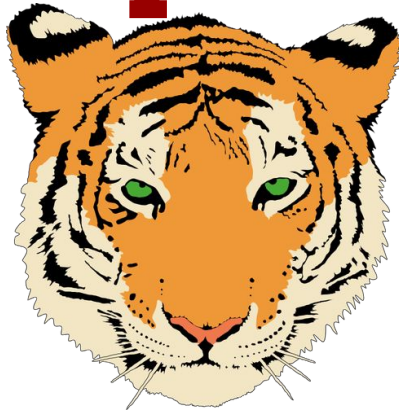


Revised
8.10.21



Hartselle City Schools' **Roadmap to Reopening in August, 2021** **Complete Parent Guide**



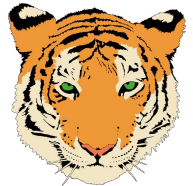
As Hartselle City Schools begins the 2021-2022 school year, the following guidance is offered based on recommendations from the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- **Vaccinations are encouraged for all employees, and students over the age of 12.**
- **Masking is “recommended” for all individuals, but not required.**
- **Masking is “required” for passengers and drivers on school buses.**
- **Schools will be required to report suspected and diagnosed cases of COVID to ADPH.**
- **Individuals who test positive for COVID will be required to quarantine for 10 days.**
- **School officials will notify individuals who have potentially been exposed to a diagnosed COVID case as soon as possible. Those who have been potentially exposed will be encouraged to monitor for symptoms and stay home if symptoms develop.**
- **Vaccinated individuals who have been potentially exposed should also monitor for symptoms and stay home if symptoms develop.**
- **Any questions regarding quarantine or isolation should be directed to the Alabama Department of Health and/or to Health Care Providers.**
- **All students and staff who have symptoms of COVID should remain at home and follow up with their healthcare provider for testing and care.**
- **At this time, there are no restrictions on attendance at extracurricular activities.**

Hartselle City Schools may modify this guidance based on changes to the ADPH and CDC recommendations or as conditions may warrant.

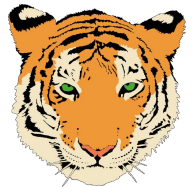
HCS will:

1. Support and respect its vaccinated and unvaccinated employees.
2. Support and respect its vaccinated and unvaccinated students.
3. Support and respect its masked and unmasked employees.
4. Support and respect its masked and unmasked students.
5. Continue its stringent cleaning and disinfection protocols.
6. Continue encouraging regular hand washing.
7. Continue social distancing as is possible during more typical school days.
8. Follow CDC order that requires masking of all students and drivers on school buses (including transporting students for athletic, extracurricular and field trips)
9. Return to more typical campus and classroom practices with mitigation modifications made as is practicable.
10. Continue to offer face-to-face instruction, and continue to offer it in a way that can permit seamless pivoting to virtual instruction should conditions require such. This means students will continue to receive Chromebooks assigned to them and teachers and students will continue to work from the Google Classroom platform.
11. Offer Virtual instruction opportunities to eligible students in grades 5-12.
12. Continue the health room protocols established in the 2020-2021 school year.
13. Maintain teachers' heightened awareness of COVID symptoms to enable them to quickly respond to meet students' health needs.
14. Return to more typical food preparation and food delivery protocols since little evidence exists to tie the spread of COVID to such preparation and services.
15. Align any exposure-tracing of individuals exposed to COVID with the *requirements* of the ALSDE/ ADPH.
16. Continue to honor students' confidentiality, FERPA and/or HIPAA rights.
17. Make plans for school activities, field trips, and campus guests and visitors while honoring COVID protocols... such as social distancing... as is practicable.
18. Continue to encourage the self-checking/ self-monitoring of employees, students, and visitors to better mitigate the spread of any illness.



