



MACON COUNTY SCHOOLS

In the Best Interest of Students

Macon County Schools Reopening Plan

This plan was developed by the administration team of Macon County Schools with consideration of North Carolina's Lighting our Way Forward. The North Carolina Department of Education in partnership with the North Carolina Department of Public Health developed the "North Carolina Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools" guidance to support districts in planning for the reopening of schools for the 2020-2021 school year. This plan has been made in the interest of keeping all students and staff as safe as possible while providing the best educational experience that we can, given the current situation. **The items listed in this plan are subject to change due to changes in circumstances such as virus spread or guidance from state officials.**

The information below refers to either Plan A or Plan B. Plan A allows for minimal social distancing protocols. Whereas, Plan B allows schools to be open with moderate social distancing requirements in place.

Area/Subject	Safety Plan
Setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Offer both a traditional in-person option and an online Virtual Academy option.
Online Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parents will choose either an online or traditional setting on an electronic form by July 31, 2020 so that plans can be made to accommodate online learning.• Students concerned about face-to-face instruction may choose to continue with online learning opportunities by enrolling in the MCS Virtual Academy.• Students choosing to enroll in the MCS Virtual Academy must remain in online learning for at least the nine week period (K-7) and one semester for 8-12th grade. Parents may choose for students to return to the traditional school setting after the Virtual Academy period by contacting the school within the district that they reside.• Expectations for online learning will be very similar to traditional school. Assignments must be completed. Grades will reflect work completed and can be negatively impacted if work is not completed.• Work should be turned in online when appropriate.

<p>Temperature Checks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will have their temperature taken upon arrival to school. ● Staff will have their temperature checked upon arrival. ● Anyone entering the building will have their temperature checked. ● Individuals who have a temperature of 100 degrees will be sent directly to the Infection Control staff member to have their temperature rechecked. ● Individuals with a temperature of 100.4 will be sent home. ● Anyone sent home with a fever will be expected to stay home for 10 days, and 3 days without a fever, or a negative COVID-19 test result.
<p>Infection Protocol</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students who are feeling ill or have a fever will be sent to the office to be checked. ● The school nurse will use the Standards and Transmission Based Precautions when caring for sick people. ● Anyone exhibiting COVID like symptoms will be isolated to prevent further contact with others until they are picked up. ● Communication with the department of public health for the purposes of contact tracing will be conducted as appropriate.
<p>Morning Arrival</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teachers will open their classrooms at 7:30 AM. ● Students will report to their classroom upon arrival. ● If the student eats breakfast from the cafeteria they will pick up their breakfast in the designated location to eat in their classroom.
<p>Cafeteria Meals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In an effort to provide social distancing only designated classes will eat in the cafeteria. Otherwise, meals will be eaten in the classroom or other designated areas. ● Plexiglass will be installed at the cashier station. A touch free pay system will be implemented for check out. ● Parents are encouraged to send money in advance to avoid daily transactions with physical money. K12 Payment Center can be utilized by parents to electronically pay for student meals ahead of time. ● Disposable utensils and dinnerware will be used. ● Meals will be available for remote learning students dependent upon State and Local guidelines.
<p>Face Coverings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Masks will be required for all K-12th grade students, teachers, parents, and visitors. Masks will be provided by the school if needed. Masks must also be worn on the bus to and from school. This policy may be found in the NC "Lighting our Way Forward" reopening plan at the NC Governor's Office website.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Staff are required to wear a face covering when in close proximity of students or other individuals. When able to distance 6 feet or more from an individual the face covering can be removed but must be worn in all circumstances where staff are in close proximity to others.● Face covering exceptions will be made for individuals with health conditions that would prevent them from wearing a mask.● If a condition prevents a student from wearing a mask contact the school administration.
Transitioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Efforts will be made to limit the number of students transitioning in the same area to the extent possible.● In hallways, where it is possible, there will be a one direction traffic flow.● A pattern will be established and signs will be posted to indicate this direction.

