively illustrate the safety measures, in regards to cleanliness of each school site including:

- Entryway easel signs communicating mutual agreements upon entering the space;
- Video loops for digital signage to communicate the Enhanced Clean steps being taken at each school site;
- Educational wall posters that address important practices like social distancing;
- Restroom mirror clings and stickers to promote proper hand washing;
- Table tents and floor clings in break areas and conference rooms to communicate disinfection services; and

- Web page linked with the school district website, with FAQs for occupants to learn more about enhanced cleaning.

STEP THREE: Broader Disinfection

Broad disinfection of via electrostatic spraying when buildings are unoccupied (such as nights or weekends) helps safeguard each school site beyond high touch point cleaning.

Food Service Planning

The following guidance, considerations, and protocol will be implemented in planning for meals for the students of the Yazoo County School District:

Modifications to Food Service Planning:

- Organize breakfast to be served as “grab and go” at bus and car entrances;
- Adjust meal times to accommodate serving meals in the classroom at lunch;
- Provide needed supplies/materials to accommodate serving meals in the classroom (including but not limited too extra trash cans; cleaning supplies; etc.); and
- Custodial assistance will be needed to empty trash cans in hallways after breakfast and lunch service;

Delivery and Serving Methods:

- Meals will be delivered in “grab and go” containers or “to-go” trays utilizing portable temperature controlled containers;
- Meals will be prepared in the cafeteria and held at the needed temperatures until served;
- Cafeteria employees will serve meals to each classroom and record student lunch assigned number to ensure correct count for reimbursable meals; and
- Set meal menus instead of item choices will be utilized until students are served from the cafeteria once again.

Contingency Plan if a Cafeteria Worker Tests Positive for COVID-19:

- If a cafeteria worker tests positive for COVID-19, if needed, a cafeteria substitute will be called in to work; and
- All cafeteria employees will be screened before entering the cafeteria for work each day.

Health and Safety Protocol

1. Teachers and staff should self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming onto campus. Any concerns should be reported to the school level/**District level** COVID-19 Contact person. Before coming onto campus and at the start of every week of instruction, all students and staff will be prompted to pre-screen for COVID-19 symptoms (using Alert Now message) that they or others living in their house could experience. The symptoms to screen for are listed at the bottom of this document;
2. The temperature of each student will be taken when they arrive on campus each day (If the **student's temperature is 100.4 or greater**, that student will be taken to the additional "Health Room for further screening and a phone call made to the parents/guardian to come to the school to pick-up his/her student;"
3. Signs should be posted in all bathrooms and near all sinks regarding hygiene practices;
4. Sanitation supplies (ex. Hand sanitizer, soap, paper towels, etc.) should be kept on hand at schools and easily accessible to all that work and enter the school. Additionally, touchless hand sanitizing stations will be easily accessible;
5. Schools should have hand sanitizer at each entrance and require students, teachers, and staff to use it whenever they enter the building. Hand sanitizer should also be available in every classroom, when possible, and students and teachers should be encouraged to use it frequently. Students, teachers, and staff should also wash hands or use hand sanitizer after they have touched something another person recently touched;
6. Students should be instructed in good hand-washing techniques and given frequent opportunities to wash their hands;
7. Students should engage in supervised hand-washing, where possible, for at least twenty (20) seconds at least two (2) times each day, in addition to being encouraged to wash hands after using the restroom and before eating;
8. Consistent with the actions taken by many organizations across the state, the Yazoo County School District ~~encourages~~ **directs** all employees to wear cloth face coverings or shields (over the nose and mouth);
9. All students ~~for whom it is developmentally appropriate will also be highly encouraged~~ **will be directed** to wear cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth) on all Yazoo County School District

buses. It is most likely not developmentally appropriate for students younger than five (5) years old and for some students with disabilities to wear masks or face coverings; and therefore, it is not encouraged. Face coverings/masks may be challenging for students (especially younger students) to wear in all-day settings such as school. Face coverings ~~are also encouraged to~~ **will also be** worn by staff and students (particularly older students) ~~as feasible~~, and are most essential in times when physical distancing is difficult. Individuals should be frequently reminded not to touch the face covering and to wash their hands frequently. Information will be provided to staff, students, and students' families on proper use, removal, and washing of cloth face coverings.

10. Each of the aforementioned mandates and/or directives are in effect until such that the governor declares that the executive order has expired and no longer in effect.

Please Note: Cloth face coverings/masks should not be placed on the following:

1. Anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious;
2. Anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance.

Cloth face coverings are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not have symptoms. Cloth face coverings are not surgical masks, respirators, or other medical personal protective equipment;

10. Post signs in highly visible locations (e.g., school entrances, restrooms) that promote everyday protective measures and describe how to stop the spread of germs (such as by properly washing hands and properly wearing a cloth face covering;

(a.) Broadcast regular announcements on reducing the spread of COVID-19 on intercom systems;

(b.) Include messages (for example, videos) about behaviors that prevent the spread of COVID-19 when communicating with staff and families (such as on school websites, in emails, and on school social media accounts);

(c.) Find free CDC print and digital resources on CDC's communications resources main page.

