



# Return to Learn Plan 2021-2022

## Overview:

HCS believes that face-to-face learning is the optimal method for instructing students. HCS is committed to minimally disrupting the lives and education of students in response to COVID-19. HCS is currently operating under NC-DHHS's Plan A which requires minimal social distancing but incorporates other layers of mitigation. Students and staff are required to quarantine if they have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 or if they demonstrate symptoms or test positive for COVID-19 as designated by the Strong Schools Toolkit which is frequently updated by NC-DHHS.

If a student is required to quarantine, staff will make available materials and resources that allow the student to continue his/her learning either through work packets or online instruction via Google Classroom or SeeSaw which will be made available to the student within 24 hours of notification of quarantine. Students will not be considered absent if work is completed and turned in to the teacher. If a student receives support through the Exceptional Children's Program, the EC teacher will contact the student and/or student's parent to determine a time to provide services for the student while at home.

HCS does not currently offer a full-time remote learning option (Plan C). This option would occur only under extreme circumstances where staffing was an issue due to illness or if the positivity rate in the school was so high that the local health department recommended closing.

**Plan A: Minimal Social Distancing**

**Plan B: Moderate Social Distancing**

**Plan C: Remote Learning Only**

## Requirements for Schools Under Plans A and B:

### Social Distancing and Minimizing Exposure:

- ✓ Limit nonessential visitors and activities involving external groups or organizations

- ✓ Have staff monitor arrival and dismissal to discourage congregating and ensure students go straight from a vehicle to their classrooms and vice-versa
- ✓ Insure food and beverage distribution served should be individually packaged and served directly to students

#### **Cloth Face Coverings:**

- ✓ Ensure all staff and adult visitors as well as students in middle and high school wear face coverings when they are or may be within 6 feet of another person unless the person (or family member for a student) states that an exception applies. Cloth face coverings must be worn by students and staff on buses or other transportation vehicles and inside school buildings.
- ✓ Share guidance and information with staff, students, and families on the proper use, wearing, removal, and cleaning of cloth face coverings.

#### **Protecting Vulnerable Populations:**

- ✓ Systematically review all current plans (Individual Healthcare Plans, IEPs or 504 plans) for accommodating students with special healthcare needs and update their care plans as needed to decrease their risk for exposure to COVID-19
- ✓ Create a process for students/families and staff to self-identify as high risk for severe illness due to COVID-19 and have a plan in place to address requests for alternative learning arrangements or work re-assignments

#### **Coping and Resilience:**

- ✓ Provide staff, families, and students (if age-appropriate) with information on how to access resource for mental health and wellness

#### **Cleaning and Hygiene**

- ✓ Provide adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors (soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol for safe use by staff and older children, paper towels, and tissues)
- ✓ Teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and/or the safe use of hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol by staff and older children
- ✓ Increase monitoring to ensure adherence among students and staff
  - Supervise use of hand sanitizer by students
  - Ensure that children with skin reactions to hand sanitizer use soap and water
  - Reinforce handwashing during key times such as before/during/after preparing food; before eating food; after using the toilet; after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; after touching objects with bare hands which have been handled by other individuals
- ✓ Provide hand sanitizer at every building entrance and exit, in the cafeteria, and in every classroom, for safe use by staff and older students

- ✓ Systematically and frequently check and refill hand sanitizers
- ✓ Encourage staff and students to cough and sneeze into their elbows, or to cover with a tissue. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- ✓ Incorporate frequent handwashing and sanitation breaks into classroom activity
- ✓ Allow time between activities for proper cleaning and disinfection of high-touch surfaces
- ✓ Establish a schedule for and perform ongoing and routine environmental cleaning and disinfection of high-touch areas (door handles, railing, faucet handles, toilet handles, playground equipment, drinking fountains, light switches, desks, tables, chairs, kitchen countertops, cafeteria and service tables, carts, and trays) with an EPA approved disinfectant for SARS-CoV-2, and increase frequency of disinfection during high-density times and disinfect all shared objects between use (Paper-based materials, such as books and loose-leaf paper, are not considered high-risk for COVID-19 transmission, and do not need additional cleaning or disinfection procedures)
- ✓ Ensure safe and correct use and storage of cleaning and disinfection products, including securely storing and using products away from children, and allowing for adequate ventilation when staff use such products
- ✓ Limit sharing of personal items and supplies such as writing utensils
- ✓ Keep students' personal items separate and in individually labeled cubbies, containers, or lockers
- ✓ Limit use of classroom materials to small groups and disinfect between uses or provide adequate supplies to assign for individual student use
- ✓ Ensure that all non-disposable food service items are minimally handled and washed with hot water and soap or in a dishwasher, or use disposable food service items such as plates and utensils

#### **Monitoring Symptoms:**

- ✓ Enforce that staff and students stay home if:
  - They have tested positive for or are showing COVID-19 symptoms, until they meet the criteria for return
  - They have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19, until they meet criteria for return
- Fever is determined by measured temperature of 100.4 degrees or greater
- The staff person taking temperatures must wear a cloth face covering and must stay 6 feet apart unless taking temperature
- Use touchless thermometer if one is available
- Staff person must wash hands or use hand sanitizer before touching the thermometer

