



Demopolis City School System Roadmap to Return Plan

Board Approved on July, 20 2020

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Introduction

In these uncertain and anxious times, one certainty is that the education of our children must continue because they are the key to a better future. We are committed to making that occur, on-campus as well as online. The purpose of this document is to update you on our plans as we prepare for the opening of the 2020-2021 school year. We will continue to communicate transparently and frequently throughout the months ahead. We strongly share your desire for a return to physical learning and begin the school year with as much normalcy as possible, however, the safety of our students, faculty and staff is our number one priority. Like all school systems, our system is subject to governmental mandates and directives, so we are also preparing to modify instruction as required should either a shelter-in-place directive return or some other learning posture be deemed necessary. Such decisions will be made in accordance with three operational priorities:

1. Governmental directives and best-practice medical advice;
2. Prioritizing the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff; and
3. Ensuring that meaningful learning is taking place regardless of the learning environment.

Earlier this summer we conducted a survey to learn more about our students' and families' learning experiences during our abrupt spring 2020 school shut down. Over 1,000 families responded to our survey and provided quality data that was used to help us build our Roadmap to Return Plan. In addition to your feedback, we received input from local health officials, a local Remote Learning Task Force made up of teachers and parents, the Alabama State Department of Education, the Alabama Association of School Boards, the Alabama Department of Public Health, and the Marengo County Health Department to help us build our plan.

Throughout these difficult times, we appreciate our partnership with you more than ever. Our partnership needs to be one of strong trust. We need you to trust that we are taking all possible safety and sanitizing precautions while students are on-campus. We need to trust you that you are monitoring your children's health at home and not sending students to school who may have COVID-19 symptoms. Although the road ahead may not be as smooth as desired, we can make it through together if we communicate, remain transparent, and think safety first. We are in this together, and we will navigate whatever challenges may lie ahead as we always do, as a team dedicated to our children's success.

Sincerely,

Kyle Kallhoff

The plan below is organized into twelve sections with attached appendixes. The twelve sections are as follows:

1. Mode of Instruction
2. Technology and Other Requirements
3. Transitions
4. Safety Precautions
5. CNP Food Services
6. Instruction
7. Transportation
8. Athletics
9. Field Trips
10. Extended Day
11. Response to COVID-19 Positive Case or Symptoms
12. Communication

Mode of Instruction	Online Delivery	Blended Delivery	On-Campus Delivery
Brief Description of Mode	Students take all coursework online/Remote Learning with zero to very limited on-campus experiences. The Alabama State Department of Education will be providing the online platform and curriculum at no cost to parents. Students will have web-based support from certified teachers every school day. Some assessments (state and local) and assignments may need to be administered and turned in at	This is for a limited, identified group of students based on Individual Education Plans (IEP). Students attend school on Tuesday and Thursday, and take online/Remote Learning on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Students will have web-based support from certified teachers on the days they do not report to campus. Students may be required to Zoom with	Students attend school five days a week with safety, prevention, and hygiene precautions implemented and closely monitored. If a student begins with this method of instruction, he/she will be able to change to the online delivery of instruction with a one-week notice. If students transition to online, then they will have to remain online until the end of the semester (January or May).

	<p>schools. If a student begins with this method of instruction, he/she will not be able to change to the on-campus delivery until the beginning of the second semester (January).</p>	<p>instructors during the time subjects/classes regularly meet.</p>	
<p>Technology and Other Requirements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have reliable internet connectivity • DCS will provide a Chromebook computer, if students do not have other devices, that is to be returned at the conclusion of each academic year • Cell phones and tablets are not compatible devices • DCS will offer remote learning education through Schoology, a student digital platform adopted by the Alabama State Department of Education to serve Alabama students • Schoology will provide students with learning curriculum aligned to our Alabama state standards in all core subjects and electives • Once a student is enrolled, all content, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have reliable internet connectivity • DCS will provide a Chromebook computer, if students do not have other devices, that is to be returned at the conclusion of each academic year • If or when we transition to at-home learning, we will utilize programs like Schoology and Zoom, recorded lessons and other digital learning platforms • Students will receive recorded lessons with graded paper assignments/tests in PreK-2 and graded digital platform assignments/tests in grades 3-12 • Scheduled Zoom sessions with teachers to discuss assignments and live teaching of concepts not 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will have 4 embedded Remote Learning Days during the school year • DCS will provide a Chromebook computer, if students do not have other devices, that is to be returned the next school day • Students without reliable internet connectivity will need to complete paper packets on Remote Learning days • Assignments from Remote Learning days will be returned and will count for a grade