11. Informational signs will be posted in all schools and district office buildings;

12. Campuses will institute more frequent cleaning practices, including additional cleaning by custodial staff;

13. Arrange for additional cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces that are touched in common throughout the day;

14. Arrange for cleaning of classrooms between different class groups if the same room will be used by multiple class groups. This would include objects such as: (1) door handles and (2) common tables/desks, and high touch devices such as shared laptops or tablets.

Screening Procedures and Mitigation Considerations for Schools (CDC)

1. **Schools will identify a COVID-19 Contact** who will be responsible for COVID-19 issues and their impact at the workplace;
2. **Prepare continuity plans** for significant absenteeism; Cross train employees you need to conduct the business of the school;
3. **Establish an emergency communications plan:**
 - (a.) Identify key contacts (with back-ups);
 - (b.) Chain of communications (including faculty and staff); and
 - (c.) Processes for tracking and communicating about status of school and operations.

Preparing for When Someone Gets Sick

Schools may consider implementing several strategies to prepare for when someone gets sick.

1. Advise Staff and Families of Sick Students and Home Isolation Criteria:

- District employees should provide a copy of the diagnosis certificate to their supervisor when work is missed due to COVID related quarantine; **Update: It is imperative to provide the results of the COVID-19 test as well as any other “medical clearance” and/or certificate from the medical provider. Providing simply a notice that the employee went to the health provider is not enough documentation.**
- Sick staff members or students should not return until they have met CDC’s criteria to discontinue home isolation; **and/or the policy of the YCSD which states that students who are symptomatic should quarantine and may return after seven days with a negative test or ten days if no test has been taken – employees who are a close contact should return after five days with or without a negative test – employees who are symptomatic should seek the guidance of their medical professionals understanding that sick leave may be utilized for their absence away from work.**
- This information should be communicated to all stakeholders through home mail-outs, on the district/school website, and by the AIMS Call System. This information will be

required to be covered in all school's opening schools procedures in-service at the beginning of the year.

2. Isolate and Transport Those Who are Sick:

- Make sure that staff and families know that they (staff) or their children (families) should not come to school, and that they should notify school officials (e.g., the designated COVID-19 point of contact) if they (staff) or their child (families) become sick with COVID-19 symptoms, test positive for COVID-19, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 symptoms or a confirmed or suspected case;
- Immediately separate staff and children with COVID-19 symptoms (such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath) at school. Individuals who are sick should go home or to a healthcare facility depending on how severe their symptoms are, and follow CDC guidance for caring for themselves and others who are sick;
- Staff and students with symptoms will be isolated in the school nurses office or another designated room, or some other designated location (i.e. "Health Room," until they can be picked up or leave campus;
- Establish procedures for safely transporting anyone who is sick to their home or to a healthcare facility. If you are calling an ambulance or bringing someone to the hospital, try to call first to alert the paramedics that the person may have COVID-19;
- Utilize the School Resource Officer (SRO) or office staff in contacting the ambulance and ask that they notify of COVID-19 concerns; and
- This information should be communicated to all stakeholders through home mail-outs, on district/school website, and by the AIMS Call System. This information will be required to be covered in all school's opening school procedures in-service at the beginning of the year.

3. Clean and Disinfect:

- Close off areas used by a sick person and do not use these areas until after cleaning and disinfecting;
- Mark Roberts of ABM custodial services and the custodial site supervisor should be notified of possible infection. Room will be quarantined per guidelines;
- Wait at least 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting. If 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible; and
- Ensure safe and correct use and storage of cleaning and disinfection products, including storing products securely away from children;

4. Notify Health Officials and Close Contacts:

- In accordance with state and local laws and regulations, school administrators, by the means of the District contact, should notify local health officials/health department staff, and families immediately of any case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and FERPA; this is completed through a weekly reporting mechanism to the Mississippi Department of Health by the District COVID-19 Contact Person with guidance from the school nurses. Additionally, a series of letters are utilized specific to the particular scenario as it exists to inform parents/families as well as employees.
- Inform those who have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 to stay home and self-monitor for symptoms, and follow CDC guidance if symptoms develop; and/or follow the policy of the YCSD which states that students who are symptomatic should quarantine and may return after seven days with a negative test or ten days if no test has been taken – employees who are a close contact should return after five days with or without a negative test – employees who are symptomatic should seek the guidance of their medical professionals understanding that sick leave may be utilized for their absence away from work.
- District staff will follow all guidelines and expectations for human resource management per state and federal law and provide guidance where necessary and applicable; and/or follow the policy of the YCSD which states that students who are symptomatic should quarantine and may return after seven days with a negative test or ten days if no test has been taken – employees who are a close contact should return after five days with or without a negative test – employees who are symptomatic should seek the guidance of their medical professionals understanding that sick leave may be utilized for their absence away from work.

