

Updated 8/14/20

Hamburg School District COVID-19 Guidelines for 2020–2021

Hamburg School District will follow the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) guidelines and the Arkansas Ready for Learning report issued by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in planning for re-opening in the fall. Our goal is to offer equitable, high-quality education for EVERY student, despite their circumstances. We will provide a safe experience that includes a rich educational experience, with opportunities for social interaction and extracurricular activities while adhering to guidelines provided by the Arkansas Department of Health.

In an effort to keep students and staff safe, visitors will not be allowed to enter any HSD building (ie, walking students to class, eating lunch, delivering items, etc). Due to social distancing guidelines, there will be no class parties, awards assemblies, field trips, etc.

The following information is provided to help answer many of the questions you may have about reopening schools.

- 1. What is the first day for students?**
 - School will begin on August 24, 2020. This date will only change if the Governor or Department of Education sends updated guidance with this requirement.

- 2. Who will be required to wear face coverings?**
 - As of 7/20/2020, the Hamburg School District will follow the [executive order](#) that was signed by the governor.
 - K-12 students will be required to wear a mask whenever social distancing isn't feasible. This includes any time outside of the classroom when social distancing cannot be maintained.
 - Students or individuals with medical conditions or disabilities diagnosed by a physician will not be required to wear face coverings. Parents will need to send a Dr excuse to the student's school, attn: Nurse.

- 3. Do we need to provide masks for our student/s, or will one be provided?**
 - The district will provide one mask for every student. However, if parents want to provide their child with a mask, that would be acceptable.

- 4. Will bus transportation be provided?**
 - Yes, the district will provide bus transportation for Kindergarten through twelfth grade, except on Monday. Based on current ADH guidance, students K-12 will be required to wear face coverings when riding the bus due to social distancing not being feasible.

- 5. How normal will the day be for a student?**
 - Our goal is for your student(s) to have as normal of a day as possible while we also provide as much safety as possible.
 - Students will not remain in the same classroom all day but will be able to transition from one class to another.
 - HSD will work with sanitation employees to ensure cleaning practices correspond with CDC and ADH guidelines and will take place before a new group of students enters a space.

- 6. Will students at the elementary still have extra classes like PE, art, music, guidance, and library?**
 - Yes, students will continue to participate in activity classes, check out library books, and receive guidance and gifted instruction.
 - In some cases, the teacher may present their lesson in the student's homeroom to reduce the amount of sanitizing.
 - In other situations, such as PE, students may have an assigned area in the gym with specific materials assigned to their classrooms.

- 7. Will my elementary student have recess?**
 - Yes. Elementary students will have outdoor playtime with restrictions that limit the number of students they come in contact with.
 - Playground equipment will be sanitized between groups of students.

- 8. Will social distancing guidelines be observed?**
 - Social distancing will be observed as much as feasibly possible but at times students will be closer than the recommended 6 ft. apart.
 - When social distancing requirements cannot be maintained such as class exchange time, etc., students will be expected to wear face coverings.
 - Our schools are working to create classrooms and cafeteria spaces to increase the space between students but cannot always guarantee it will be 6 ft.

- The state is pushing for schools to be open at 100% capacity. Social distancing will be more difficult than we had originally planned with our 2-3 day split.

9. Will classrooms be arranged differently to protect students?

- Yes, classrooms will be arranged to provide more space between students. That might mean all desks are arranged in rows facing in a single direction. It might result in reading areas with bean bags, couches, or comfy chairs being removed. We will make every effort to provide distance but not limit a student's ability to interact and communicate with others in their classroom.
- Additionally, supplies and materials will not be shared by students.

10. Will students attend school every day or will we have some type of alternative schedule?

- This year will look different than school has looked in the past. For deep cleaning purposes, Monday will be a digital at-home learning day with the option for students to come to school for additional curriculum support as needed. Due to the deep cleaning of the buses on Mondays, bus transportation will not be provided by the district on that day. On Tuesday - Friday, all students will attend school as normal except those that chose the remote learning option. We will social distance when possible and it will be mandatory for students and staff to wear a mask during all transitions and when we can't be 6 feet apart. . [Remote learning](#) will be an option for K-12 students regardless of what phase the district will be operating under at that time.

11. If an individual tests positive for COVID-19, what will happen? Will students be screened daily?

- Students will be monitored daily.
- Parents/guardians are expected to comply by the guidelines and not send their child to school with any of the following:
 - 1.) A Fever of 100.4°F or greater in the last 2 days
 - 2.) Cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell
 - 3.) Have been in contact with a person known to be infected with COVID-19 within the previous 14 days
- If any of the above symptoms are evident, students that test positive will be placed in isolation and must be picked up immediately. In the event an individual tests positive, we will follow the latest guidance from the ADH.
- We will be in direct contact with ADH. This could result in a brief closure of a single school within the district to provide

time for additional cleaning and sanitation. We will work with the ADH to do the tracing of the case and protect our staff and students the best we can. Hamburg School District has established a point of contact with ADH to work on monitoring and tracing of COVID-19.

12. If I don't want my child to return to a traditional classroom, what are my options?

- Full-time remote learning from a technology device at home; students who choose this option will not be in the classroom setting at all but will follow assignments and lessons provided from HSD.
- For students who choose this option, the school will create a contract that explains in detail what the requirements will be; students and parents/guardians will be required to sign and follow the contract.
- Parents and students will be required to commit to the option of remote learning no later than July 30. You will be given the option to return to the traditional setting with the understanding that all work must be up-to-date in the virtual environment before returning to onsite so that the interruption of learning is minimal.

