



READY, SET, FORWARD

2021-2022 MADISON COUNTY SCHOOLS

The goal of the Madison County School System is to move toward a more 'traditional' school year. The 2021-2022 plan maintains consistent, thorough sanitation of our classrooms, buses, and school spaces. This plan will allow for increased capacities in lunchrooms, gyms, auditoriums, field trip opportunities, and more visitors to our schools. We will continue to report any positive or suspected positive case of COVID-19 to the Alabama Department of Public Health.

While the safety of our students and staff will be our top priority, it is important to note that some level of risk of infection will be present when attending schools. Should COVID-19 create a significant impact on the health and safety of our students and staff, MCSS will implement a four-tiered approach, which will include:

- Level 0- Traditional Learning with masks being optional but highly recommended.
- Level 1- Traditional Learning with an increase in social distance protocols. Mask may be required for all students & staff depending on the level of COVID-19 spread
- Level 2- Hybrid Learning - students attend school two days per week in person and three days per week through remote learning.
- Level 3- Remote Learning - students attend school five days a week remotely.

Adjustments to the mode of learning may be implemented on a classroom, grade-level, school, or system-level if the COVID-19 spread levels warrant.

Challenges with Wellness

In order for schools to operate in a traditional format this year, screening for symptoms and history of exposure will be very important. For students attending Madison County Schools, there is a continuum where wellness should be checked.

- **Home** is the first point on the screening continuum and therefore, the most important. It is critical to the health and safety of all involved that students and staff who exhibit symptoms stay home. Families are encouraged to self-report symptoms of illness, which could include fever, new onset of cough, etc. Parents are asked to conduct a health screening for their child prior to attending school. Students should stay home if they are running a fever 100° or greater and/or showing other symptoms.
- **School** is the final point on the screening continuum. Staff will visually check for symptoms (which may include temperature checks) and/or confirm with families that students are COVID-19 symptom free.

PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

1. Face-masks are optional under Level 0 but highly recommended.
2. Per TSA, face masks are required for all students and staff when riding/driving a school bus.
3. MCSS will report any known positive or suspected positive case of COVID-19 to the Alabama Department of Public Health.
 - a. MCSS will notify any student or staff by letter regarding a close contact who tests positive for COVID-19.
 - b. The Alabama Department of Public Health may contact any student or staff who is directly affected.
4. MCSS will offer only the traditional learning options for students in grades PreK-3.*
5. MCSS will offer two learning options; traditional or virtual for students in grades 4-12*
 - a. Students selecting the virtual option will need to enroll in the Madison County Virtual Academy.

Addressing COVID-19 Spread in MCSS Schools

Levels of Safety Measures

The following criteria will be used to determine the level of operation for each school and/or the school system:

1. The number and/or percentage of current cases in both a school and/or the school system
2. The number of staff and/or percentage of staff that are excluded due to COVID-19 in a school and/or the school system
3. Recommendations from the Department of Public Health
4. Recommendations from the Alabama Department of Education

LEVEL 0 - NORMAL SPREAD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face masks are optional for staff and students, but highly recommended. • Establish and maintain communication with local and state ADPH officials. • Follow prevention guidelines (see Practicing Prevention). • Utilize the protocol for students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms when they come to school. • Submit a COVID-19 report to the Alabama Department of Public Health if a positive case or suspected case is reported to the school nurse.
*LEVEL 1 - MINIMAL SPREAD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face masks may be required for all students & staff depending on the level of COVID-19 spread. • Establish and maintain communication with local and state DPH officials. • Follow prevention guidelines (see Practicing Prevention). • Utilize the protocol for students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms when they come to school • Utilize protocols for students and employees who test positive for COVID-19 or have exposure to someone that is positive.
LEVEL 2 - MODERATE SPREAD	<p>All requirements for Level 1 will continue unless modified below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement enhanced social distancing measures (see Transitioning, Large Group Gatherings, and Teaching and Learning). • Face masks are required for staff and students. • Isolate and deep clean impacted classrooms and spaces. • Adjust school schedule to limit density of people in school facilities and transportation vehicles to no greater than 50% maximum occupancy.
LEVEL 3 - SUBSTANTIAL SPREAD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools are closed. • Implement remote learning (see Serving School Meals and Supporting Teaching and Learning). • Teachers/employees will be allowed to use their classroom/workspace, if needed, to carry out their responsibilities.