Positive Cases and Teachers, Staff, or Students Showing COVID-19 Symptoms

1. If a positive case is identified for a school participant, whether teacher, staff, or student, the school must identify any individuals who had regular or close contact (defined by the CDC/MSDH as an individual who has had close contact (< 6 feet for ≥15 minutes with or without a cloth face mask) with the affected participant **through the mechanism of Contact Tracing**. This ~~will~~ **could or may** include the entire class (students, teachers and staff) and potentially other teachers and staff (if multiple teachers work regularly with the student or staff member). If those teachers or the students interacted with other students or staff on a regular basis or came in close contact with them, those students and staff should be considered potentially exposed as well. Anyone who is considered to have regular or close contact (defined by the CDC/MSDH as an individual who has had close contact (< 6 feet for ≥15 minutes with or without a cloth face mask) with someone who ~~may have~~ **has** been exposed to COVID-19 must stay at home for two (2) weeks. In some cases, this may/**may not** necessitate closing only a single classroom. In other cases, it may require closing multiple classes, or even the entire school, for two (2) weeks. **Finally, if a positive case is determined in the school setting, the said person must quarantine 10 days from the onset of symptoms before coming back to the school setting and/or the work setting.**
 2. Any ~~teacher, staff member,~~ **essential employee** ~~or student~~ who experiences any of the symptoms of COVID-19 (listed below) should self-isolate, with guidance from district administration. ~~until the specific conditions below have been met;~~ **In the case of a student who experiences any symptoms of COVID-19 (listed below), the said student will be instructed to self-quarantine for a period of 14 days and may not return to school before that time period has expired. A negative test result will not serve as medical clearance for the student to come back to school. The student will be considered a virtual learner during this time frame.** **7 days and return with a negative test and 10 days without a test result and no symptoms present.**
 3. In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may come back to school after a **10** ~~14~~-day isolation and can return if no fever for at least three days (72 hours) without the use of fever-reducing medications; or
 4. In the case of an ~~individual~~ **employee** who has symptoms that could be COVID-19, again he/she must quarantine for a period of no less than 5 days. After the 5-day period, the employee can return to work with a medical clearance and a negative COVID-19 test result. ~~and does not get evaluated by a~~
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medical professional or tested for COVID-19, the individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to work or school until after 14-day isolation and Also, the individual must be free of fever for at least three days (72 hours) without the use of fever reducing medications; or

5. If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to work before completing the above self-isolation period, the individual must obtain a medical professional's note/certificate clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis; (already stated above)

6. Any student (7 days with a negative test/ 10 days with no test), teacher, or staff member living with someone who obtains a positive COVID-19 test, should self-isolate for 10 ~~14~~ days. If they do not experience any COVID-19 symptoms during that period, they can return to school/work.

Summary of the Above

- If a student tests positive for COVID-19, he/she is quarantined and is not able to come to school for 10 days after the first sign of symptoms. He/she can return after that time frame has expired provided he/she is fever free for 72 hours;
 - If an adult (employee) tests positive for COVID-19, he/she is quarantined and is not able to come to work for 10 days after the first sign of symptoms. He/she can return after that time frame has expired provided he/she is fever free for 72 hours;
 - ⊖ If a student exhibits symptoms of COVID-19, the student's parents and/or guardians will be called to come and pick up the student. ~~It is recommended that the student be tested for COVID-19 and the student shall be quarantined until medical clearance is obtained from his/her healthcare provider. A negative COVID-19 test result does NOT clear the student to come back to school;~~ **Update to Read:** If a student exhibits symptoms of COVID-19, the student's parents and/or guardians will be called to come and pick up the student. **It is** recommended that the student be tested for COVID-19. If the student tests for Covid-19 and receives a negative test result, he/she may return to school within 7 days. If the student does not test for Covid-19, then he/she may return in 10 days with no result. The student must be fever free and exhibit no symptoms in both scenarios.
 - ⊖ If a student is identified in contact tracing as a "close contact" to a positive case, the student will be sent home and must quarantine for 14 days regardless of a negative result from a Covid-19 test and/or medical clearance from a healthcare provider; and **Update to**
-

Read:-7 days and return with a negative test result or 10 days with no test result and fever free. The student must be fever free and exhibit no symptoms in both scenarios.

- **If an essential employee is identified in contact tracing as a “close contact” to a positive case, he/she must quarantine for five days. It is recommended that he/she be tested for COVID-19 and return the result upon returning for work.**

Direct Guidance from the Mississippi Department of Health (MSDH) Regarding COVID-19

- Respiratory virus that spreads in manner similar to the flu;
- Similar symptoms with some additional manifestations (loss of taste and smell);
- Primarily via air but also contaminated surfaces;
- Incubation period roughly 5 days (up to 14 days);
- Contagious up to 10 days from onset of symptoms;
- Asymptomatic spread common (asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic); and
- Wearing a mask is 80 to 90% effective in preventing sick people from spreading virus.

Case Investigation and Outbreak Response General Considerations:

- Students and staff will become infected with COVID-19 (whether through transmission in the community or within the school);
- All COVID-19 cases must be isolated at home for 14 days;
- Can return if no fever for at least 3 days without use of fever reducing medication (ex. Tylenol);
- Close contacts to COVID-19 cases must be quarantined for 14 days;
- Safety measures in schools can prevent most transmission; and
- Follow the general guidance of CDC when at all possible.