13. If students choose to do full-time remote learning, will they be able to participate in extracurricular activities?

- Hamburg School District students in grades 7-12 may participate in AAA activities in person at the school, including band, choir, and athletics. AAA guidelines will be followed.
- Transportation must be provided by the parent to participate in all activities.

14. Will we have an open house?

- We are currently designing a virtual version of our open house.
- We will have a designated device pick up day for parents.
- Training for parents on using devices is currently in development.

15. Will students participate in extracurricular activities and sports in the fall?

- Yes, senior high athletes returned to campus on June 2 to begin conditioning. We will bring Jr. High athletes back on July 6.
- We anticipate sports activities in the fall with possible modifications as required by the ADH.

- Choir and Band directors are following the guidelines of CDC and ADH.

16. Will my child eat lunch in their classroom?

- Social distancing will be practiced when feasible.
- Cafeterias will be properly cleaned after each meal time.
- Parents/guardians, etc. will not be able to bring lunches to school for students, due to the restrictions COVID-19 has put upon us. (This complies with our no visitor guidelines.)
- Parents are strongly encouraged to open an online payment account, so no cash is exchanged. Parents are encouraged to send a water bottle with their students since water fountains will not be available.

17. What special precautions will be implemented in cleaning and sanitizing?

- Sanitation and cleanliness will be a high priority for our district as we return in the fall. We will utilize staff to clean high touch surfaces (doorknobs, light switches, etc.) and restrooms on a continuous basis throughout the day.
- We have also purchased disinfectant sprays to quickly sanitize areas between usage. We will also provide hand sanitizer and time for handwashing throughout our campuses.
- Students will be asked to sanitize their hands each time they leave and enter a new space.
- Signage about frequent handwashing, coughing etiquette, and nose blowing will be widely posted and encouraged.

18. If a student comes to school sick, what will happen?

- If a student comes to school sick, the school nurse will screen the student and check their temperature. If the temperature is over the ADH guidance, the student will be isolated from school personnel until a parent/guardian arrives to sign them out. The student will be sent home and will need to be fever-free for 48 hours **without medication** before returning to school. When the child returns to school, they will check in with the school nurse.

19. How will you help fill any educational gaps my student has from the previous year?

- Curriculum teams have worked to revise the curriculum so that missed essential standards will be addressed when students return.
- Students will be assessed to determine individual strengths and deficits. These assessments will determine if students need additional support.

- Missed skills from a previous course will be embedded in the next course in the sequence. For example, a student enrolled in Geometry would have geometry skills embedded in their Algebra II course.

20. What happens if we have school closures again?

- Students will learn how to use Google Classroom by participating in lessons throughout the week while at school. Blended learning that includes both on-site traditional instruction and remote instruction will become the norm.
- This approach will allow students who might be ill or quarantined for a limited amount of time to continue their education even if they are not physically present in the classroom.
- Pre-K will develop detailed packets and offer enhanced communication and videos to help with the delivery of lessons.

21. Will our students have the same arrival and dismissal times?

- As of 7/20/20, waiting on the Personnel Policy Committee to make a final decision.
- At this time, due to overcrowding, only Pre-K students will be picked up and dropped off at Hamburg Pre-K.
- There will be no before or after school daycare.

22. What advice do you have for students with special needs (autism, asthma, panic attacks, anxiety, etc.) or students with weakened immune systems and pre-existing conditions?

- The district will be prepared to accommodate students through both onsite and offsite instruction with special needs.
- Our Special Education instructors will be taking extra precautions when working with students. If parents have concerns about their students who may be at high-risk because of COVID-19, they may explore the remote learning option which allows the student to continue their education from the safety of their own home.

23. In the event of a temporary school closure, how will the district serve students who have special needs (Special Education, 504, Dyslexia, G/T, Speech, etc).

- In the event of a school closure, students will participate in remote instruction that aligns with the student's individual plan under the supervision of the appropriate personnel.

24. If my family travels in August, can my child return to the school immediately or must he/she quarantine for 14 days?

- The Arkansas Department of Health does not require self-quarantine after traveling to any location at this time. If that changes, we will follow all guidelines from ADH.

25. Can you guarantee the safety of your students and staff?

- Generally speaking, no. Every risk of infection or disease cannot be mitigated. We are doing everything we can to ensure the safety of our staff and students. This is our top priority.

26. What does remote learning look like? Traditional learning? Blended learning?

- [Remote learning](#) is for families who are able to provide support at home to foster a strong intrinsic motivation to complete school work and be actively engaged in the remote classroom environment. Remote learners should be self-motivated, computer literate, academically ready, and able to spend 3-5 hours working from home on the content provided in Google Classroom. Families will sign a contract agreeing to the terms of remote learning for accountability purposes.
- Traditional learning allows students to report to campus each day to experience in-person learning from their classroom teacher. Our goal is to provide a safe learning environment. All ADH and DESE guidelines will be followed.
- Blended learning will offer more flexibility. DESE has given us a directive to build our schools with a blended learning model in mind. School will be different this year, regardless of whether we are at full capacity and everyone can come every day or whether we are sent home again due to COVID-19. Devices will be used more. Students, staff, and families will have more of a responsibility for digital learning than ever before. If we are unable to have 100% capacity, we will provide a remote and on-site learning model. Please refer to the Hamburg School District phases of operations.

27. Will the district provide a device and internet?

- Each student will be assigned a device.
- There will be outdoor access points located throughout the 750 square miles that our district covers. These will be made available to all students. This will make online connectivity easier for students at no cost to families.