DCS Roadmap to Return

	<p>materials, tests, and grading will take place in Schoology by certified teachers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Certified teachers will offer assistance during regular school hours to support students learning from home, but parents will be the primary facilitator of learning. As a leader of their child's learning, parents will manage teacher contacts, study time, completed assignments, and scheduled tests• Access to online learning is available 24 hours a day and 7 days a week, however, students will be required to login during specific test times and meet established classwork/project deadlines• Student attendance will be determined from daily logins and/or participation in scheduled live learning sessions with a certified teacher	<p>understood will be available when possible</p>	
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DCS Roadmap to Return

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be occasions when students must report to campus for Formative or Benchmark Assessments. Students will remain isolated while on-campus • Schoology will provide a parent communication portal for parents to monitor their children’s success 		
<p>Transitions</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will not be allowed on-campus until designated times (WES- 7:35 AM, U.S. Jones- 7:30 AM, DMS- 7:15 AM, & DHS- 7:30 AM) • Breakfast and Lunch will be served in the classrooms until further notice • Scheduled breaks (DMS and DHS) will take place in the classrooms until further notice • Class transitions (DMS and DHS will be staggered) • All students will be required to walk on the right side of the hallways while trying to maintain proper social distance • Dismissals will be staggered (i.e., walkers, 3 minutes later car riders/drivers, 3 minutes later all other students) 	
<p>Safety Precautions</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student temperatures will be taken and recorded frequently • In the case that a child has a fever or any COVID-19 symptoms, he/she will be placed in an isolated room and must be picked-up by his/her legal guardian or emergency contact within one hour • Only essential employees will be allowed on-campus until further notice • Parents will not be permitted beyond the office area until further notice 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents should schedule a virtual meeting or phone call with their child’s teacher as needed • All visitors on-campus will be required to wear a mask • We will follow the statewide facial covering order issued on July 15, 2020 • Masks will be provided to employees and a limited amount will be available for students • All individuals will be required to hand sanitize upon entry to buildings and as they exit buildings until further notice • All individuals will be required to wash hands after using the restroom as well as before and after snacks (sanitizer is not a substitute for soap and water) • Six feet social distancing will be strongly encouraged until further notice • Students are not to share school supplies • Students will be allowed to bring clear water bottles (water fountains will be disabled) until further notice • School nurses will not test for COVID-19 • In the case of a student or staff member who tests positive, The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) will be closely followed • In the case of a student or staff member who tests positive, schools will provide general information as a precaution, however, contact tracing will be the responsibility of the Alabama Department of Public Health
<p>CNP Food Services</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All meals will be grab and go and/or eaten in the classroom • Staff and student food allergies will be considered when meals are prepared • Students will not be allowed to bring group snack or food items (i.e., cupcakes for birthdays or other occasions) until further notice • Students are not to share food or snacks • Hard surfaces will be sanitized before and after meals

DCS Roadmap to Return

<p>Instruction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desks will be in straight rows facing the same direction (when applicable) • Six feet social distancing will be strongly encouraged until further notice • Teachers will instruct from the front of the room (as much as possible) • Small group instruction and collaborative student groups will be limited to 12 minute intervals • Teachers will wear facial coverings or shields while delivering small group instruction • Plexiglas (sneeze guards) separators will be used when possible
<p>Transportation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Windows remain down while students are on the bus or cracked in the case of rain or extremely cold weather • Students will be required to wear masks while on the school bus • Students from the same family will be required to sit with each other while riding the bus
<p>Athletics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decisions will be based on the Alabama's COVID-19 Risk Indicator Dashboard https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/ • Limited amount of tickets sold to athletic events • ½ capacity for outdoor events • ¼ capacity for indoor events • Concessions limited to prepackaged items (no grilling or cooking of food)
<p>Field Trips</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No field trips until further notice (excluding athletic events) • No out of state trips until further notice (excluding athletic events)
<p>Extended Day</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited participation and capacity • Working parents will be provided priority
<p>Response to COVID Symptoms or Positive Case</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each school will have a designated quarantine area equipped with Personal Protective Equipment • In the case that a child has a fever or any COVID-19 symptoms, he/she will be placed in an isolated room and must be picked-up by his/her legal guardian or emergency contact within one hour. The student’s parent/legal guardian will receive a COVID-19 Signs and Symptoms Parent Letter (see appendixes) • School nurses will not test for COVID-19 • Students who test positive will not be able to return to school until they are released by a physician following Protocol for Confirmed Covid-19 or Risk of Contact Exposure for Student (see appendixes) • Student COVID-19 absences will be coded as excused/other

