THE SCHOOLS of Guntersville

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# Wellness and Operations Reopening Plan 2020-2021

Guntersville Elementary School

Cherokee Elementary School

Guntersville Middle School

Guntersville High School

*Important Considerations for the Wellness, Facilities, and Operations Reopening Plan:*

The Wellness and Operations Reopening Plan has been determined in conjunction with Centers for Disease Control, Alabama State Department of Education, Alabama Department of Public Health, Marshall County Health Department, and Schools of Guntersville leadership. An increase in Covid-19 rates in our area may modify our plans. Therefore, we will revisit our reopening plans periodically and communicate with stakeholders as changes occur. Your patience and understanding as we make decisions to support our students, faculty, and staff during this challenging time is greatly appreciated.

| THE SCHOOLS of Guntersville | **Transportation** |
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| **Transportation** | • Parents/Guardians are encouraged to provide private transportation for their student if at all possible or practical. This will reduce load sizes on our buses.<br><br>• Parents will be advised to monitor flu and Covid-19 symptoms and complete temperature checks prior to sending children to schools. Students with a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher or show other symptoms should not be sent to school.<br><br>• All buses will be cleaned and sanitized prior to and following daily routes.<br><br>• All students riding school buses will be required to wear a mask or face cover. Family members will be seated in the same general area. Students will be 2 per seat. Seats may be assigned.<br><br>• Bus discipline and rules will be strictly enforced to minimize personal contact between students and swift consequences will be in play for noncompliance.<br><br>• Bus Drivers will be provided with both a mask and face shield to wear.<br><br>• A child that a bus driver suspects may have symptoms will be isolated to the greatest extent practical and released to a school nurse for evaluation. |

| THE SCHOOLS of Guntersville | # Health and Wellness |
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| **General Health Information** | **Defining Close Contact/Risk Behaviors**<br>• The greatest risk for infection occurs when people are in close contact with someone with a confirmed positive case of COVID-19.<br>• Close contact is defined as being within less than 6 feet of a person for a total of 15 minutes or longer.<br>• Risk Behaviors also include having direct contact with infectious secretions of a person with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.<br>**Hand Washing/Sanitizer**<br>• Teachers and staff will model and expect enhanced hand washing and sanitizer routines throughout the school day. Students will be trained and reminded of these routines.<br>• Soap and water along with hand sanitizer will be available.<br>**Water Bottle Filling Stations**<br>• Current guidance directs schools to not use water fountains. Students are highly encouraged to have bottled water or a pre-filled water bottle from home. Water bottles may also be refilled at our schools "Water Bottle Filling Stations" as available.<br>**Social Distancing and Physical Spacing**<br>• Every effort adhering to the 6 feet/15 minute standard for close exposure.<br>• Classrooms and common areas will be arranged to provide physical spacing between students as much as possible.<br>• Student interactions in common areas and classrooms will be limited in order to minimize long-term close contact. |

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| **Health Procedures** | • ***Parents***: Monitor flu and COVID-19 symptoms Complete temperature checks prior to sending children to schools.<br><br>• ***Parents & Students:*** Students who exhibit the following symptoms should not be sent to school:<br>  • with a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher<br>  • Cough, runny nose, or sinus congestion<br>  • Trouble breathing or persistent pain/pressure in the chest<br>  • Abdominal pain or stomach ache<br>  • Diarrhea or vomiting<br><br>• ***Parents***: If aware of your child's exposure to a family member or others with Covid-19 symptoms, immediately notify the school nurse and keep the child at home until proper quarantine and testing can be completed.<br><br>• ***Employees:*** If aware of personal symptoms or exposure, they should notify their supervisor.<br><br>• ***School nurses:***<br>  If a student, staff or visitor exhibits Covid-19 symptoms, each school will have a separate health room or area to separate the individual. Covid-19 protocols are currently being provided by the State Nurse Administrator and will be used and followed.<br><br>• If Covid-19 is suspected, but not yet confirmed, heightened awareness and monitoring for potential symptoms and health issues with classmates or staff members will occur. Until there is notification the individual has tested positive for Covid-19, classes will continue as normal. |
| **Face Coverings** | • ***Employees:***<br>• Face coverings and / or face shields will be required in classrooms, to the greatest extent practicable, common areas and if contact is going to be made with anyone outside of their family for longer than 15 minutes and closer than 6 feet separation.<br><br>• Each school employee will be provided with up to 3 coverings at the beginning of the school year. |

