



2020-2021

Plan for Reopening Schools

We are only a few short weeks away from the start of the 2020-2021 school year! We are all extremely excited, as we know you are, to get our students, teachers and support staff back together and return to learning! Over the summer, principals, district office staff, and our lead nurse have been working to develop possible reopening models that create a safe and productive learning environment for students and staff.

The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) and Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) guidance regarding COVID-19 changes very rapidly, so we have developed options with enough flexibility to quickly adapt to current disease activity and still provide the absolute best educational opportunities for our students. The unpredictability of this virus requires us to remain flexible and ready to make changes in our plans. We ask for your continued patience, support, and understanding through this process.

We believe it is important to share this plan with our families now so that you will have time to plan, provide feedback, and receive answers to your questions. As you review these proposals for the reopening of our schools, please know that we greatly appreciate your flexibility, understanding, and patience as we continue to refine our plans to meet the needs of all of our students in the face of this pandemic.

Please be sure to check the HCBOE webpage frequently at [www.henrycountyboe.org](http://www.henrycountyboe.org) as it will be updated with the very latest information concerning reopening options, safety, transportation, child nutrition, and much more. If you have any concerns or questions, please email them to [covidconcerns@henrycountyboe.org](mailto:covidconcerns@henrycountyboe.org).

Continue to stay safe, and we look forward to seeing you all soon!

**Chris Padget**  
**Superintendent Henry County Schools**

## WELLNESS STEPS

### STEP ONE: Screening

Parents, Students and Staff should monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 to include cough, congestion, sore throat, shortness of breath, gastrointestinal symptoms, and fever daily prior to attending school.

Home	Parents and guardians are the first step on the monitoring continuum. They should monitor symptoms of COVID – 19 including fever, dry cough, stomachache, and sore throat. Any student or staff with ANY of these symptoms should stay at home and consider visiting a doctor.
Transportation	Buses will have signage that helps remind parents and students of symptoms that would indicate the need to stay home. Bus drivers will do their best to place students who develop COVID-19 symptoms in an isolated seat. Bus drivers will notify a school official upon arrival at school of symptomatic students.
School	School staff will monitor students for COVID-19 symptoms throughout the school day. Temperature checks may be included as a part of the monitoring process as needed. Students who have a temperature of 100.4 (or current Alabama Department of Public Health guidelines) will be isolated and parents contacted for pick up.

**Temperature Policy: All staff and students must be fever/symptom free without medication for 72 hours before returning to school.**

### STEP TWO: FACIAL COVERINGS

Facial coverings will be required according to an Executive Order by the Governor, a local ordinance, or a risk assessment by the Alabama Department of Health. In the absence of an official order, Henry County Schools strongly encourage continued use of facial coverings for students and staff and will be required when students change class and in break areas when social distancing cannot take place. Facial coverings should cover both the mouth and nostrils and be worn when interacting within 6 feet of others. Parents that would like their child to have a mask but are unable to acquire one should contact the school. Facial coverings must meet HCBOE dress code standards.

### STEP THREE: MAINTAINING DISTANCE

The Alabama Department of Health recommends maintaining physical distance between individuals as a way of preventing the spread of the COVID 19 virus. While physical distancing is not always possible in the school setting (esp. on a bus), Henry County students and staff will be expected to use social distancing (6 feet minimum) when feasible.

## STEP FOUR: PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Students and staff should self-monitor and report any personal symptoms of COVID 19. Henry County students and staff are expected to practice safe hygiene prevention practices such as hand washing, coughing/sneezing into their elbow or tissue, maintaining distance and using hand sanitizer as needed. Henry County staff will review, reinforce, and monitor preventative hygiene best practices.

### I. Curriculum Delivery Options

**Option 1: Traditional Face to Face** – students following this option will return to campus on August 21, 2020 and will follow the policies and procedures established by the Henry County Board of Education prior to the COVID 19 pandemic. Students and staff will also be expected to follow the wellness steps and any additional Executive Orders, ADPH guidelines or local ordinances pertaining to the pandemic.

**Option 2: Remote Option – Parents who do not feel comfortable sending their child to school may choose the Remote option.** The remote option allows students (enrolled in this option) to complete assignments from a location other than the school. Parents choosing this option should complete the appropriate paperwork and return it to the Principal of their child's school. Students enrolled in this option are required to remain in the remote option for a minimum of one semester. A student may enroll in the remote option at any time during the semester. Assignments will be completed using a computer, the Internet, and standards-based grade level software. Students will be accountable for completing assignments as scheduled weekly. Assignments will be graded and used to compile final grades. All students must have a dedicated home learning coach to participate. While engaging, the online curriculum is much more rigorous than the enrichment activities that were completed at the end of the last school year.

**Enrollment forms and a list of questions and answers are available on the Henry County Board of Education website at [www.henrycountyboe.org](http://www.henrycountyboe.org) under Parent Information. Please email any questions regarding this option to [remoteoption@henrycountyboe.org](mailto:remoteoption@henrycountyboe.org)**

**Option 3: Blended Option** – the blended option is ONLY for students who have been quarantined due to a COVID 19 diagnosis OR during school shutdown ordered by the Alabama Department of Health due to COVID 19. Students with a COVID 19 diagnosis may work virtually during their quarantine but will be allowed to return to campus after recovery.

