

Nettleton School District

COVID-19 Safety Plan 2020-2021 School Year

Overview

Nettleton School District has taken steps to prepare for the health, wellness, and safety for students and staff for the upcoming school year. **These guidelines will be updated with new information as it becomes available.** The information provided is a set of general guidelines and expectations. **Our decisions will be made in coordination with local and state guidelines as they are updated.**

On June 8, 2020, the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) issued [Considerations for Reopening Mississippi Schools](#). In the MDE document, three learning options were outlined, a traditional school model, a hybrid school model, and a distance learning model.

The Nettleton School District plans to begin the school year with the traditional school model with precautions and protocols designed around the health and well-being of our students and staff. We feel that the traditional school model provides the greatest opportunity for student success. If a hybrid or distance model is used, challenges exist in meeting the standard that traditional instruction provides. Students that utilize a hybrid or distance model will be expected to meet the same academic requirements as traditional students. Parents should be prepared for all three models of instruction to be utilized during the school year depending on direction from the Governor's Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (8/16/20 update) the Mississippi State Department of Health, and the Mississippi Department of Education.

Before School

- **Parents should screen their children and staff members should self-screen with the symptoms below in mind.**
- Staff and students should not come to school if they have been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19.
- People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of reported symptoms – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear **2-14 days after exposure to COVID-19**. Symptoms can include:
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting

- Diarrhea

This list does not include all possible symptoms and children and youth with COVID-19 infection may experience any, all, or none of these symptoms.

Transportation

- Students will be separated on the bus where feasible. Siblings or children living in the same household will be seated together.
- Drivers will be required to wear a mask and/or shield while students are on the bus.
- Any student who choose to utilize bus transportation will be required to wear a mask for the duration of the route to/from school.
- Buses will be appropriately disinfected daily.
- Buses will have hand sanitizer dispensers installed.
- Bus drivers will be properly trained in COVID safety measures.
- Social distancing on buses will be a challenge. Parents are encouraged to provide transportation to school if possible, especially for students who may have underlying health issues.

Arrival/Breakfast

- For everyone's safety, students do not need to be dropped off before 7:15.
- Students that are driving do not need to arrive on campus until 7:15.
- Staff members will have their temperature taken upon arrival. All students will have temperature checks upon arrival to school.
 - Any staff or student who has a temperature of 100 or above will be sent to the nurse for further evaluation.
- Any student arriving after the normal arrival time will check in at the office and have his/her temperature taken.
- Parents are strongly encouraged to use [My School Bucks](#) for cafeteria payment. This will reduce the need to exchange money and reduce the opportunity to spread germs.
- Specific breakfast plans are in place for each school that will encourage social distancing.
- Students will use hand sanitizer or hand washing upon arrival into classrooms.
- Break areas will be restricted where feasible.

Cafeteria-Lunch

- Parents are strongly encouraged to use [My School Bucks](#) for cafeteria payment. This will reduce the need to exchange money and reduce the opportunity to spread germs.
- Hand washing opportunities and hand sanitizer will be available before lunch
- Grades K - 3 students will utilize a combination of eating in the cafeteria and classrooms to encourage social distancing.
- Grades 4 - 12 students will utilize lunch delivery to classrooms or cafeteria pickup and return to classrooms to encourage social distancing.
- Cafeterias will be appropriately disinfected after each use.

Classrooms

- Multiple social distancing strategies will be implemented based on feasibility of the unique space and needs of each school.

- Any excess furniture that can be removed will be removed to encourage as much social distancing as possible.
- Teachers will speak with students in regard to social distancing and appropriate hygiene.
- Students will keep and utilize their own supplies for use in the classroom. Shared supplies and manipulative materials will be discouraged.
- We encourage all students to bring their own water bottles to use during the day. There are a limited number of touchless water bottle filling stations at each school. Disposable cups will be available for use at water fountains in the case a student doesn't have a personal bottle.
- Hand washing and hand sanitizing will be encouraged multiple times a day.
- Items that might be used by multiple students (Chromebooks, etc.) will be disinfected appropriately after each individual use.
- NSD teachers/staff will clean/disinfect at appropriate times.

