

## AHS REOPENING Plan 2020 – 2021 FAQ

In order to help inform your decision to attend traditional or remote learning, we have put together this list of frequently asked questions and answers. Our procedures are based on the Alabama State Department of Education's (ALSDE) Roadmap to reopening and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) guidelines. These procedures may change based on further guidance from Auburn City Schools (ACS), ALSDE or the CDC.

### **What happens if there is a positive diagnosis and/or exposure at AHS?**

From the Auburn City School's Return to Learning Plan: Auburn City Schools will follow the guidance of local, state and national health professionals and adopt a symptom-based strategy that recommends a 10-14 day quarantine period for persons both exposed to COVID-19 through close contact or for persons with a positive test. The recommendations below are based on current information and are subject to change as new information is gathered.

**COVID-19 Positive Diagnosis:** A student or staff member with a positive diagnosis will be subject to a 10 – 14 day quarantine and will follow the guidance of their healthcare provider and the Alabama Department of Public Health.

**COVID-19 Positive Exposure:** If a student or faculty member is diagnosed positive for COVID-19, the parents and guardians of any student with risk of infection due to close contact will be notified. Parents and guardians will be advised to contact the student's healthcare provider to be assessed and given further directives. A student or staff member with a positive exposure will need to complete a 10 – 14 day quarantine measured from the date of last exposure.

**Return to School:** For both a positive diagnosis and a positive exposor, the parent/guardian must provide to ACS in writing one of the following statements about the student from their healthcare provider:

- ◆ the student has a negative COVID-19 test and is symptom free at the completion of the 10 – 14 day quarantine, OR
- ◆ the student has been symptom free during the 10 – 14 day quarantine.

### **Who is required to wear face covering?**

All students, faculty, staff, and visitors will be required to wear face covering.

### **How will students enter and leave the building? Is there a plan to keep them socially distanced?**

- ◆ **Arrival:** Students are not permitted in the building until 7:45 a.m. Only students that have a scheduled tutoring session with a teacher or a morning club meeting, will be allowed to enter at 7:30 a.m. Once students enter the building, they will be required to go straight to their 1<sup>st</sup> period classroom, their tutoring/club location, or the cafeteria. Students will not be allowed to linger in the hallway.
- ◆ **Dismissal:** Student dismissal will be staggered (car drivers, car riders, bus riders) As with arrival, students will not be allowed to linger in the hallway. Students will dismiss directly to their car/bus.

### **Will bus drivers be screening our students? What will bus transportation look like?**

Private transportation should be used whenever possible. Temperature checks will be handled by families and not at AHS or by bus drivers. It is expected that all buses have assigned seating. Students are required to wear a mask on the bus. There is no eating on the school bus.

### **Will the water fountains be accessible?**

Water fountains will be open and sanitized. Students are encouraged to bring water bottles to school.

**Will students be allowed to eat in the cafeteria?**

Students will still be able to eat breakfast and lunch in the cafeteria. Food service will change some this year. We are taking steps to make the cafeteria as safe as possible. We will keep lines socially distanced. We have eliminated as much surface touching as possible. Students will receive pre-plated, covered meals. Staff will scan student IDs to pay for lunch. Students will no longer use the keypad. We will also eat in lunch waves, reducing the number of students in the cafeteria and allowing room for social distancing.

**How do you plan to handle class changes and transitions?**

Directional markings on the floor and stairwells will be used to help with traffic flow and appropriate social distancing. Students will maintain appropriate social distancing whenever possible. As with arrival and dismissal, we are requesting students travel directly to classes without lingering in the hall. Even with such measures, it will still be possible for students to be closer than 6 feet during transitions. This is one of the reasons we are requiring all students to wear face coverings. We will need students to be aware of their physical distance from others and use good judgement to assist in our efforts to keep all on campus well.