* Beginning November 1, 2021 - the following protocol will be used on a school by school basis:

1. If an individual school reaches 2.5% positivity rate, they will move to masks required at Level 1.
2. If an individual school reaches 5.0% positivity rate, they will move to masks required at Level 1 and the school nurses may take over the exclusion of COVID close contacts.
3. When a school falls below 0.5% positivity rate for 5 consecutive school days, they will return to masks optional at Level 1.

Challenges with Wellness

LEVEL 0 - NORMAL SPREAD	<p>District/School Guidance: Schools are required to do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Face masks are optional for staff and students, but highly recommended ● Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as handwashing, covering coughs, and face coverings. ● Provide hand soap or hand sanitizer, paper towels, and no-touch trash cans in all bathrooms, classrooms, and frequently trafficked areas. ● Clean/disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least daily. ● Parents conduct a student wellness check, including temperature, prior to sending a student to school. Students with temperatures of 100° or greater should stay home. ● Employees self-screen for symptoms before departing for school. <p>It is recommended that schools do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Allow students and staff to bring hand sanitizer and optional face masks/coverings from home to use. ● Allow staff to wear face masks/covering and other appropriate PPE as desired.
*LEVEL 1 - MINIMAL SPREAD	<p>District/School Guidance: Schools are required to do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Face masks may be required for all students & staff depending on the level of COVID-19 spread. ● Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as handwashing, covering coughs, and face coverings. ● Provide hand soap or hand sanitizer, paper towels, and no-touch trash cans in all bathrooms, classrooms, and frequently trafficked areas. ● Clean/disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least daily and shared objects after each use. ● Conduct deep cleaning of schools. ● Provide social distancing floor/seating markings in waiting/reception areas. ● Parents conduct a student wellness check including temperature prior to sending a student to school. Students with temperatures of 100° or greater should stay home. ● Employees self-screen for symptoms before departing for school. ● Mark 6 feet of spacing to remind students and staff to social distance in lines and other areas where they may congregate. ● Provide marks on the floors of restrooms and locker rooms to indicate proper social distancing. ● Limit non-essential visitors and activities involving external groups or organizations.
LEVEL 2 - MODERATE SPREAD	<p>District/School Guidance: All requirements for Level 1 will continue unless modified below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Face masks are required for staff and students. ● Ensure water fountains are only used to fill water bottles.
LEVEL 3 - SUBSTANTIAL SPREAD	<p>District/School Guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use social media and other forms of communication to inform parents, students, and staff about COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures, good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols. ● Teachers/employees will be allowed to use their classroom/workspace, if needed, to carry out their responsibilities.

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Supporting Teaching & Learning

LEVEL 0 - NORMAL SPREAD	<p>District/School Considerations: Implement standard operating procedures along with the following preventative measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff. • Conduct cleaning of classrooms and high-touch surfaces each day. <p>Traditional Instructional Model</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a master schedule to balance classes as much as possible . <p>Virtual Instructional Model</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Madison County Virtual Academy available for students (4-12) Madison County Virtual Academy / Homepage.
*LEVEL 1 - MINIMAL SPREAD	<p>District/School Considerations: Implement standard operating procedures along with the following preventative measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face masks may be required for all students & staff depending on the level of COVID-19 spread. • Establish a 3ft distance between student seating (or to the extent possible) <p>Traditional Instructional Model</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a master schedule to balance classes as much as possible. • Establish distance between the teacher desk/board and students' desks. • Identify and utilize large spaces (i.e. auditoriums, outside spaces) for social distancing.
LEVEL 2 - MODERATE SPREAD	<p>Hybrid Instructional Model Elementary and Secondary A/B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face masks are required for staff and students. • Goal of reducing the number of students in the schools each day to achieve social distancing guidelines. • Students in grades PK-12 are divided in half, with each half reporting to school on alternating days and participating in distance learning during days scheduled at home. • Monday/Thursday would be Group A. Tuesday/Friday would be Group B. Wednesday would be used for tutorials/special populations/PD/deep cleaning/sanitization.
LEVEL 3 - SUBSTANTIAL SPREAD	<p>School buildings are closed. District/School Considerations: Teachers/employees will be allowed to use their classroom/workspace, if needed, to carry out their responsibilities.</p> <p>Virtual Instructional Model</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chromebooks will be made available to students based on need. • Access to high-speed internet will be provided where needed and available. • Student lessons will be delivered through a learning management system. • Grades will be taken. • Attendance will be taken each day by logging into the LMS.