Hallway Traffic

- Appropriate signage will be in place in buildings to encourage social distancing, directional traffic, and recommended hygiene practices.
- Hallway traffic will be limited by schedule and students will be monitored while walking in hallways. Principals will speak with students in regard to directional traffic, etc.
- Scheduling considerations will include how to best accommodate social distancing, while at the same time providing students a high quality education.
- Movement throughout buildings will be limited or reduced.
- Hand washing/hand sanitizer will be available.

Visitors/Vendors/Volunteers

- Nonessential visitors will be limited.
- If a visit to a school is necessary, call your child's school and make an appointment.
- Upon arrival for the appointment, the parent's temperature will be taken.
- Vendors who have to service buildings will undergo a temperature screening.
- No lunch guests will be allowed.
- No lunch or snack deliveries, these items must be brought to school with the student.

Playgrounds

- Students will be monitored for social distancing while on playgrounds.
- Hand washing/sanitizer will be available upon re-entry to building.
- Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle. For students without water, plans will be utilized to safely provide water.

Cleaning/ Hygiene

- Cleaning with approved products will target frequently touched hard, non-porous surfaces.
- Our janitorial service (ABM) will follow appropriate guidelines to ensure proper cleaning and disinfection of our campuses.
- Students and families will be provided with best practices for hygiene during the school day.
- CDC posters will be visible throughout campuses to encourage social distancing and best practices in slowing the spread of COVID.

Health Services

- School nurse will provide COVID safety training/materials to faculty and staff
- Medication for students--please call and schedule a time with the school nurse to drop it off.
- Any student with asthma **MUST** have a current Asthma Action Plan on file with the school nurse. Your physician may fax this documentation to your child's school.
- Encourage staff self-screening
- Encourage parents to screen students at home prior to sending to school
- Students or staff demonstrating COVID symptoms will be referred to their physician or the NSD Access Health Clinic ~ **Prior to returning to school, a student/staff member must meet the protocols referenced in our COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions document.**
- Students/staff who are symptomatic will be issued a mask to wear until they are picked up by a parent or leave the building.
- **Please refer to our COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions document for specific guidelines about return to school after a positive test, negative test, close contact, etc.**

PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)

- Use of masks will be **required** for students for personal safety and the safety of students/employees around them. If there is a medical reason a student cannot wear a mask, documentation from a doctor is required.
- Use of masks, plus face shields (in close contact situations), will be **required** for staff. If there is a medical reason a staff member cannot wear a mask, documentation from a doctor is required.
- Other PPE will be purchased and utilized as deemed necessary.

Dismissal

- We encourage parents to pick children up, if possible, to help lower the number of students who are riding buses.
- If a student pickup is necessary during the day, follow school-specific checkout procedures.
- Use the car rider line for student pick-up. There will be no in-person parent pick-up to avoid parent gatherings in school lobbies or in front of schools.
- If individual school dismissal plans change, you will be notified by the principal.

Athletics/Activities

- Mississippi High School Activities Association (MHSAA) and Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) guidelines will be followed.

Other General Items

- These guidelines will be updated with new information as public health data, safety precautions, and appropriate guidance is received.
- No field trips will be permitted.
- Only essential vendors will be allowed on campus.
- Cleaning/Disinfecting a classroom or area with a confirmed case:
 - Safely disinfect areas used by the person who is sick.

- Schools will not necessarily need to close operations, if an area can be effectively disinfected.
- All areas used by the person who is sick will be disinfected.
- Once an area has been appropriately disinfected, it can be opened for use.
- Continue routine cleaning and disinfection. This includes everyday practices that NSD normally utilizes to maintain a healthy environment.
- NSD has contracted with ABM (our janitorial service provider) to provide enhanced cleaning services. Surfaces in hallways, restrooms, etc. will be disinfected throughout the day. Classroom desks will be disinfected nightly.