**What cleaning procedures will be followed to protect students, faculty, and staff?**

Our custodial staff uses products to clean classrooms that kill the COVID-19 virus. They will continue to wipe high touch, commonly used surfaces at the end of the day. They are also receiving extra training this year. Further, each classroom teacher will have a bottle of disinfectant (that cleans surfaces after 3 minutes), a bottle of hand sanitizer, and a bottle of foaming sanitizer. Desks will be wiped down between each class.

***Should parents wish to donate these items, we would love to have them!***

**How will classrooms be set up to protect students and teachers?**

Students will sit in desks facing the front of the room, with every effort made to separate students from one another as much as possible. We will physically separate desks to the maximum distance, with the goal being a 6-foot distance. Because class sizes vary, a 6-foot distance between desks will not be possible in each location. This is another reason we are requiring all students to wear masks.

**What about lockers? Will students be sharing those?**

We will be issuing lockers for those students who request them, but we will NOT be issuing PE or athletic lockers to students. Students will not be sharing lockers.

**Will the library be open?**

Students will still be able to check out books in the library. Students will be allowed to take books home. We will sanitize books upon return following a resource isolation protocol.

**What about field trips and after school activities?**

Field trips are cancelled for the Fall semester. Extracurricular activities are still available with social distancing guidelines in place. Remote learning students will have the opportunity to participate in clubs and extracurricular activities.

**When are AHS Reconnect days?**

There will be no Reconnect events this year. We will have a drive-through Reconnect event later this Summer for students to pick up their parking pass, locker, etc.

**If my student is in quarantine, what will happen with schoolwork?**

Students in quarantine will continue to receive assignments from classroom teachers using an online learning management system. The rigor and pace of learning will continue through quarantine and be supported by classroom teachers. This is separate from our remote learning program.

**Who will be allowed on campus this Fall?**

Visitors to buildings during normal operating hours will be limited and by appointment only. The only people that will be permitted past front office lobby are ACS employees, students, and approved AU students. All visitors will be required to wear masks. All outside food for sharing is prohibited. This means parents cannot bring cupcakes or any food items for lunches, birthdays or other celebrations. This also means no food for classroom activities.

**Can I keep my student at home if I don't feel that it is safe? Will the absence be excused?**

Students will not be excused from school if parents choose to quarantine them on their own. However, students who are quarantined by ADPH guidelines, will, of course, receive an excused absence. If you do not wish to send your child to school, they should enroll in our remote learning option.

**Will Remote Learning be similar to distance learning in the spring?**

No. The ACS Remote Learning model is NOT the same as the Emergency Distance Learning Model used in the spring of 2020. Students and families should expect to be engaged in daily online learning with the standards of pacing and rigor used in the traditional model. Students enrolled in remote learning will participate using ACCESS, the State online learning platform. ACCESS teachers are certified teachers but not AHS employees. They will design lessons and determine grades according to their policies, not AHS. While AHS has an ACCESS facilitator, the ACCESS teachers are the first point of contact and decision makers for student concerns.

**Will special elective courses like Band, Choir, and Career and Technical courses be offered remotely?**

All elective courses may not be available on ACCESS. If you wish to take Performing Arts courses, CTE courses, Driver's Ed, and athletic courses that are not offered through ACCESS, you can choose to do a blended remote learning model, which will allow you to take those courses in person and the rest of your classes in the remote learning model. The blended model is only available for these three areas.

**What if my student has an IEP?**

For students with an IEP, an amendment to the IEP may be written based on the individual needs of the student as a learner in a remote setting.

**What does my student need in order to participate in Remote Learning?**

Students must have access to a computer device (not a phone/tablet) and high-speed internet in order to participate in ACS Remote Learning.

**What if I do not have a device or high-speed Internet?**

The intent survey will provide guidance to those families who do not have access to a computer device and/or high-speed internet.

**What is the deadline to register my student for Remote Learning?**

Parents and guardians who want their children to participate in Remote Learning must complete the intent survey by 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 19, 2020.

**What if I choose Traditional Learning now and change my mind later?**

Families can choose to enter ACS Remote Learning at any time during the 2020-2021 school year but can only enter the traditional school setting at the beginning of each semester.