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3. When a school falls below 0.5% positivity rate for 5 consecutive school days, they will return to masks optional at Level 1.

Transporting Students

<p>LEVEL 0 - NORMAL SPREAD</p>	<p>District/School Considerations: Implement standard operating procedures along with the following preventative measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Per CDC/ADPH, face masks are required for all students and staff when riding/driving a school bus. ● Provide hand sanitizer for students and bus drivers. ● Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces on the bus at least daily. ● Air out buses when not in use. ● Assign seats to assist with contact tracing. ● Allow family members to sit together. ● Parents conduct a student wellness check including temperature prior to sending a student to school. Students with temperatures of 100° or greater should stay home. ● Employees self-screen for symptoms before departing for school.
<p>*LEVEL 1 - MINIMAL SPREAD</p>	<p>District/School Considerations: Implement standard operating procedures along with the following preventative measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Per CDC/ADPH, face masks are required for all students and staff when riding/driving a school bus. ● Provide hand sanitizer for students and bus drivers. ● Limit field trips (to areas of limited/low transmission). ● Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces on the bus at least daily. ● Air out buses when not in use. ● Assign seats to assist with contact tracing. ● Allow family members to sit together ● Parents conduct a student wellness check including temperature prior to sending a student to school. Students with temperatures of 100° or greater should stay home. ● Employees self-screen for symptoms before departing for school.
<p>LEVEL 2 - MODERATE SPREAD</p>	<p>District/School Considerations: All requirements from Level 1 will continue unless modified below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Face masks are required for bus drivers and students. ● Eliminate field trips. ● Establish protocols for bus stops, loading/unloading students to minimize congregation of children from different households.
<p>LEVEL 3 - SUBSTANTIAL SPREAD</p>	<p>District/School Considerations: School buildings are closed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use social media and other communications to inform parents, students, and staff about COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures, good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols .

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3. When a school falls below 0.5% positivity rate for 5 consecutive school days, they will return to masks optional at Level 1.

Entering/Exiting School Buildings

LEVEL 0 - NORMAL SPREAD	<p>District/School Considerations: Implement standard operating procedures along with the following preventative measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff. ● Utilize protocol for students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms when they come to school (<i>see When a Child, Staff Member, or Visitor Becomes Sick at School</i>). ● Establish a protocol for visitors. ● Parents conduct a student wellness check including temperature prior to sending a student to school. Students with temperatures of 100° or greater should stay home. ● Employees self-screen for symptoms before departing for school.
*LEVEL 1 - MINIMAL SPREAD	<p>District/School Considerations: Implement standard operating procedures along with the following preventative measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Face masks may be required for all students & staff depending on the level of COVID-19 spread. ● Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff. ● Mark spaced lines to enter the building and designate entrance and exit flow paths. ● Limit unnecessary congregation of students and staff. ● Monitor arrival/dismissal to encourage students to go directly from transportation to class and vice versa. ● Utilize protocol for students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms when they come to school (<i>see When a Child, Staff Member, or Visitor Becomes Sick at School</i>). ● Establish a protocol for visitors. ● Parents conduct a student wellness check including temperature prior to sending a student to school. Students with temperatures of 100° or greater should stay home. ● Employees self-screen for symptoms before departing for school.
LEVEL 2 - MODERATE SPREAD	<p>District/School Considerations: All requirements from Level 1 will continue unless modified below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Face masks are required for entering/exiting school buildings. ● Restrict nonessential visitors and volunteers. ● Establish a protocol for student pick-up/drop off: staggered entry and release (by grade, class, or bus numbers), marked spacing for pickup.
LEVEL 3 - SUBSTANTIAL SPREAD	<p>District/School Considerations: School buildings are closed; districts should require only that <i>essential staff</i> report in-person to carry out functions that are <i>absolutely necessary</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Utilize remote tools and platforms, wherever possible, to conduct essential business and keep in-person reporting to an absolute minimum during school closures.