Dismissals/Closures:

- Elevated cases, within a group or classroom, may require more extensive quarantine;
 - Certain case levels may necessitate temporary dismissal of students in particular classes or buildings, or closure of the entire school; and
 - School closures and dismissals may be reactive or if schools are dismissed temporarily, discourage students and staff from gathering or socializing anywhere, like at a friend’s house, favorite restaurant, or the local shopping mall.
-

Case Response for COVID-19:

If a case is identified in a student or staff member;

- In most instances, the school will become aware before MSDH;
- The District is responsible for weekly COVID-19 reporting to the state through a reporting mechanism by every Monday @ 12:00 PM;
- ~~Notify your local Epidemiology staff when a student or staff member are positive;~~
- MSDH will notify the school, when aware, if not previously reported;
- Parents should notify the school as well;
- In the event that MSDH is aware of COVID-19 case, the school will be notified;
- The school should communicate the expectation that all cases should notify the school and stay in isolation at home for a full 10 ~~14~~ days (School COVID-19 Contact Person); and
- Parents should be notified when a student or teacher is COVID-19 positive - this may be targeted notification based on the potentially exposed group size.

Sample Parent Notification:

If a student (or teacher/coach) in your child's class (group/team) has been diagnosed with COVID-19:

- All individuals should monitor for symptoms and consult your physician as needed;
- Some children, who are deemed as close contacts to the positive case, will ~~may~~ receive a separate notification to quarantine at home for ~~14 days~~; Update to Read: 7 days and return with a negative test result or 10 days with no test result and fever free. The student must be fever free and exhibit no symptoms in both scenarios;
- As a reminder, always keep your child home if they are ill.

Response Process for Case of COVID-19 Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH):

- Case investigation/isolation order;
- Notify school (if not previously notified);
- Contact investigation and quarantine orders of close contacts (MSDH will work with school to ascertain close contacts); and
- Recommend testing all of close contacts.

The School Should:

- Notify MSDH;
- Arrange for education plan/staffing for the absent student/staff;
- Environmental enhanced cleaning of affected areas;
- Assist with identifying close contacts; and
- Consider, if appropriate and meets CDC guidelines, send all close contact **employees** home x ~~14~~ **5** days with or without a negative test (Close contact = less than 6 feet for 15 minutes or more with or without a mask).

Outbreak:

- In the event of an outbreak, (equal to or greater than 3 cases in any group, e.g., class, team) – ~~all group members should be quarantined for 14 days;~~ **Update to Read: employees identified as close contacts should quarantine for five days with or without a negative test result and students must quarantine, if identified as a close contact, for 7 days and return with a negative test result or 10 days if no test result. In all scenarios, the employee and/or the student must be fever free and exhibit no symptoms.**
- Closure of School Building (or School);
 - (a.) Difficult to create hard and fast rules;
 - (b.) Evidence of uncontrolled spread in the school is a good indicator that building closure might be prudent;
 - (c.) Triggers might include:
 - (1.) Multiple spontaneous outbreaks or affected groups (i.e., > 3 separate groups impacted);
 - (2.) Pre-set % of students or staff (exceeding normal school absences);
 - (3.) Difficulty conducting education work due to student and staff absences; and
 - (4.) Re-opening – minimum 14 days appropriate

Risk Decision Matrix

Factor: Lower Risk or Higher Risk

Mitigation Strategies

Proximity: > 6 feet < 6 feet

Duration: < 15 Minutes > 15 minutes

Group Size: < 10 > 10

Congestion: Low/High Movement

Directed Undirected

Touch: Low/High

Respiratory Control: Normal/Increased

*Does the event or activity put the broader population at risk?

Procedures:

Step 1: Identify the event or activity to analyze (E.g., Classrooms, class changes, meals, choirs, sports practice and/or games, transportation);

Step 2: Complete the risk matrix assignment for each risk factor (See matrix);

Step 3: Identify if the broader population is at risk vs. individual or small group;

Step 4: Identify mitigation strategies that address higher risk factors. Brainstorm as many mitigation strategies as possible in each area. Many ideas can be found on various education examples such as:

(1) Proximity – increase distance; wear cloth face coverings; hold activities outdoors;

(2) Duration – limit duration;

(3) Group Size – Break into smaller groups; keep groups co-horted together without intermingling; limit spectators;

(4) Congestion – Stagger entry and exit; hold activities outdoors;

(5) Movement – Place directional guides in entrances and hallways;

(6) Touch – Limit gathering of items; hand hygiene;

(7) Respiratory Output – Avoid singing or shouting in activities as possible

Step 5: Make a determination if the activity is allowable or requires additional modification. Is the risk high for >2 elements? Are mitigation steps adequate? Is there risk to the entire student body? Does the educational value of the activity justify the risk?

Example: High School Show Choir Risk Decision Matrix

Factor Lower Risk Higher Risk Mitigation Strategies Proximity > 6 feet < 6 feet Wear masks and increase distance Duration < 15 Minutes > 15 minutes Limit duration Group Size < 10 > 10 Smaller choirs; Limit Spectators Congestion Low High Ensure staggered entry and exit Movement Directed

Undirected Conduct orderly flow Touch Low High Hand hygiene Respiratory Control Normal
Increased Cannot be mitigated

*Does the event or activity put the broader population at risk?