Nettleton School District
2020-2021 School Year
COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

1. Question - **Are schools ready for traditional reopening?** Answer - Yes, educationally, teachers and administrators have plans and materials in place to begin a successful school year. In terms of campus preparation, social distancing is being kept in the forefront of classroom layouts as well as daily student activities and movement, appropriate cleaning supplies are on hand and more are on the way, appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) has been ordered for teachers and a limited supply will be available as deemed necessary for students. Daily sanitation of busses, classrooms, restrooms, hallways, cafeterias, athletic facilities, and other high traffic areas will be according to CDC guidelines using CDC approved disinfectants.

2. Question - **Are schools ready for online learning?** Answer - We will be. A number of “distance learning tools” are currently in the “onboarding phase”. Canvas has been purchased as our learning management system for grades K-12. Canvas will provide our primary platform for hybrid and distance learning. Various existing curriculum products that we currently have digital licensing for, including our ELA and Math programs will be onboarded to the Canvas platform. Several NSD teachers have conducted voluntary Canvas summer training sessions that a number of our teachers have participated in and more training will be made available as we enter our professional development days prior to the school year. Once the year begins, ongoing Canvas training will be put in place for teachers, students and parents. For teachers and students in grades 2-12, Mastery Connect has been purchased as a curriculum management enhancement tool. This tool will aid teachers and students in delivery of various online assessments, and will aid teachers in curriculum management, planning and delivery and collaboration. Mastery Connect will also function as the NSD delivery platform for TE21 item banks and benchmark assessments. While we have no “control” over the current pandemic, we believe that this time will provide some unique opportunities for NSD to transform and grow our educational delivery model and process. We intend on these changes becoming an integral part of an effort toward continuous instructional improvement within the Nettleton School District. The Mississippi Department of Education requires a minimum of 240 instructional minutes per day. All assigned work will be assessed by the teacher for grade determination.

3. Question -**What if a parent doesn’t feel comfortable sending their child to school and wants the child to participate in distance learning, but is not willing or able to provide online access from their home?** Answer - In a situation such as this, a parent will contact the school principal and make this need known. The principal and teachers will work out a solution which will enable the student to learn from home.

The Mississippi Department of Education requires a minimum of 240 instructional minutes per day. All assigned work will be assessed by the teacher for grade determination.

4. Question - **Who should I notify if my child tests positive for COVID-19?** Answer - If your child tests positive, please notify the school office immediately, so we can begin our notification process (in accordance with FERPA laws, no specific names will be shared during our notification). Parent's cooperation in immediately notifying the school will help us protect as many students and staff as possible.
5. Question - **How many individuals (students/staff) testing positive for COVID-19, would constitute the following?**
 - a. Question - **Exclusion of a group of students/staff from campus?** Answer- Depending upon the number of cases, specific students and staff may be excluded, classroom groups may be excluded, or grade levels may be excluded. If 3 or more individuals in a group test positive all members will be excluded from campus for 14 calendar days (10 school days).
 - b. Question - **Exclusion of all students/staff from a building (full building shutdown)?** Answer - If positive tests are received for 3% of the total student/staff population of a building, the building will be shut down for 14 calendar days (10 school days). If additional students/staff or household members test positive during the school shutdown period, they will follow the normal return to school protocol (see numbers 7, 8, and 9 below).
6. Question - **If a student or staff member tests positive, who will be contacted?** Answer - The parents/guardians of other students in that classroom/course will be notified that there has been a confirmed case in their child's class. In accordance with FERPA laws, no name will be shared by the school.
7. Question - **If a student or employee tests positive for COVID-19 and had symptoms, what procedure will be followed for their return to school/work?** Answer - We will follow the CDC recommendations (based on July 16, 2020 guidance) At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared **AND** at least 24 hours with no fever without fever reducing medicine **AND** symptoms have improved.
8. Question - **If a student or employee tests positive for COVID-19, but had no symptoms, what procedure will be followed for their return to school/work?** Answer - We will follow the CDC recommendations (based on August 16, 2020 guidance). The student or employee may return once 10 calendar days have passed since the test.
9. Question - **What if someone in my home tests positive for COVID-19?** Answer -We will follow the CDC recommendations (based on August 16, 2020 guidance) You

