

# Hart County Charter System

The Georgia Department of Education (DOE), in partnership with the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH), has developed guidance to support districts and communities in determining their plans and strategies for reopening schools. Georgia's Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools provides a tiered approach with clear, actionable steps that are advisable before students and employees return to school buildings, along with guidance that is applicable throughout the 2020-2021 school year.

## Hart County: Enhanced Mitigation Measures

- Establish and maintain communication with local and state DPH officials.
- Participate in contact tracing efforts and collection efforts as directed by local health officials. Contact tracing is not a responsibility of the school district.
- Implement enhanced social distancing measures when appropriate.
- Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread, COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols.
- Establish a protocol for students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms while at school.
- Isolate and deep clean impacted classrooms and spaces.
- Consider ways to accommodate needs of children, teachers/staff, and families at higher risk for severe illness.

## Practicing Prevention

- Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as handwashing, covering coughs, and face coverings. Provide hand soap and hand sanitizer, paper towels, and no-touch trash cans in all bathrooms, classrooms, and frequently trafficked areas.
- Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread, COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols.
- Clean/disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least daily and shared objects after each use.
- Provide masks and other appropriate PPE to staff.
- Allow students to bring hand sanitizer and face masks/coverings to use from home.
- Take steps to ensure all water systems and features are safe.
- Turn off water fountains and allow students and staff to bring water bottles from home.
- Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible.
- Conduct deep cleaning of schools prior to students/staff returning; schedule additional cleanings during weekends or school holidays/breaks.

## Transporting Students

- Provide hand sanitizer for students and bus drivers.
- Provide face masks for bus drivers; allow students to wear face masks/coverings.
- Screen students and bus drivers for symptoms of illness and utilize spaced seating (to the extent practicable).
- Eliminate field trips.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces on the bus at least daily. (Electrostatic Sprayers)
- Establish protocols for bus stops, loading/unloading students to minimize congregation of children from different households.

## Entering School Buildings

- Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread. COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols.
- Establish a protocol for students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms while at school (Refer to decision matrix recommendations).
- Mark spaced lines to enter the building and designate entrance and exit flow paths.
- Screen students and staff (to the extent practicable).
- Take temperatures ideally before entering buildings. Isolate and send home if internal temperature over 100.4°F (38°C). Consider safety and privacy concerns (confidentiality should be maintained). (temperature scanners – main entrance, hallways)
- Establish a protocol for visitors: calling front office before entering, screening visitors, requesting use of face coverings/masks, etc. Restrict nonessential visitors and volunteers.
- Establish a protocol for student pick/drop up: staggered entry and release (by grade, class, or bus numbers), marked spacing for pickup.

## Serving Meals

- Allow student hand washing before and after meal service.
- Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff.
- Use disposable plates, utensils, etc.
- Mark spaced lines to enter the cafeteria and serving lines (to the extent practicable); designate entrances and exit flow paths; stagger use.
- Conduct cleaning of cafeterias and high-touch surfaces throughout the school day Alternative Serving.

### Models to Consider:

- Serving meals in classrooms.
- Serving meals in cafeterias with: Spaced serving lines (marked on floors), Spaced seating (utilize outdoor space as practicable and appropriate), Longer meal periods for more staggered meal delivery, Consider pre-packaged boxes or bags for each student instead of traditional serving lines.
- Avoid sharing of foods and utensils. Nutrition Staff will refer to Georgia's K-12 Restart Working Group: School Meals.

As you are aware, the recent Executive Order signed by Governor Kemp stated:

"That the State Board of Education shall provide rules, regulations, and guidance for the operation of public elementary and secondary schools for local boards of education relying on Code Section 20-2-168( c)(2) to depart from a strict interpretation of the definition of "school year," "school month," or "school day." Such rules, regulations, and guidance promulgated by the State Board of Education shall adhere to, and shall not conflict with, guidance issued by the Georgia State Health Officer, the Georgia Department of Public Health, and the American Academy of Pediatrics."

Per the Governor's Office:

**IT DOES MEAN:** The SBOE has been charged with providing flexibility to districts regarding "school year," "school month" and "school day." At its June meeting, the SBOE waived state school day and school year requirements. Seat time has been waived. Recently, guidance was sent related to performing FTE counts during a year with different instructional models being implemented (all online, large portions online, and/or traditional).

**IT DOES NOT MEAN:** The State Board of Education has been charged with or is planning to release any additional restart guidance to districts/schools. The [10-page Recovery guidance](#) still stands, additional support documents from the K-12 restart working groups will be shared with you as they are finalized, and we are finalizing criteria for the case levels, in partnership with DPH (decision matrix).

1. Governor Kemp and Dr. Toomey, Commissioner of the DPH, do not recommend mandatory masks.
2. DOE not using community spread levels and will replace it with a decision matrix (out by the end of the week).
3. DPH not using community spread levels and maps (confusing and not clear).
4. Dr. Toomey and the DPH do not recommend closing classrooms or schools when a student has a positive COVID-19 test. (use recommended decision matrix)
5. DPH recommends contact tracing for students who have COVID-19. School District will work with the DPH (not the school's responsibility).