

July 20, 2020

## **Nashville Public Schools COVID-19 Guidelines for 2020 - 2021**

**Please Note: The information in this document is subject to change as directives are provided by governing agencies and/or health officials or as environmental needs change.**

Nashville Public Schools 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. We hope the following information helps answer many of the questions you may have about reopening schools.

Our goal will be to provide as safe an experience as possible that includes a rich educational experience, with opportunities for social interaction and extra curricular activities while adhering to guidelines provided by the Arkansas Department of Health.

### **What is the first day for students?**

School will begin on August 24th, 2020 as originally planned. This date will only change if ADH sends updated guidance with this requirement but this is not anticipated.

### **Who will be required to wear face coverings?**

Currently, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) is requiring all adults and individuals aged 10 and up to wear a face covering. We are requiring that adults and students age 10 and up to wear face coverings. Students age 9 and younger and those with health issues and special needs will not be asked to wear face coverings.

### **Do we need to provide masks for our student or will one be provided?**

The district will provide one mask for every student and staff member.

### **Will bus transportation be provided?**

Yes, the district will provide bus transportation for all students. Based on current ADH guidance, students age 10 and up will be required to wear face coverings when riding the bus. We are planning no changes to bus schedules or bus stops.

### **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. Of course, sanitation will take place before a new group of students enter a space.

**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 classroom to reduce the amount of cleaning possible. In others situations, such as PE, students may have an assigned area in the gym with specific materials assigned to their classroom.

**Will my elementary student have recess?**

Yes. Elementary students will have outdoor play time with restrictions that limit the number of students they come in contact with.

**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. We will redesign classrooms and cafeteria spaces to increase the space between students but can not always guarantee it will be 6 ft.

**Will classrooms be arranged differently to protect students?**

Yes, classrooms will be arranged to provide maximum spacing allowable. 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.

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

We plan for students to attend school daily following a very similar schedule to the traditional school day.

**If an individual tests positive for COVID-19, what will happen?**

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.

**Will students and adults be screened daily?**

Both students and adults should make sure they do not have any of the following symptoms prior to coming to school.

- 1.) Have you had a fever of 100.4°F or greater in the last 2 days
- 2.) Have you had a cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell
- 3.) Have you been in contact with a person known to be infected with COVID-19 within the previous 14 days

**If I don't want my student to return to a traditional classroom, what are my options?**

The District will provide a total online educational program for students who do not feel comfortable returning to onsite instruction. Students wishing to go virtual and stay at home,

must have internet access. Virtual education at home for students in Kindergarten-6th grades will be taught by our Nashville Public School teachers. They will use our state aligned curriculum, and supplement with Lincoln Learning, which is endorsed and provided free of charge by DESE. The number of virtual teachers will be dictated by enrollment. If in the event we are sent home by the Governor, this option will put our virtual students on an even playing field with those on campus for face to face instruction. Students in grades 7-8th will utilize the Lincoln Learning virtual program and grades 9-12th will have access to the Virtual Arkansas program. Both of these virtual programs employ their own teachers, so these courses will not be taught by Nashville Public School teachers. Students wanting to enroll in concurrent courses or desire to work toward valedictorian or salutatorian status, **may not do so virtually**. Parents will be asked to sign up for the virtual education program and commit to a minimum of a semester. Parents can begin making appointments to register for virtual school on July 21st for K-9th and on July 27th 10-12th. Deadline for parents to commit to the Virtual Education option is August 3rd.

**If students choose to do full-time virtual, will they be able to participate in extracurricular activities?** yes

**Will we have an open house/meet the teacher night? No, registration will be Done so virtually. Announcements pertaining to this will be sent out via social media, newspaper, radio and e-notes.**

**Will students be able to participate in extracurricular activities and sports in the fall?**  
Yes, we anticipate sports activities in the fall with possible modifications as required by the AAA.

**Will my student eat lunch in their classroom?**

Based on current guidance, the ADH is recommending cafeterias limit the capacity of students in the cafeteria. We anticipate this may either mean we will be required to adjust lunch schedules or use alternative areas, such as large gathering spaces or potentially have lunch in their classroom on a very limited basis. Proper sanitation of all areas will be completed after each meal. Procedures will not allow students to pick up utensils, self-serve, or share food. Parents are strongly encouraged to open an online payment account for the purchase of ala carte items at the secondary level so no cash is exchanged. Parents are encouraged to send a water bottle with their students since water fountains will not be available.

**What special precautions will be implemented in regard to cleaning and sanitizing?**

Sanitation and cleanliness will be a high priority for our district as we return in the fall. We will have staff to clean high touch surfaces (door knobs, light switches, etc.) and restrooms on a continuous basis throughout the day. We have also purchased disinfectant sprays to quickly sanitize rooms between usage. We will also provide time for hand washing and hand sanitizer throughout our campuses.

### **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 temperature is over the ADH guidance, the school will follow the ADH guidance.

### **What happens if we have school closures again?**

If schools close again, a plan for at-home digital learning has been developed. This plan includes Kindergarten- 2nd grades using SeeSaw and grades 3-12 using Google Classroom to submit assignments. Teachers will utilize videos to deliver lessons. Students will learn how to use these Learning Management Systems by participating in lessons throughout the week while at school. Blended learning that included both on-site traditional instruction and digital 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. Students that have chosen stay at home virtual learning will continue with that platform.

### **Will our students have the same arrival and dismissal times?**

All Scheduled times will remain the same, depending on guidance from ADH, arrival and dismissal times may be varied if the need arises.

### **Addressing Unfinished Learning**

Nashville School District will address unfinished learning from the prior year by using district-developed resources and the Arkansas Playbook addressing unfinished learning. Students have not been on school campus in a structured classroom environment since March. With this in mind, we want to ensure a smooth re-entry into the learning environment by creating a supportive and safe culture that eases the transition back to on-site learning. To provide support for our students the first few weeks of school will be used for:

- Student screening and assessment of the essential standards
- Student procedure review
- Social-emotional support
- New learning processes (seesaw/google classroom)
- Technology use and safety guidelines
- Social distancing, new safety requirements

### **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 virtual learning option which allows the student to continue their education from the safety of their own home. **Strong consideration needs to be given on how successful the student was in the spring of 2020. Students who participate in virtual learning will need parental assistance, and will need to be able to interact**

virtually with teachers. A student's IEP committee can choose to bring a student back to campus if the committee feels that the student's needs are not able to be met appropriately in the virtual setting.