should try to try to isolate the infected person in a separate area of the home. The student/staff member should quarantine for 14 calendar days from the time the infected person began home isolation.

10. Question - **Will students be required to wear masks?** Answer - Yes, as long as the Governor's Executive Order is in place. If there is a medical reason a student cannot wear a mask, documentation from a doctor is required.
11. Question - **Will employees be required to wear face shields or masks?** Answer - yes. If there is a medical reason a staff member cannot wear a mask, documentation from a doctor is required.
12. Question - **What will be the procedure for assessments, screeners, etc. for students who are not coming to school in person?** Answer - School administrators and teachers will work with parents on an in-person assessment schedule. Some chapter and unit assessments may be available online through Canvas, but certain tests, screeners, benchmarks and state assessments will require an in-person visit to the campus. The school will ensure that a safe testing environment is made available to each student.
13. Question - **If a student or employee has had close contact with a positive case of COVID-19, if he/she gets a negative test, can he/she forgo the 14 day quarantine period?** Answer- No. Per CDC guidelines (8/16/20), regardless of a negative test, someone who has had close contact with a positive case is required to quarantine for 14 days from the last date of contact with that person. **Close contact** is defined by the CDC as being within 6 feet of an individual for at least 15 minutes.
14. Question - **If my child is excluded from the school setting, does he/she need to be quarantined?** Answer - Yes. **Quarantine** is used to keep someone *who might have been exposed to COVID-19* away from others. Quarantine helps prevent spread of disease that can occur before a person knows they are sick or if they are infected with the virus without feeling symptoms. People in quarantine should stay home, separate themselves from others, monitor their health, and follow directions from their state or local health department.

[UPDATE - Mississippi Department of Health - December 8, 2020](#)

(Implementation date for these changes in the Nettleton School District will be January 4, 2021)

Acceptable options for reduced quarantine period:

- Quarantine can end after **Day 10** without testing and if no symptoms have been reported during daily monitoring, **OR**,

- *If testing is available*, then quarantine can end after **Day 7** if an RT-PCR diagnostic specimen is negative and no symptoms were reported during daily monitoring. The specimen may be collected and tested within 48 hours (**Day 5** of quarantine) before the time of planned quarantine discontinuation, but quarantine cannot be discontinued earlier than after **Day7**.

Persons can discontinue quarantine at these time points only if the following criteria are also met:

- No symptoms of COVID-19 have been identified during the entirety of quarantine up to the time at which quarantine is discontinued.
- Daily symptom monitoring continues through quarantine day 14.
- Individuals continue to adhere strictly to mask use and physical distancing through quarantine day 14.
- They should be advised that if any symptoms develop, they should immediately self-isolate and receive testing for COVID-19.
- A negative test collected prior to 5-7 days should not be used to determine modification of quarantine.

Essential employees may be allowed to work while under quarantine as previously outlined, but should adhere to the following for a **full 14-day quarantine period**:

- Remain asymptomatic.
- Daily monitoring of temperature and symptoms.
- Always wear a mask while at work.
- Essential employees who continue to work should self-quarantine at home at all other times during their quarantine period based on the above options.

**** IMPORTANT NOTICE TO DISTANCE LEARNERS ****

On December 15, 2020, the Nettleton School Board approved the following grading policy for distance learners:

If a student does not maintain a 'C' average in ALL classes, they will be required to attend traditional (in-person) classes unless a medical professional determines that the student's health is at risk due to a medical condition.