Procedures:

Step 1: Identify the event or activity to analyze (E.g., Classrooms, class changes, meals, choirs, sports practice and/or games, transportation) = Show Choir

Step 2: Complete the risk matrix assignment for each risk factor (See matrix);

Step 3: identify if the broader population is at risk vs. individual or small group = No (example of “yes” would be football game with a large number of students – putting entire student body at risk of exposure);

Step 4: Identify mitigation strategies that address higher risk factors Brainstorm as many mitigation strategies as possible in each area. Many ideas can be found on various education examples:

- (1) Proximity – increase distance; wear cloth face coverings; hold activities outdoors;
 - (2) Duration – limit duration • Group Size – Break into smaller groups; keep groups co-horted together without intermingling; limit spectators;
 - (3) Congestion – Stagger entry and exit; hold activities outdoors;
 - (4) Movement – Place directional guides in entrances and hallways;
 - (5) Touch – Limit gathering of items; hand hygiene;
 - (6) Respiratory Output – Avoid singing or shouting in activities as possible Be innovative and specific.
- (The above listed scenario is JUST AN EXAMPLE – NOT A REAL DETERMINATION...)**

Step 5: Make a determination if the activity is allowable or requires additional modification.

- (1) Is the risk high for >2 elements? Yes
 - (2) Are mitigation steps adequate? No
 - (3) Is there risk to the entire student body? No
 - (4) Does the educational value of the activity justify the risk? No
-

(5) Additional Considerations:

- What is the COVID-19 activity locally?
- What could trigger discontinuation of the activity?
- Increasing community spread?
- Increased cases at the school?
- Proper documentation in the event of an outbreak (to identify those in need of quarantine or testing)

(6) Decision:

- Due to the high risk of COVID-19 transmission at Show Choir, there will be no group practice or competition for the first semester of 2020-2021 school year;
- A determination will be made prior to Spring whether or not Show Choir may begin second semester.

Steps to Take After Being Tested

- Isolate yourself;
 - **If you have symptoms of COVID-19;**
 - (1) While waiting for the results of your test, your household contacts should stay at home. (If household contacts are healthcare workers, they are encouraged to contact their employer. They may still be allowed to work while wearing a mask);
 - (2) Stay in a specific room and away from other people in your home to the extent possible. Use a separate bathroom, if available. Household members can consider staying in a separate location, if available, to decrease their risk of exposure;
 - (3) For more information, see the CDC's guidance on preventing the spread of COVID-19 at home;
 - (4) If you must leave home, such as to seek medical care, wear a surgical mask if available;
 - (5) **If your results are positive**, you will need to isolate for **10** ~~14~~ days from the time your symptoms started;
 - (6) **If you are awaiting results of a routine screening test:**
 - ⊖ If you are awaiting results from routine screening, but have no symptoms, you may return to work under the guidance of your employer (~~unless otherwise directed by the Mississippi State Department of Health~~); **Update to Read: which states an employee must return to work after 5 days with or without a test result;**
 - Monitor your health;
-

- Get plenty of rest, stay hydrated and if needed, take medication to reduce your fever;
- If your symptoms get worse and you need to seek healthcare, call ahead and tell the provider that you have been tested for COVID-19. This will help the healthcare provider's office take steps to keep other people from getting infected or exposed;
- Practice healthy habits such as:
 - (1) Cover your cough, or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue;
 - (2) Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use alcohol based hand rub if soap and water are not available;
 - (3) Clean and disinfect objects and surfaces regularly, including your phone;
- Guidance for your household contacts are as follows:
 - (1) While waiting for the results of your test, your household contacts should stay at home if you have symptoms of COVID-19;
 - (2) They should not go to work or school and should avoid all public places;
 - (3) **If your results are positive**, your household contacts should immediately quarantine themselves for **10** ~~14~~ days;
 - (4) Household contacts should monitor for fever, cough and shortness of breath and contact their healthcare provider with symptoms. If they need medical assessment, they should call the health clinic or hospital before they visit;
 - (5) **If your results are negative (or not detected)**, continue to reduce your risk of illness by doing the following:
 - (a.) Isolate yourself until fever-free for at least 48 hours (if fever was present);
 - (b.) Practicing social distancing;
 - (c.) Wash your hands; and
 - (d.) Avoid non-essential outings

Returning to Work After Isolation or Quarantine

If you received a State Health Officer's Order to isolate or quarantine yourself, this Order should suffice as the appropriate documentation to return to work (if needed or requested). The Mississippi State Department of Health does not provide any other form of return-to-work documentation for any individual. If you are issued isolation/quarantine orders, be sure to keep a copy of the orders in case documentation is needed to return to work. **As an employee, you will also need to provide documentation of your positive/negative test result, along with a completed "COVID-19 Employee Forms Packet" located on the school district website.**

COVID-19 Symptoms for Screening

Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Cough;
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing;
- Fever or Chills;
- Fatigue;
- Repeated shaking with chills;
- Muscle pain or body aches;
- Headache;
- Sore throat;
- New loss of taste or smell;
- Congestion or runny nose;
- Nausea or vomiting;
- Diarrhea;
- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit; and
- Known close contact (defined by the CDC/MSDH as an individual who has had close contact (< 6 feet for ≥15 minutes without the use a cloth face mask by the affected person) with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19.

****This list does not include all possible symptoms.** CDC will continue to update this list as we learn more about COVID-19.