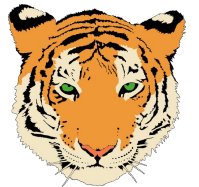
HCS will not:

1. Require employees or students to be vaccinated.
2. Require employees or students to wear masks except to on school buses (as required by CDC order).
3. Send to Early Warning or to Truancy a student whose absences consist only of reported/ documented COVID-related attendance issues.
4. Remove from teaching or employment any employee with attendance issues if those absences consist only of reported/ documented COVID-related attendance issues, and if those absences are the only concern.
5. Require a teacher who is fully vaccinated to quarantine if he/she is exposed to a COVID-infected person. (Unless the ADPH changes their guidance on this matter.)
6. Offer on-campus vaccination programs that require school-employed nurses to administer vaccines and/or monitor those who have just been vaccinated.
7. Direct school nurses to respond to a COVID-related matter in any way that could compromise their standing with the Board of Nursing or with the Alabama Department of Public Health.
8. Abolish or regulate sporting events and/or attendance at those events beyond its typical scope of regulation. (Unless otherwise mandated by Governor Ivey, the ADPH, the ALSDE, or the AHSAA.)



HCS cannot:

1. Offer “COVID Leave” to any COVID-infected or COVID-quarantined employee. COVID Leave funding was provided by the Federal Government last year and, at this time, there is no plan to again provide this funding to school systems. Though this could change, right now this means an employee who is sick or quarantined will be required to take sick days or personal days.
2. Offer Virtual instruction opportunities to students in grades PK-4. HCS data reveals that this instruction for students in the lower grades is neither academically viable nor economically sustainable.



HCS will continue to:

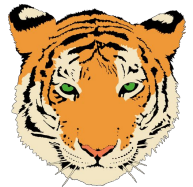
1. Support students academically, athletically, and artistically.
2. Support students' mental health.
3. Engage families and community.
4. Equip its employees and campuses for changing conditions.
5. Respond to changing conditions with agility and with a plan of action.
6. Inform students and their families.
7. Make every effort to sustain face-to face learning... because we believe that's what's best for students.

School will begin on Monday, August 9th for students whose last names begin with A-K.

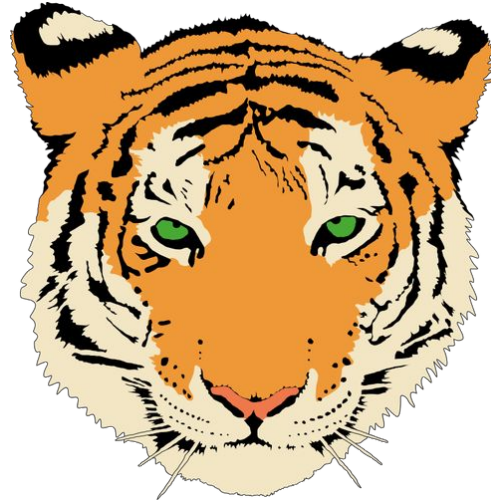
School will begin on Tuesday, August 10th for students whose last names begin with L-Z.

All students will attend on Wednesday, August 11th.

Go Tigers!



Medical Protocols



HCS will implement the follow protocols for the 2021-2022 school year...

Please note that protocols are subject to change as conditions change

- If HCS is notified of a COVID positive case within a classroom/group/team, students within that classroom/group/team will be notified that there has been potential exposure. They will be asked to monitor for symptoms and follow up with their physician if [symptoms](#) develop. **Symptomatic** students should NOT come to school or work, and should contact their physician for evaluation.
- If a student has **known** close contact with someone outside of school, he or she should notify the school nurse. While healthcare providers and/or ADPH should help determine a child's return-to-school date, the school nurse will help facilitate any school related protocols.
- Students with [symptoms of COVID-19](#) should NOT come to school or work. They should contact their physician for evaluation.
- Students or Staff who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 must stay home for 10 days following the onset of symptoms or the positive test result, be 24 hours without fever or fever-reducing medications, **and** experience symptom improvement before returning to school. Upon return to school, students should provide a copy of positive test results and/or written release from their physician.

“Yike! I just got a robocall saying my child *may* have been exposed to COVID-19. What does this mean and what do I do next?”