## **II. Day to Day Operations & Assurances**

### **Afterschool programs**

**As feasible under the most current guidelines from ADPH, extended day as well as Boys and Girls club after school programs will be offered at the beginning of the school year. Programs will follow established daily school procedures for social distancing and cleaning.**

### **Arrival:**

**Arrival and pick-up times will differ from the previous year.**

- Students are not allowed to be dropped off at campus prior to 7:20 am.
- School bus drop off times will occur after teachers are in place to supervise on each campus.
- Students who have a parent who is a staff member will be allowed to enter school with their parent.
- Students may not congregate but must report to their homeroom or 1st period class as determined by campus administrators.

### **Athletics, Band & Extracurricular Clubs**

**Henry County Schools will follow ongoing guidelines from the ADPH, ALSDE and Alabama High School Athletic Association regarding athletic practices and events. Currently:**

- Athletes that test positive for COVID 19 will follow the recommended 14-day quarantine (or current ADPH or AHSAA guidelines) prior to returning to practice or competitions.
- Facilities will be cleaned and disinfected daily.
- Health checks will take place daily before practice.
- Water bottles and equipment will not be shared.

### **Attendance:**

**Henry County Schools will continue to record/take attendance and enforce compulsory attendance laws.**

- The Alabama Department of Education has developed special attendance codes, which will be utilized for students with a positive COVID 19 diagnosis. Absences for students diagnosed or in quarantine will be considered excused.

- Students in quarantine will be enrolled in the blended option and will complete assignments virtually. They may return to school with appropriate documentation.
- Attendance for remote and blended students will be calculated weekly by completion of scheduled assignments.

## **Breakfast, Lunch and Break:**

- Breakfast will be grab and go. Students will eat breakfast in their homeroom or 1st period class (as designated) once they arrive on campus.
- Lunch will be pre-packaged. Students will distance as much as possible during lunch. Schools will utilize all available space at each school to provide distance.
- School water fountains will be closed. Students will be allowed to bring water bottles from home.
- Break times will be staggered to allow for social distancing.

## **Cleaning:**

- Prior to the beginning of school, staff will be trained on cleaning best practices.
- Students will remain at the same desk when possible. When not possible, desks will be wiped cleaned between students.
- Hand sanitation stations will be placed in high traffic areas and entrances to the school.
- Soap dispensers will be checked throughout the day to make sure it is available.
- Playgrounds, lunchrooms, weight rooms and other common areas will be sanitized after each use.
- All campuses will undergo daily cleaning.
- School buses will be cleaned and sanitized after each route.

## **Sickness:**

**Henry County Schools staff will conduct daily health checks on students during the school day according to public health guidelines. These checks may include any COVID 19 symptoms and temperature. Daily health checks will also be conducted with staff.**

- Any symptoms of COVID 19 should prompt students/staff to stay home.
- Students and staff who are sick or live with someone that has tested positive must stay home and abide by the public health guidelines for quarantine. Staff and student families should self-report to the school nurse if they or their student have COVID 19 symptoms, a positive test for COVID 19 or were exposed to someone with COVID 19 within the last 14 days.

- The ADPH will be responsible for contact tracing and determining who has to quarantine.
- Students who fall ill at school will be placed in a designated area of quarantine under the supervision of an adult and parents will be called to pick up the child from school. Students in the quarantine area should wear a face covering for the safety of themselves and others.
- Students or staff sent home sick from school should remain at home until they have tested negative for COVID 19 or recovered from symptoms according to ADPH guidelines.

## **Social Distancing:**

**Henry County staff and students are required to maintain a minimum of 6 feet distance from others when feasible. Possible classroom procedures include:**

- Desks will be spaced farther apart and face one direction.
- When tables are used, student will sit on one side and face the same direction.
- When possible, students will remain in the same desk all day and teachers will change classrooms.
- Teachers will use a face covering when instructing within 6 feet of students.
- Physical barriers will be utilized in office and or reception areas to create distance.
- Ongoing plans will include adjustments to schedules and traffic patterns.

## **Special Education:**

- Henry County Schools will provide a free and appropriate education (FAPE) with the need to protect the health and safety of students with disabilities and those individuals providing education, specialized instruction, and related services to students.
- Special education and related services will be provided through traditional or remote instruction (provided virtually, online, telephonically, or a combination).

## **Transportation:**

- Bus drivers will be trained on the proper cleaning and sanitation methods. Cleaning will take place after each route.
- Students should not be dropped off at school or put on the bus in the morning if they are displaying any of the COVID 19 symptoms.
- Face masks or shields are strongly encouraged for students and bus drivers.
- An adult should be present for pick up in the mornings and drop off in the afternoons if your child is using bus transportation.
- Pick up and drop off times will differ from last year to ensure that teachers are in place to supervise on each campus.

- Bus drivers will to their best to isolate a student who displays symptoms enroute of COVID 19. While every precaution feasible will be taken, there should be no expectation that social distancing can be accommodated on a school bus.

**Visitors:**

- There will be no onsite programs delivered from or field trips to outside agencies prior to January 2021.
- Until further notice, there will be no visitor or parent access to the school building.
- Parents will not be allowed to walk students to their class on the first day of school.
- Virtual meetings will be used to limit contact.