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Serving Meals

LEVEL 0 - NORMAL SPREAD	<p>District/School Considerations: Implement standard operating procedures along with the following preventative measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff. ● Allow student hand washing before and after meal service. ● Conduct cleaning of cafeterias and high-touch surfaces throughout the school day.
*LEVEL 1 - MINIMAL SPREAD	<p>District/School Considerations: Implement standard operating procedures along with the following preventative measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Face masks may be required for all students & staff depending on the level of COVID-19 spread. ● Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff. ● Allow student hand washing before and after meal service. ● Conduct cleaning of cafeterias and high-touch surfaces throughout the school day. ● No self-service. ● Individual condiments. ● Utilize plexiglass shields for cashiers. ● Develop a serving model that promotes social distancing where feasible (see examples below): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Serving meals in classrooms. ● Serving meals in cafeterias with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Spaced seating (utilize outdoor space as practicable and appropriate). ○ Longer meal periods for more staggered meal delivery . ○ Possible pre-packaged boxes or bags for each student instead of traditional serving lines. Avoid sharing of foods and utensils. ○ Mark spaced lines to enter the cafeteria and serving lines (to the extent practicable); designate entrances and exit flow paths; stagger use.
LEVEL 2 - MODERATE SPREAD	<p>District/School Considerations: All requirements from Level 1 will continue unless modified below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Face masks are required. ● Use disposable plates, utensils, etc. ● Adjust lunchroom usage to limit density of people to no greater than 50% maximum occupancy.
LEVEL 3 - SUBSTANTIAL SPREAD	<p>District/School Considerations: School buildings are closed.</p> <p>Feeding programs should follow the following guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Practice established social distancing protocols to the greatest extent feasible . ● Provide PPE to participating staff.

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Transitioning

LEVEL 0 - NORMAL SPREAD	District/School Considerations: Implement standard operating procedures along with the following preventative measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conduct cleaning of hallways and high-touch surfaces throughout the school day.
*LEVEL 1 - MINIMAL SPREAD	District/School Considerations: Implement standard operating procedures along with the following preventative measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Face masks may be required for all students & staff depending on the level of COVID-19 spread. ● Conduct cleaning of hallways and high-touch surfaces throughout the school day. ● Designate areas of the hallway (i.e. lanes) to walk to keep students separated (to the extent feasible). ● Where possible, designate hallways as one-way, posting directional arrows on walls and floors.
LEVEL 2 - MODERATE SPREAD	District/School Considerations: All requirements from Level 1 will continue unless modified below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Face masks are required while transitioning. ● Limit mixing between groups (to the extent feasible). ● For class changes and other transitions throughout the school day: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide additional time for transitions. ○ Plan staggered class (ex: by hall, odd/even room numbers, grade/ discipline) changes to decrease the number of students in hallways at one time. ○ Have the same group of students stay with the same staff (all day for young children and as much as feasible for older children).
LEVEL 3 - SUBSTANTIAL SPREAD	District/School Considerations: School buildings are closed.

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2. If an individual school reaches 5.0% positivity rate, they will move to masks required at Level 1 and the school nurses may take over the exclusion of COVID close contacts.
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Conducting Large Group Gatherings

(Applies to groups of 50 or greater for non-academic purposes)

LEVEL 0 - NORMAL SPREAD	<p>District/School Considerations: Implement standard operating procedures along with the following preventative measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff. • Follow <i>AHSAA</i> guidelines for sporting events and practices.
*LEVEL 1 - MINIMAL SPREAD	<p>District/School Considerations: Implement standard operating procedures along with the following preventative measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face masks may be required for all students & staff depending on the level of COVID-19 spread. • Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff. • Limit unnecessary congregations of students and staff. • Utilize virtual tools and platforms wherever possible to conduct essential business and keep in-person reporting to a minimum. • Discourage the congregation of students in parking lots and common areas. • Follow breakfast and lunch guidance (<i>see Meal Service</i>). • Follow <i>AHSAA</i> guidelines for sporting events and practices.
LEVEL 2 - MODERATE SPREAD	<p>District/School Considerations: All requirements from Level 1 will continue unless modified below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face masks are required. • Abide by the maximum number of people allowed to congregate as defined by state and local health officials. • Stagger the schedule for large group gatherings (i.e. recess). • Identify and utilize large spaces (i.e. gymnasiums, auditoriums, outside spaces – as weather permits) for social distancing.
LEVEL 3 - SUBSTANTIAL SPREAD	<p>District/School Considerations: School buildings are closed.</p>

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Protocol for Students and Staff