Possible Screening Questions from the CDC:

1. “Have you felt like you had a fever in the past day?”
 2. “Do you have a new or worsening cough today?”
 3. “Do you have any of these other symptoms?”
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing;
 - Fatigue;
 - Muscle or body aches;
-

- Headache;
- New loss of taste or smell;
- Sore throat;
- Congestion or runny nose;
- Nausea or vomiting; and/or
- Diarrhea

Considerations for School Nurses/ Health Personnel

The following operations, protocol, processes, and procedures will take place with the YCSD School Nurses and Health Personnel:

- Inventory and request necessary supplies for the health room and other building use;
 - Review health office/facility to minimize infection;
 - An additional “Health Room” will be established for routine visits, to the nurse, by the staff and the students, for medication and to minimize infection or possible COVID-19 for the following possible scenarios:
 - (1) Any employee working with a medically fragile child; and
 - (2) Any person exhibiting symptoms;
 - Provide a separate room for students/staff that might have COVID-19 or other communicable disease and are waiting for pickup. The room needs to be disinfected frequently and restricted to authorized staff and students;
 - Routinely disinfect and ensure furniture and other surfaces can be easily disinfected;
 - Examine equipment such as thermometers to determine if adjustments need to be made to increase sterilization and minimize chances of reinfection;
 - Communicate with families;
 - Review immunization records;
 - Notify all parents of students who are not immunized or have a legal exemption on file that the student will not be allowed to attend school until those immunizations have been completed or the first dose of an ongoing immunization is received;
 - Notify all parents of students who have a legal exemption on file that the student may be excluded from school if there is an incident of a disease for which they are not immunized in the school community;
-

- Contact all parents with students on health plans and determine if they need to be revised to address minimizing infection;
- Examine the care of students with respiratory illnesses and the administration of nebulizer treatments or suctioning;
- Revise medication schedules to minimize the number of students in the nurse's office at one time;
- Communicate with state and local health departments when the need arises;
- Obtain current information and tools that help student, families and staff self-screen for COVID-19 illness; and
- Notify the health department when student or staff absences drop below a predetermined threshold.

Effective Communication Operations and Programming

The **Yazoo County School District** is utilizing the following mechanisms for effective communication and to enhance communication:

- FAQ Documents Published;
 - Specific Emails;
 - A Dedicated Email Address for Questions: questions@yazoo.k12.ms.us;
 - AIMS Calls District-Wide (Voice and/or Video Messaging);
 - Short informational Videos Uploaded to Social Media;
 - “Toolboxes” Set-Up Strategically on the District Web-Site for Help and Guidance;
 - A COVID-19 “Point of Contact” at Each School Site;
 - Remote Trainings Scheduled for Parents;
 - ~~Provide a Wi-Fi Access Map of Yazoo County;~~ (We have not been successful in doing this.)
 - Traditional Media Outlets; and
 - Multiple Signage Campaigns Throughout the District for Heightened Awareness – Some examples include:
 - (1) Posters in buildings Regarding Hand Washing; Coughing; and Sneezing;
 - (2) Posters of Reminders of Symptoms Posted in Prominent Places in School Building;
 - (3) Transportation Graphics;
 - Wait Area Vinyl Signs;
 - Seat Blockers;
-

(4) Parking Area;

- Welcome Back Banners;

(5) Entry of School;

- Window and Front Door Decals;
- Overhead Welcome Back Banners; and
- Reminder Signs of Social Distancing

(6) Reception/Office Area;

- Wall and Floor Graphics;

(7) Common Areas;

- Floor Signage;
- Hand Washing Signs;
- Reminder Signs of Social Distancing;

(8) Bathrooms;

- Hand Washing Signs;
 - Reminder Signs of Social Distancing; and
 - Urinal Cover Signs;
-

References:

- (1) Retrieved from: https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,22051,420,874.html on June 16, 2020.
 - (2) Retrieved from: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/public-healthrecommendations.html> on June 19, 2020.
 - (3) Retrieved from: <https://www.mdek12.org/COVID19> on June 26, 2020. MASS Webinar (June 17, 2020) MDE Webinar (June 16, 2020; June 23, 2020; June 25, 2020)
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APPENDIX

of

Sample Letters

and

Forms



Dear YCSD Parents:

Please be mindful that as long as there are cases of COVID-19 in the community, there are no strategies that can completely eliminate transmission risks within a school population. The goal is to keep transmission risks as low as possible.

For the safety of your children, other students, staff, and extended family members, we are asking parents to please conduct a health check every morning on your children at home prior to sending them to school. If your child exhibits one or more of the following symptoms, please keep him/her at home and contact your healthcare provider:

- (1) Fever over 100 degrees;
- (2) New cough;
- (3) Shortness of breath;
- (4) Difficulty breathing;
- (5) Chills, body aches, and/or muscle pain;
- (6) Sore throat;
- (7) New loss of taste or smell;
- (8) Unusual fatigue or irritability;
- (9) Stomach pain, nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea; and/or
- (10) Unusual rash or unusual pink/red eyes not explained by allergies or injury.

Seek immediate medical care if someone has any of the following emergency warning signs:

- (1) Trouble breathing;
- (2) Persistent pain or pressure in the chest;
- (3) New confusion;
- (4) Inability to wake or stay awake; and/or
- (5) Bluish lips or face.

Symptoms can range from mild to severe illness and appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19. If ANY of the above symptoms are detected at school, your child will be isolated from other students, he/she will be provided a face mask, and we will contact you to pick up your child as soon as possible. These guidelines will be strictly enforced, so please provide several current, up-to-date phone numbers to your child's school.

Return-To-School guidelines after any of the above symptoms:

If your child has or you think he/she has COVID-19, it is important for them to stay away from other people. If they have an emergency warning sign, get emergency medical care immediately.