-Staff person must wear gloves if available and change between direct contact with individuals, and must wash hands or use hand sanitizer after removing gloves

-Staff person must clean and sanitize the thermometer between each use

### **Handling Suspected, Presumptive or Confirmed Positive Cases of COVID-19**

- ✓ Post signage at the main entrance requesting that people who have been symptomatic with fever and/or cough not enter.
- ✓ Educate staff, students, and their families about the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 when they should stay home when they can return to school
- ✓ Establish a dedicated space for symptomatic individuals that will not be used for other purposes
- ✓ Immediately isolate symptomatic individuals to the designated area at the school, and send them home to isolate
- ✓ Ensure symptomatic student remains under visual supervision of a staff member who is at least 6 feet away. The supervising adult should wear cloth face covering or a surgical mask
- ✓ Require symptomatic person to wear a cloth face covering or a surgical mask while waiting to leave the facility
  - Cloth face coverings should not be placed on:
    - Anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious
    - Anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance
    - Anyone who cannot tolerate a cloth face covering due to developmental, medical, or behavioral health needs
- ✓ Require school nurses or delegated school staff who provide direct patient care to wear appropriate PPE and perform hand hygiene after removing PPE
- ✓ Implement cleaning and disinfecting procedure following CDC guidelines
- ✓ Have a plan for how to transport an ill student or staff member home or to medical care
- ✓ Adhere to the following process for allowing a student or staff member to return to school
  - If a person has had a negative COVID-19 test, they can return to school once there is no fever without the use of fever-reducing medicines and they have felt well for 24 hours
  - If a person is diagnosed with COVID-19 by a medical professional based on a test or their symptoms or does not get a COVID-19 test but has had symptoms, they should not be at school and should stay at home until they (or a family member if younger child) can answer YES to the following three questions:
    - Has it been at least 10 days since the individual first had symptoms?
    - Has it been at least 3 days since the individual had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine)?

- Has it been at least 3 days since the individual's symptoms have improved, including cough and shortness of breath?
- ✓ A person can return to school, following normal school policies, if they receive confirmation of an alternative diagnosis from a health care provider that would explain COVID-19-like symptoms, once there is no fever without the use of fever-reducing medicines and they have felt well for 24 hours.
- ✓ Notify local health authorities of confirmed COVID-19 cases among children and staff (as required by NCGS 130A-136)
- ✓ Ensure that if a person with COVID-19 was in the school setting while infectious, school administrators coordinate with local health officials to notify staff and families immediately while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with FERPA, NCGS 130A-143, and all other state and federal laws
- ✓ If a student/employee has been diagnosed with COVID-19 but does not have symptoms, they must remain out of school until 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test, assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms since their positive test
- ✓ If a student/employee that has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or has been presumed positive by a medical professional due to symptoms, they are not required to have documentation of a negative test in order to return to school
- ✓ If a student/employee has been determined to have been in close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19, they must remain out of school for 10 days since the last date of exposure unless they test positive. In which case, exclusion criteria above would apply. If the student has been vaccinated, he/she can return to school and must be tested between days 3-5 of COVID exposure. If the student has had COVID-19, he/she is not required to quarantine if the infection has been within the last 3 months.
- ✓ Provide remote learning options for students unable to be at school due to illness or exposure.

### **Transportation**

- ✓ Ensure that the following individuals wear face coverings on a bus or other transportation vehicle, unless the person (or family member for a student) states that an exception applies
- ✓ Clean and disinfect transportation vehicles regularly. Children must not be present when a vehicle is being cleaned
- ✓ Ensure safe and correct use and storage of cleaning and disinfection products, including storing products securely away from children and adequate ventilation when staff use such products
- ✓ Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces in the vehicle
- ✓ Keep doors and windows open when cleaning the vehicle and between trips to let the vehicles thoroughly air out

- ✓ Clean, sanitize, and disinfect equipment such as car seats, seat belts, wheelchair, walkers, and adaptive equipment being transported to schools
- ✓ Individuals must stay home and not board transportation if they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone positive for COVID-19.
- ✓ Create a plan for getting students home safely if they are not allowed to board the vehicle
- ✓ Enforce that if an individual becomes sick during the day, they must not use group transportation to return home and must follow protocols outlined above
- ✓ If a driver becomes sick during the day, they must follow protocols outlined above and must not return to drive students.
- ✓ Provide hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol) to support healthy hygiene behaviors on all school transportation vehicles for safe use by staff and older children
  - Hand sanitizer should only remain on school transportation while the vehicles are in use
  - Systematically and frequently check and refill hand sanitizers

**\*\*Under Plan B only, no more than one passenger can be seated per school bus seat (considerations for family members to share one seat) and no more than two passengers can be seated in a contracted vehicle.**