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| | • ***Students:***<br>• Students are required to wear a mask or face covering when social distancing is not practical.<br><br>• Students who use school transportation will be required to use a face covering.<br><br>• Each student will be provided with up to 3 coverings at the beginning of the school year.<br><br>• ***Parents:***<br>• Parents should take this time to secure a face covering (mask, bandana, or scarf) your child is comfortable with, get them used to wearing it, and instruct them on how it should be worn.<br><br>• ***All Employee, Parents, and Students:***<br>• Training will be provided to teachers to help students best use the facial coverings appropriately in the school setting.<br><br>• Specific rules for the use of facial coverings will be provided during the yearly training sessions for school employees.<br><br>• Any change in the use of facial coverings will be governed by The Alabama Department of Health. |
| THE SCHOOLS of Guntersville | **Child Nutrition Program** |
| | • Creative scheduling of meal service times to maintain limited person to person contact within 6 feet.<br><br>• When a cafeteria is in use, signage and visible marking of usable seats will allow for distancing.<br><br>• Staff and students will not be allowed to self - serve food. All food will be packaged as individual complete meals meeting all of the USDA requirements for the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. |

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| | • No lunch money will be collected at any point of sale, remote feeding site or person to person.<br><br>• It is strongly recommended for parents to make student meal account payments online through www.myschoolbucks.com Drop boxes will be available at GMS and GHS for students to drop lunch account deposits.<br><br>• IF lunch money is sent to school with PK - 5th grade students, parents should send payment in a marked envelope with your child's name and teacher. ON-LINE PAYMENT is strongly recommended.<br><br>• **The Free/Reduced Meal Eligibility Application** will be only available **ONLINE**. Please apply for benefits at this link https://www.myschoolapps.com/.<br><br>• Virtual Learners will have the opportunity to participate in meal service with a one day per week meal distribution pick up at a determined location. Details will be shared with the Virtual Learners as they become available.<br><br>• In the event of a school/school building closure and a shift occurs to remote learning for traditional students due to COVID - 19, the Child Nutrition Program will offer feeding options suitable at that time. |
| THE SCHOOLS of Guntersville | **General Operations** |
| **Cleaning and Disinfecting of Buildings** | • Sanitation equipment, including additional state-of-the-art electrostatic sanitizers, will be provided.<br><br>• Teachers will be provided sanitizing supplies to clean as needed and to sanitize desks, door knobs, and other high touch areas according to school cleaning protocols between groups of students.<br><br>• Teachers will be provided with professional learning on how to fulfill these expectations. |

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| | • Each school will have specific plans to ensure that classrooms and common areas are kept as sanitary as possible.<br>• Restrooms will be sanitized multiple times daily.<br><br>• Modified and expanded cleaning schedules will be followed to ensure daily sanitation and cleanliness of facilities.<br><br>• Custodial staff will receive ongoing training in recommended cleaning guidelines issued by the Alabama Department of Public Health and the CDC. |
| **Visitors in Buildings** | • Visitors will have limited access to school campuses.<br><br>• School administrators must be consulted before planning an event or inviting a visitor to the campus.<br><br>• To minimize exposure, personal deliveries to students will be limited to medical needs only. |
| **Meetings and Large Gatherings** | • We will limit gatherings, events, and extracurricular activities to the greatest extent practicable where social distancing can not be maintained.<br><br>• ***Pep Rallies, Assemblies, Award Ceremonies:***<br>• At this point, pep rallies, assemblies, and award ceremonies are not allowed where social distancing cannot be maintained. This decision will be re-evaluated as the school year progresses.<br><br>• ***Field Trips:***<br>• Field trips are suspended until further notice. School administrators will share any updates when this may be lifted to allow field trips to be planned. Teachers may want to explore virtual field trips to provide an educational opportunity in place of traditional field trips until this situation changes. |
| **Athletics** | • Athletic events will be scheduled and regulated according to guidance provided by the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA). |
| **Social Distancing** | • We will make every effort to maintain social distancing where possible or practicable. |

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| **Sharing Supplies** | • We will emphasize that all personal items and belongings should be kept from others.<br><br>• Sharing of common supplies is discouraged and can only be safe if properly sanitized in between use. |

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