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are expected to participate in Remote Learning while quarantined at home with either paper packets or an online platform
<p>Communication</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the case of a student or staff member who tests positive, The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) will be closely followed • In the case of a student or staff member who tests positive, schools will provide general information as a precaution, however, contact tracing will be the responsibility of the Alabama Department of Public Health • When “Close Contact” can be confirmed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Being within approximately 6 feet of a confirmed COVID-19 case for a total of 15 minutes or longer without a facial covering, and/or b) Having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g. being coughed on) by a confirmed COVID-19 case <p>Parents of students with the risk of contact exposure with a student confirmed COVID-19 positive will be notified by the school or school district representative. Parents will be advised to contact their student’s healthcare provider by calling ahead or telemedicine visit with the MD to be assessed and to be given further directives.</p>

Disclaimer: The information provided in this document does not, and is not intended to constitute legal advice. Instead, all information and content available in this document are for general informational purposes only. Information in this document may not constitute the most up-to date legal or other information.

Appendixes General Parent Letter from Health Services

Dear Parent or Guardian;

The Health Department officials have declared the pandemic virus is under control. Our schools will open again on Thursday, August 20, 2020. Students may return to school following the directives from the ADPH and ALSDE State Superintendent.

Even though school is opening, there are still some people who are sick from the virus. Health officials say pandemic outbreaks sometimes happen in waves. This means more people could become sick. If more people get sick, schools may need to close again. We will continue to communicate to you updated important information. *If you or any family member is diagnosed with COVID-19, please notify your school and/or school nurse.*

If your child has a serious underlying health condition or high risk, please seek the guidance of your MD before returning to school and please notify your school's nurse.

Because the virus can still be spread from person-to-person, please keep children who are sick at home. Do not send them to school if your child has one or more combinations of the following symptoms:

- ❖ Fever of 100 to 100.4 first thing in the morning, especially prior to planning to attend school
- ❖ Cough, runny nose, and/or trouble breathing
- ❖ Diarrhea or vomiting
- ❖ Abdominal pain without other explanation

For more serious symptoms, contact physician immediately or call ahead and go to local ER

- ❖ Rash all over the body
- ❖ Both eyes appearing pink or red
- ❖ Swollen hands and feet, which might also be red

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Call your child's doctor before you go to their office and follow their instructions. Your child may return to school with a written excuse from the doctor that they are clear to return to school.

Please continue to implement the following measures to protect against the virus:

- ❖ **Staying home from work or school and limiting contact with others when you are sick.**
- ❖ Covering your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze and properly discard used tissues. If no tissue is available, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve, not your hands.
- ❖ Frequently washing your hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- ❖ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
- ❖ Avoid close contact with those who are ill.

We are looking forward to seeing your children again. Please remain informed on updates by periodically checking the school district's website or other school social media for updates or pertinent information.

Appendixes Sample Parent Letter for Possible COVID-19 Signs or Symptoms Are Existent

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your child _____ has presented with possible signs and symptoms of COVID-19. The signs/symptoms that were noted are: _____

Please look at the signs/symptoms below of COVID-19:

- Fever of 100.4 especially first thing in the morning
- Cough, runny nose, sinus congestion
- Trouble breathing or persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- Abdominal pain or stomach ache
- Unusual symptoms, lack of taste or smell
- Diarrhea or vomiting
- Chills, shaking, muscle pain or aches

Due to the present day pandemic situation of concerns of the spreading of COVID-19 within our community, we ask that you contact your child’s healthcare provider for an evaluation for testing. Please contact the school nurse to update on the follow-up results of the physician’s recommendations and testing results. **Make sure that your child does not return to school until cleared by the school nurse/administration.**

Please see centers listed on the attached sheet that do COVID-19 testing. Your child’s healthcare provider can also recommend somewhere for testing. Please make sure you call ahead. Some may do Telemedicine or Virtual interviewing and then give you guidance for testing.

Appendixes “Close Contact” Letter

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This letter is to inform you that your child has been in “Close Contact” with a person with a Positive Confirmed COVID-19 Test. Demopolis City Schools will be following the Marengo County Health Department (MCHD) **Isolation and Quarantine Timeframes for COVID-19** when there is a confirmed case or exposure to a confirmed case.