STAFF MEMBER	STUDENT
<p>Exposure* Staff or student report close exposure to someone with COVID-19 within the last two days</p>	<p>Exposure* Staff or student report close exposure to someone with COVID-19 within the last two days</p>
<p>Diagnosis Staff or student report diagnosis of COVID-19 less than 10 days ago</p>	<p>Diagnosis Staff or student report diagnosis of COVID-19 less than 10 days ago</p>
<p>Symptoms Staff or student present to the school nurse with multiple minor symptoms of illness or a major symptom of new cough or loss of taste or smell</p>	<p>Symptoms Staff or student present to the school nurse with multiple minor symptoms of illness or a major symptom of new cough or loss of taste or smell</p>

- Contact physician for recommendation on quarantine
- Encouraged to wear a face mask and follow social distancing for 10 days following exposure
- ADPH recommends being tested on Day 5 after exposure
 - Report positive tests to school nurse
 - Continue masking for 5 remaining days if negative
- Follow guidelines given by ADPH and/or the physician
- Monitor for symptoms of illness and seek physician care should symptoms develop
 - Report symptom development to school nurse

- Contact pediatrician for recommendation on quarantine
- Encouraged to wear a face mask and follow social distancing for 10 day following exposure
- ADPH recommends being tested on Day 5 after exposure
 - Report positive tests to school nurse
 - Continue masking for 5 remaining days if negative
- Follow any guidelines given by ADPH and/or the physician
- Monitor for symptoms of illness and seek physician care should symptoms develop
 - Report symptom development to school nurse

- Do not report to work if positive
 - Staff must isolate at home for a minimum of 5 full days from the start of symptoms OR from positive test date if asymptomatic.
 - May return on Day 6 **IF** there has been no fever for a full 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine **AND** symptoms have resolved **AND** you feel well enough to work **AND** you continue to mask while at school for the remainder of the 10 days.
 - If unable to remain at work after early return, remaining days of 10 day isolation must be completed before returning.
 - Administration will send a COVID-19 notification letter to staff members and/or parents of students affected by the confirmed case.
 - A physician's note is not required to return to school.
- If a diagnosis is reported during the school day:
- Close off the facility area used by the sick person.
 - Fog, clean and disinfect those areas.

- Do not come to school if positive.
 - Students must isolate at home for a minimum of 5 full days from the start of symptoms OR from positive test date if asymptomatic.
 - May return on Day 6 **IF** there has been no fever for a full 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine **AND** symptoms have resolved **AND** student feels well enough to complete school day **AND** continues to mask while at school for the remainder of the 10 days.
 - If unable to remain at school after early return, remaining days of 10 day isolation must be completed before returning.
 - Administration will send a COVID-19 notification letter to parents of students affected by the confirmed case.
 - A physician's note is not required to return to school.
- If a diagnosis is reported during the school day:
- Close off the facility area used by the sick person.
 - Fog, clean and disinfect those areas.

- Do not report to work if awaiting results of any COVID tests
- If symptoms develop at work, wear a face mask, go to the isolation area if unable to leave immediately, notify the school nurse, go home as soon as possible
- Encouraged to seek physician evaluation and follow their guidance.
- May return to school prior to the end of the 10 day isolation **IF**:
 - There is a negative COVID-19 test obtained from a medical provider, **AND** symptoms have improved, **AND** they have been fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications
 - **OR**, documentation is provided from a physician or ADPH stating that symptoms are not COVID-19 related, and it is safe to return to school.
 - **OR** it has been 5 full days since the onset of symptoms, **AND** you have been fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications, **AND** symptoms have improved, **AND** you feel well enough to complete a work day.

- Do not come to school if awaiting results of any COVID tests
- If symptoms develop at school, wear a face mask, go to the isolation area, notify the school nurse, go home as soon as possible
- Encouraged to seek physician evaluation and follow their guidance.
- May return to school prior to the end of the 10 day isolation **IF**:
 - There is a negative COVID-19 test obtained from a medical provider, **AND** symptoms have improved, **AND** they have been fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications **AND** the physician has written a release to return to school.
 - **OR** documentation is provided from a physician or ADPH stating that symptoms are not COVID-19 related, and it is safe to return to school.
 - **OR** it has been 5 full days since the onset of symptoms, **AND** they have been fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications, **AND** symptoms have improved, **AND** the student feels well enough to complete a school day.

***Exposure is defined by ADPH as being within 6 feet for at least 15 cumulative minutes of someone who tested positive for COVID-19 if not masked. OR being within 3 feet for at least 15 cumulative minutes while wearing masks.**