- If you received a phone call from our automatic notification system regarding COVID exposure and your child, it is because your child **may** have come into close contact with a student or employee who has been diagnosed with COVID. This is considered a **Possible** Positive Contact.
- Your child is not **required** to quarantine, but you may **choose** to quarantine your child and seek guidance from your doctor. You can find additional information at the [Alabama Department of Public Health](#) website.
- Should you **choose** to quarantine your child, contact the school office and let them know. The absence will be excused.
- Should your child return to school and then **exhibit symptoms** at school, we will send your child home to quarantine. At that time it is recommended that you seek medical care. (**Symptoms will require** that your child quarantine.)
- Should your child exhibit symptoms at home, seek medical care and do not send your child to school campuses, events, or activities. (Again, **symptoms will require** that your child quarantine.)
- Should your child exhibit symptoms, keep your child at home for a minimum of 10 days from the day of symptom onset.
- If your child is a student-athlete, speak with your doctor about your child’s post-COVID readiness to return to strenuous physical activity. Unless you indicate otherwise to your child’s coach, on the day your child returns to practice, the coach will assume that you and your child’s doctor have deemed the child fit and ready for strenuous activity.
- Additional medical considerations from the Alabama High School Athletic Association can be found at [AHSAA](#).

The Alabama Department of Public Health consistently asserts the following:

Masked is better than Unmasked.
Vaccinated is better than Unvaccinated
Outdoors is better than Indoors.
Distanced is better than Close.



Possible Close Contacts: A New HCS Protocol for Parent Notification

- If your child has **possibly** come into close contact with an HCS student or employee who has tested positive for COVID, you will be informed by phone call using our automatic notification system.
- Because this will be a **possible** close contact and not a **known** close contact, your child will not be required to quarantine if he/she is not exhibiting any COVID symptoms.
- If your child begins exhibiting symptoms, quarantine immediately and seek medical care.
- If your child is symptom-free but you **choose** to quarantine as a precaution, inform the school. This absence will be excused.
- The automated phone call will go to the Primary Contact listed in the school's student information system. If there is a parent email in the system, you will also receive an email. (Call the school to verify the primary contact if you are unsure that the number is correct.)
- Both the phone call and the email will direct you to the www.hartselletigers.org site for additional information.
- *NOTE: **Possible** Close Contacts... such as "your child sits in a classroom where another student is now COVID positive"... do **not require a quarantine**.*
***Known** Close Contacts... such as "a family member who lives in your home is now COVID positive" ...do **require a quarantine**. This new protocol is for **Possible Close Contacts only**.*

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Return to School Protocol

(Based on current [ADPH Isolation & Quarantine COVID-19 Timeframes](#))

These guidelines may be amended as ADPH guidelines change.

- A student or employee who is sent home with COVID-19 symptoms will be asked to follow up with his/her healthcare provider and to follow ADPH isolation guidelines.
- If a student or employee is tested for COVID-19, he/she should isolate/quarantine while awaiting test results.
- Even if the test returns “negative,” current ADPH guidance states that unless an *alternative diagnosis is given, those with symptoms of COVID-19 must complete the isolation protocol as written.
- Current criteria for *returning to school* is:
 - 1) At least 10 days from onset of symptoms **AND**
 - 2) At least 24 hours have passed since last fever (without use of fever reducing medication) **AND**
 - 3) Symptoms have improved
 - **OR**
 - 3) Written release from physician verifying that COVID-19 isn’t suspected and/or alternative diagnosis has been provided.

**EX: If a COVID test is negative but a Strep test is positive, there is an alternative diagnosis given. (Remember, if COVID test is performed, student or staff member must await results even if alternative diagnosis is given initially.)*

“Close Contact” Defined

- The CDC definition of a close contact is someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes). An infected person can spread SARS-CoV-2 starting from 2 days before they have any symptoms (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days before the positive specimen collection date), until they meet the criteria for discontinuing home isolation.
- Asymptomatic vaccinated close contacts do not need to be sent home but should monitor for symptoms, and isolate if symptoms develop.
- Asymptomatic close contacts who have tested positive for and recovered from COVID-19 in the prior 3 months do not need to be sent home unless they develop symptoms.

Contact the School Nurse When...

- Your child has been exposed to COVID-19 and/or is being tested
- Your child has symptoms of COVID-19 or has tested positive for COVID-19
- Your child has had close contact with someone who is being tested for COVID-19
- Your child has had close contact with someone who has tested positive

*****Please note, the information in this document aligns with ADPH guidance. However, none of the information should replace personal advice given by your healthcare provider or ADPH*****