Your child may return to school after one of these criteria is met:

- (1) 3 days with no fever without the use of fever reducing medications;
- (2) Symptoms have improved;
- (3) 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared;
- (4) You provide a medical statement from your healthcare provider stating that your child does not have COVID-19, is not contagious, and may return to school.

This statement must have a return-to-school date included in order for your child to be able to return to school.

We must all work together to keep our community, our staff, and our community safe.

We appreciate your cooperation.

Thank you,

Yazoo County School District



**Yazoo County School District
Statement of Assurances for:
“Totally Virtual/Distance Learning Remotely”**

As a parent, I am exercising the option to allow my child to learn through the **"Totally Distance/Virtual Option"** meaning my student will receive all of his/her instruction remotely (i.e. utilizing the assigned YCSD checked-out device [Chromebook] and the LMS platform [Canvas];) for the second semester beginning on January 18th.

In making and signing this agreement, I acknowledge that this learning method differs from on-site instruction, and I assume the responsibility to ensure that my child participates (logging in, working on assignments, completing assignments, and submitting the completed assignments) in the **"Totally Distance/Virtual Option."**

I further agree to ensure that my child logs into his/her student learning platform, utilizing his/her assigned YCSD Chromebook device, to work on his/her PLP (Personal Learning Plan) daily, and I ensure that my child will work to complete all assignments.

It is understood that failure of the student (your child) to do so will not be held against the Yazoo County School District. Finally, as a parent/guardian, I also agree to monitor and engage in communication with school district personnel with questions, answers, and provide and receive input to help my child be as successful as possible in all of his/her assigned courses in the 2020-2021 school year.

Please Note: If the **"Totally Distance/Virtual Option"** is selected, then this decision stands and is in place for the first nine weeks grading period with no changes allowed.

Important to Note: Students who have registered to attend school via "Totally Virtual/Distance Option," **WILL NOT BE ALLOWED** to participate in extra-curricular opportunities for the duration of time that this option of scheduling is selected.

If you, as a parent and/or guardian of a YCSD student, agree to **ALL** of the above listed assurances, please indicate by typing in (1) your full name; and (2) your student's full name in the answer line below.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Student Name: _____



Yazoo County School District
“Creating Next Generation Leaders”

Student Symptom Notice Letter

Date: _____

Dear Parent or Guardian,

This letter is to inform you that during the screening process, your child exhibited one or more of the following symptoms identified by the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) as being associated with COVID-19.

One of the Following Primary Symptom(s) check all that apply:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Fever over 100.0 F	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cough	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shortness of Breath	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of Taste/Smell
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Two or More of the Following Secondary Symptom(s) check all that apply:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Fatigue	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nausea/Vomiting	<input type="checkbox"/>	Diarrhea	<input type="checkbox"/>	Headache
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shaking/Chills	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cough	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sore Throat	<input type="checkbox"/>	Congestion/Runny Nose

Requirements:

- In the case of an individual who ***has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and does not get evaluated*** by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, the individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to school until after 10-day isolation and must be fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications; OR
- If the individual **has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school** before the 10-day quarantine, then the student may return after a **7-day quarantine with a negative test result.**

If you choose not to have your student evaluated, then your child must serve a 10-day quarantine period from _____ and return to school on _____.

Distance learning will be provided for all students serving an Isolation or Quarantine because of COVID-19. In addition, please make sure to contact the school to share results of any COVID testing for possible contact tracing.

Sincerely,

Terri Rhea PhD NBCT

Assistant Superintendent YCSD

COVID-19 Contact



Yazoo County School District
“Creating Next Generation Leaders”

Employee Symptom Notice

Date: _____

Dear YCSD Employee,

This letter is to state that you are exhibiting one or more of the following symptoms of COVID-19 during a screening process, as identified by the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH).

One of the Following Primary Symptom(s) check all that apply:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Fever over 100.0 F	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cough	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shortness of Breath	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of Taste/Smell
--------------------------	--------------------	--------------------------	-------	--------------------------	---------------------	--------------------------	---------------------

Two or More of the Following Secondary Symptom(s) check all that apply:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Fatigue	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nausea/Vomiting	<input type="checkbox"/>	Diarrhea	<input type="checkbox"/>	Headache
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shaking/Chills	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cough	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sore Throat	<input type="checkbox"/>	Congestion/Runny Nose

Requirements:

- In the case of an employee in the YCSD who is exhibiting symptoms associated with Covid-19, the employee is instructed to self-quarantine for 5 days with or without a negative test result. On the 6th day, the employee should return to work.
- The employee must be free of fever and other symptoms associated with Covid-19.
- Please be reminded that an employee can take NO MORE than a total of 10 days associated with Covid-19. At the end of this total of 10 days, the said employee must utilize personal sick leave.

Sincerely,

Terri Rhea PhD NBCT

Terri Rhea PhD NBCT

Assistant Superintendent YCSD

COVID-19 Contact



YCSD COVID Positive Case Letter

Instructions for Students with COVID-19 in the School Setting

Date: _____

Dear Parent,

You have reported to the school that you or your child has recently tested positive for COVID- 19.

Your child/student is able to return to school on _____.