Your child _____, may have been exposed on _____. Your child should immediately begin a 14-day quarantine period. Contact your child’s healthcare provider for testing. The test results should be reported to _____. You should not take a test prior to the fifth day of exposure unless symptomatic. To reinforce, “if a contact to a person with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 test negative, they need to finish out the 14-day quarantine.”

Because the virus can still be spread from person-to-person within the 14 days of exposure, even with a negative test, please be on the watch for any of the following symptoms:

- Fever of 100.4 or higher especially first thing in the morning
- Cough, runny nose, sinus congestion
- Trouble breathing or persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- Abdominal pain or stomach ache
- Unusual symptoms, lack of taste or smell
- Diarrhea or vomiting

Contact your child’s healthcare provider if you or a family member experiences any of the above symptoms and follow their directives.

Please see centers that do COVID-19 testing. Your child’s Pediatrician can also recommend somewhere for testing. Please make sure you call ahead. Some may do Telemedicine or Virtual interviewing and then give you guidance if testing is needed.

Appendixes Protocol for Confirmed Covid-19 or Risk of Contact Exposure for Student

Positive Confirmed Case of COVID-19

With symptoms: Must quarantine for 14 days from onset of symptoms and at least 3 days after recovery. (Recovery)- defined as resolution of fever (without the use of fever-reducing medications) with progressive improvement and resolution of other symptoms.

Positive Confirmed Case of COVID-19

Without symptoms: Isolation can discontinue 14 days after test date.

Contact Exposure to COVID-19 Case

“Close Contact” is defined as:

- a) Being within approximately 6 feet of a confirmed COVID-19 case for a total of 15 minutes or longer
- b) Having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g. being coughed on) by a confirmed COVID-19 case.

Parents of students with the risk of contact exposure due to being in “close contact” with a student confirmed COVID-19 positive will be notified by the school or school district representative. Parents will be advised to contact their student’s healthcare provider by calling ahead or telemedicine visit with the MD to be assessed and to be given further directives.

According to Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) Isolation and Quarantine Timeframes for COVID-19 Revised 06-02-2020:

“if a contact to a person with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 tests negative, they need to finish out the 14-day quarantine period. The 14 days should be from the date of last exposure. Just because they tested negative during the 14 days, does not mean they will remain negative and they should finish the full-14-day quarantined period.”

Before Returning to School:

Parent/guardian must provide to Demopolis City Schools in writing one of the following statements from their healthcare provider:

Confirmed Positive COVID-19:

According to **MCHD/ADPH Timeframe** listed above, the student that tested positive for COVID-19 may discontinue isolation after the following criteria are met:

- a) the student that tested positive for COVID-19 may discontinue isolation at least 14 days from onset of symptoms and fever-free without fever-reducing medications for at least 3 days. (Requires release from healthcare provider as mentioned above).

Contact Exposure to COVID-19 Case:

- a) the student has a negative COVID-19 test and is symptom free at the completion of the 14-day quarantine or
- b) the student has been symptom free during the 14-day quarantine.

(**ADPH Isolation and Quarantine Timeframes for COVID-19 Revised 06-02-2020** states, “Household and close contacts without symptoms **No Testing Performed** will still require 14-day quarantine.)

Appendixes Best Practices Letter from 20 Birmingham Physicians

Re: Best Practices Regarding Re-Opening Schools

To Whom it May Concern,

We, the undersigned, are physician parents who work and live in the greater Birmingham area. We appreciate the countless hours you have spent responding to the COVID19 pandemic. As physicians serving on the frontlines with a vested interest in our patients and children, we wish to endorse the below evidence-based guidelines to re-open Alabama schools. As a group we agree with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) that the goal of re-opening schools should focus on children returning to school physically and safely. While there are data showing children are less likely to spread COVID19 and less likely to have severe disease compared to adults, this is still a very serious illness. Among the 983 COVID deaths in Alabama to date, two have been children. We believe that schools can and should re-open in a meaningful and sustainable way. However, this is a novel virus and will require a novel response to control the spread in schools. These are our medical recommendations to aid in our common goal of safe schools for this upcoming school year:

- **Face coverings must be mandated when indoors.** These include medical masks, reusable fabric masks, gaiters or clear face shields. With very few medical exceptions, children over 2 can be taught to wear these for extended periods of time. Universal masking is crucial to controlling spread of COVID19 because the wearers' mask protects others. If only a few wear them, they are not effective. A mandate is the best way to ensure universal face coverings. Parents will need time and resources to teach their children how to wear face coverings. Just like riding a bike or any other skill, children must be taught and encouraged to maintain their skills. We can partner with schools to develop tools for education, but the mandate needs to be step one. From a medical standpoint, face coverings are the best chance schools have to re-open and stay open.¹
- **Access to soap, water and paper towels** with frequent hand-washing breaks coupled with sanitizer stations throughout the school will help decrease spread. Sanitizing spray and paper towels to wipe down frequently touched surfaces is an alternative to sanitizing wipes that are in short supply.¹
- **Educate parents on the critical importance of keeping children home when ill.** While activities like daily on-site temperature screening make us feel safer, these screenings have not been shown to reduce risk of spread in a meaningful way. We have also found that some families will answer “no” when being screened for illness or exposure only to reveal a

significant history of illness or exposure later in the visit. This observation does not mean these processes should not be used, but they are limited in efficacy and must be used in combination with other safe guards.

- **Temperature screening** must balance the practicality and resources of performing these screening procedures for large numbers of students and staff with the information known about how children manifest COVID-19 infection, the risk of transmission in schools, and the possible lost instructional time to conduct the screenings.”¹
- **Use all available outdoor spaces** in creative ways to give kids more time outside. Gathering outdoors is inherently safer during a pandemic. Outdoor time will also give kids breaks from face coverings. Thinking creatively about outdoor spaces for lunch and snacks would enable more typical socialization while eating. Opening windows in classrooms and other spaces would also improve ventilation and reduce risk.¹
- **Offer varying hybrids of in person attendance and eLearning.** Parents should be given flexibility to change at certain intervals (nine weeks or semester) to account for changing needs and special conditions such as family work constraints or illness. While we want all children to have an option to be in school, reduction in volume of students in the school on a daily basis will inherently make controlling and containing viral spread easier. ^{1,2}
- **Develop a COVID prevention plan** for all school activities and modify or eliminate high-risk activities. Some of the high risk activities include assemblies, indoor singing, indoor use of wind instruments, spectators at sporting events, crowded locker rooms, parental visits. Some activities that are high risk are also necessary like eating lunch or snacks and pick-up/drop-off. Those activities will need staggered schedules, scrutiny, and creative planning to reduce risks.
- **Develop and communicate a clear plan for classroom or school wide outbreaks.** COVID outbreaks will be a part of the 2020-2021 school year. Local pediatricians are already seeing similar outbreaks in daycares, summer sports leagues, and camps. Because COVID19 symptoms can be very mild and often do not involve a fever in children, diagnosis and containment of outbreaks is especially complex. Adding to the difficulty of this task is the fact that our best test available has a 20-30% false negative rate.³
- **Face Coverings will reduce the need for quarantine.** We know that people infected with COVID19 can spread the virus for up to 14 days, with or without symptoms. The current recommendation by the Jefferson County Department of Public Health is that students return to school 14 days after a positive test was collected or 14 days from symptom start as long as symptom free for 3 days without any medications such as Tylenol or Motrin. If a student or staff has a close contact with someone who is infected (more than 15 min, less than 6 feet, indoors without a face covering), they will meet criteria for a 14-day quarantine. If that same interaction involved face coverings for both parties involved, the interaction is no longer considered a close contact.
- **Flu vaccines will be especially important this season.** We hope all schools will encourage students to vaccinate against influenza this season. We do not currently know what co-infection with influenza and COVID19 will look like. We hope families will reduce the risk of infection by choosing to vaccinate.

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1. American Academy of Pediatrics COVID-19 Planning Considerations: Guidance for School Re-entry.

<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>

2. Cooks Children's Hospital Recommendations for the Practical, Fair, and Safe Reopening of Public Schools K-12 in the State of Texas. <https://cookchildrens.org/coronavirus/action/Pages/Safe-Reopening.aspx>

3. Ai Tang Xiao, Yi Xin Tong, Chun Gao, Li Zhu, Yu Jie Zhang, Sheng Zhang, Dynamic profile of RT-PCR findings from 301 COVID-19 patients in Wuhan, China: A descriptive study, Journal of Clinical Virology, Volume 127, 2020, 104346, ISSN 1386-6532

In closing, we wish to serve as a resource and want to work together to reach our common goal of ensuring a safe and sustainable return to school. We are especially passionate about this process as we will be the ones taking care of patients and families affected by COVID19. We are on the front lines of fighting this horrifying pandemic and see, firsthand, the fear, the pain and the devastation families experience. We greatly appreciate your consideration of our input.