<p>Sanitation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Staff in the maintenance and custodial department, where appropriate, will have schedules adjusted to accommodate increased cleaning procedures during the school day.● Daily sanitizing techniques will be used on surfaces and objects that are touched often; such as bathrooms, water coolers, desks, countertops, doorknobs, computer keyboards, hands-on learning items, faucet handles, phones and toys throughout the day.● Sanitation of sports and play equipment will occur between each use.● Macon County Schools will use electrostatic sprayers which provide a safe and non-toxic sanitizing mist that is effective against all viruses; killing many types of germs and bacteria in 30 seconds.● The sprayers will be utilized in classrooms periodically throughout the day when students are outside the classroom.● The sprayers will be used in gyms and weight rooms between classes.● Ensure that ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible
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<p>Water Fountains</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Water fountains from which individuals drink directly will be turned off. ● Water fountains that are designed for filling of water bottles will be left on. (bottle filling station) ● Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle to fill up at a bottle filling station or sink.
<p>Hygiene</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Each school will develop age appropriate lessons around proper hand washing and hygiene protocol. ● When moving from one room to another, students will be encouraged to use the hand sanitizer stations provided in each room. ● Students will be expected to wash hands before meal times. ● Hand washing supplies will be located in all bathrooms and in classrooms where sinks are present. ● Hand sanitizer stations are located in each classroom and in other places throughout the building.
<p>iPads</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Each student in grades K-12 will be assigned an iPad.
<p>Transportation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide hand sanitizer for driver and students ● Provide face masks for bus drivers; students in grades in grades K-12 required to wear face masks. ● Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces on the bus daily between trips. ● Space students out on the bus according to state protocols. (Plan B – Only 1 student per seat unless from the same household)
<p>School Visitors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● At this time no visitors or parent volunteers will be allowed. ● During the first 2 weeks of school, parents of children in pre-k through fourth grade will be allowed to walk their students to class if needed. (Special circumstances would need to be approved by the principal.) Parents are expected to wear a face mask while in school. Staff will be stationed throughout the building to help ensure all students get to their appropriate classroom safely. ● To limit the number of individuals in the building, parents will need to contact teachers via Google Classroom, email, or leave a message by phone. Parents will not be allowed to drop by the classroom in the mornings as teachers will have students as soon as they arrive. Efforts will be made to return calls or emails as soon as possible.

<p>Field Trips/Large Group Gatherings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No field trips will be allowed until further notice. ● No large group assemblies will be allowed. The number considered as a large group will mirror the number provided by state guidance which is updated periodically.
<p>Open House</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No Open House will be scheduled to reduce the number of individuals in the building at one time. ● Kindergarten will schedule times for students to visit prior to school starts so they can visit the room before the first day. ● Teachers will record a welcome back video message with important information to share with their students.
<p>Signage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Signs will be posted in appropriate locations throughout the building reminding students and staff to practice social distancing, frequent hand washing, and other virus prevention measures. ● Signs will also be posted to help individuals gauge spacing for social distancing.
<p>Pre-K</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In the event schools are open in plan A or plan B Pre-K classrooms will be open 5 days per week with a maximum capacity of 18 per room. NCDHHS precautions will be used for social distancing, symptom screening and enhanced cleaning. Classroom dimensions allow for social distancing to take place.
<p>EC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Each student served in the exceptional children’s program will have a remote learning contingency plan. This is a collaborative document made with families that spells out how IEP goals will be served in the remote environment. ● Students who are “self-contained” will be allowed to go all 4 days students are in the building under plan B.
<p>Homeless</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students who are classified as homeless will be allowed to come to school each day students are on campus.

<p>Assessment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students in grades K-3 will take Benchmark assessments to help us better gauge progress and serve students. These assessments will be administered according to the testing calendar. ● Students participating in online learning will be scheduled to take the assessment on campus on a day when the regular student population is not in attendance. ● State assessments will be administered in accordance with state guidelines. ● Site-based assessments will be administered per grade level to determine student learning.
<p>School Attendance Policies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● During this uncertain time, extra effort will be made to make up assignments missed due to absences to avoid negative impacts to students. ● Attendance will be taken on remote learning days.
<p>Lesson Videos</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teachers will be recording video sessions involving students using Google Meet or Canvas. These videos, which include student participation, will only be released to their Google Classroom or Canvas class so students may review lessons. Teachers will not post video sessions with students to any social media, website, or YouTube site. ● The Macon County Media/Photo release form will not exempt students from these video sessions as they will be required as part of the online learning classroom.
<p>Substitutes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Substitute teachers will be provided a face covering and will follow the safety plan described in this document.
<p>School Closure Decisions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Close off areas used by the sick person, do not use these areas until after cleaning and disinfecting. ● Wait at least 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting. If 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible. ● Consult with the Local Health Department as to whether closure of a classroom or entire building is required. There may be no need to close the school if the Local Health Department determines that close contacts are excluded and there is sufficient space to continue normal operations. ● The Local Health Department may in some situations determine that closure of a facility is needed; this will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Plan C

At any point throughout the 2020-2021 school year that COVID-19 cases reach substantial community spread, the Macon County Health Department, Macon County Schools and/or NC Governor's Office may require our school system to move to Plan C. In this plan, all students will receive remote instruction every day. All instruction and assignments will be delivered and completed using student iPads, Google Meetings, and Google Classroom activities. Meals will be made available on remote learning days through the Macon County School Nutrition Department dependent upon State and Local guidelines.

Virtual Academy:

100% remote learning at home through internet access and Google Classroom or Canvas platform. All instruction and assignments will be delivered and completed using student iPads, Google Meetings, and Google Classroom activities by certified Macon County teachers. Registration required.