Please see the following instructions:

- Your child may not return to the school setting until 10 days from the day the symptoms started.
- If your child had no symptoms, he/she may not return until 10 days from the date of the positive test.
- Your child must also be fever-free for at least 24 hours (without fever- reducing medication) with improvement of symptoms prior to returning to school.
- During this time your child may not participate in any extracurricular school activities or sports.
- The individual who tested positive should stay away from all persons at home. He/she should not be in contact with anyone, including the other people in the home.
- A negative test will not be required prior to return to school as long as the above criteria are met.
- A note from your physician is not required for return to school. Documentation of the positive test to excuse the absence is required.

For additional information please see:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
- Mississippi State Department of Health
 - https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,0,420.html

Sincerely,

Terri Rhea PhD NBCT

Terri Rhea PhD NBCT

YCSD Assistant Superintendent

COVID-19 Contact



YCSD COVID Positive Case Letter

Instructions for Employees with COVID-19 in the School Setting

Date: _____

Dear YCSD Employee,

You have reported to the school that you have recently tested positive for COVID- 19.

You are able to return to work on _____.

Please see the following instructions:

- You may not return to the school setting until 10 days from the day your symptoms started.
- If you had no symptoms, you may not return until 10 days from the date of the positive test.
- You must also be fever-free for at least 24 hours (without fever- reducing medication) with improvement of symptoms prior to returning to work.
- The individual who tested positive should stay away from all persons at home. He/she should not be in contact with anyone, including the other people in the home.
- A negative test will not be required prior to return to work as long as the above criteria are met.
- A note from your physician is not required for return to work. Documentation of the positive test to excuse the absence is required.
- Please complete page 4 of the “Packet of COVID-19 Forms for Employees” and turn in to the District office along with the test result.

For additional information please see:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
- Mississippi State Department of Health
 - https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,0,420.html

Sincerely,

Terri Rhea PhD NBCT

Terri Rhea PhD NBCT

YCSD Assistant Superintendent

COVID-19 Contact



Yazoo County School District **COVID Student Close Contacts Letter**

Notification/Instructions for Close Contacts to COVID-19 in the School Setting

Date: _____

Dear _____,

Your child has been identified as a close contact to a case of COVID-19 in the school setting. A close contact is defined as any individual within 6 feet of the infected person for at least 15 minutes or greater with or without a mask. Based on this close contact, the following instructions are provided.

If a NEGATIVE Covid-19 test result is produced upon re-entry, for 7 days following potential exposure, your child:

- Be excluded from the school setting for a minimum of 7 days after last exposure to the case of COVID-19.
- Must return with a negative Covid-19 test result upon re-entry to school.
- Should remain quarantined at home for 7 days after your child's last exposure to the case.
- Should monitor for symptoms and take your (child's) temperature twice a day for a minimum of 7 days from your last exposure.
 - If at any point your (child's) temperature is 100.4°F or more, feel like you are developing fever, or start having any of the symptoms (e.g. fever, cough, shortness of breath), contact your healthcare provider for evaluation and retesting if indicated.
- May return to school following the 7-day quarantine and school exclusion period if no symptoms develop and a negative test result is obtained.

If NO TESTING of Covid-19 has taken place, for 10 days following potential exposure, your child:

- Will be excluded from the school setting for a minimum of 10 days after last exposure to the case of COVID-19.
- Should remain quarantined at home for 10 days after your child's last exposure to the case.
- Should monitor for symptoms and take your child's temperature twice a day for a minimum of 10 days from your last exposure.
 - If at any point your child's temperature is 100.4°F or more, feel like you are developing fever, or start having any of the symptoms (e.g. fever, cough, shortness of breath), contact your healthcare provider for evaluation and retesting if indicated.
- May return to school following the 10-day quarantine and school exclusion period if no symptoms develop. A repeat negative test is not required.

Sincerely,

Terri Rhea PhD NBCT

Terri Rhea PhD NBCT

Assistant Superintendent

COVID-19 Contact



Yazoo County School District
COVID Close Contacts Letter for Employee

Notification/Instructions for Close Contacts to COVID-19 in the School Setting

Date: _____

Dear _____,

You have been identified as a close contact to a case of COVID-19 in the school/bus setting. A close contact is defined as any individual within 6 feet of the infected person for at least 15 minutes or greater with or without a mask. Based on this close contact, the following instructions are provided.

For **5 days** following potential exposure, you should:

- Be excluded from the school setting for a minimum of 5 days after last exposure to the case of COVID-19.
- Should remain quarantined at home for 5 days after your last exposure to the case.
- Are recommended to get tested for COVID-19 following your exposure even if you do not have symptoms. MSDH maintains a list of testing sites on the website at https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,21912,420,874.html. (Please let your provider know that you have been exposed before you go in for testing.)
- Should monitor for symptoms and take your temperature twice a day for a minimum of 5 days from your last exposure.
 - If at any point your temperature is 100.4°F or more, feel like you are developing fever, or start having any of the symptoms (e.g. fever, cough, shortness of breath), contact your healthcare provider for evaluation and retesting if indicated.
- May return to work following the 5-day quarantine and work exclusion period if no symptoms develop. A repeat negative test is not required.

For additional information please see:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
- Mississippi State Department of Health
 - https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,0,420.html

Sincerely,

Terri Rhea PhD NBCT

Terri Rhea PhD NBCT
Assistant Superintendent
COVID-19 Contact
