



## **Guidelines for Opening Schools**

*Amended November 17, 2020*

Please contact school staff for school-specific questions related to these guidelines.

### **Masks**

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- All students and staff are expected to wear a mask when feasible: buses, classrooms, corridors, etc.
- All staff are required to wear a mask in the presence of students if they are unable to social distance.

### **Hands**

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- Frequent hand washing breaks will take place daily in all elementary schools where students will be required to wash their hands for a minimum of 20 seconds, especially before meals, after restroom breaks, and after sneezes/coughs. Middle and high school students and employees will be reminded to wash their hands throughout the day for the same length of time.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be available throughout each building. Students and staff are also encouraged to bring hand sanitizer from home.

### **Enhanced Cleaning**

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- Schools and departments will develop a schedule for increased cleaning and disinfection. If an individual tests positive for COVID-19, an in-depth sanitation of the classroom, bus, and other areas will take place.
- Ventilation systems will be monitored on a regular basis to ensure proper operation and the increased circulation of outdoor air as much as possible.
- Traditional water fountains will be closed; water fill stations will be open if available. Students and staff are encouraged to bring water from home.

### **Health**

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- The school nurse will be the school's main COVID-19 point of contact.
- Staff and families are asked to do daily temperature checks prior to leaving for school/work.
- All will be reminded to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue and to place the tissue in the trash and immediately wash their hands.
- Periodic health screenings of students and employees may be conducted including random temperature checks if cases of COVID-19 are present.

- Students and employees with COVID-19 symptoms or a temperature of 100.4 and above will be immediately isolated and sent home. School clinics have additional PPE (personal protective equipment).
- If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, the Department of Public Health will be notified immediately for guidance on next steps, including closures. Letters will be sent home to notify parents/guardians of positive COVID-19 cases in the classroom.
- All students and staff must stay home if they have COVID-19 symptoms or tested positive for COVID-19, and self-report to the school nurse. The Department of Public Health will advise them when to return.
- The Department of Public Health will inform parents/guardians directly if their student has been in close contact with a person that has tested positive COVID-19 and will advise them how long to quarantine.
- Quarantined students will have access to their education through itslearning; FCS will not have perfect attendance awards or programs for the school year.

## School Logistics

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- Based upon classroom configuration and to the extent possible, student desks will face in the same direction and students seated at tables will sit on the same side.
- Students are encouraged to bring their own technology/devices and to not share school supplies. The sharing of items that are difficult to clean or disinfect will be discouraged.
- While ensuring the safety of children, to the extent possible, students will eat in classrooms or practice physical distancing.
- Non-essential student movement throughout the school day will be limited. Outdoor recess will be continued but the number of students gathered in one area will be limited. Some playground equipment may be prohibited for student use.
- Online meal payment in lieu of cash is encouraged.
- Nonessential visitors, volunteers and activities involving external groups or organizations will be limited. Masks and temperature checks are required for any guest entering a school/building; masks are required for visitors attending after-school athletics/activities.
- In lieu of field trips, assemblies, special performances, and school wide meetings or events, including open house and curriculum nights, virtual activities will be pursued. Parent/guardian teacher conferences will be held virtually, if possible.

## Buses

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- Masks are required for drivers and expected for students since physical distancing cannot be achieved in school buses.
- Buses will be cleaned and disinfected after every bus route. If an individual tests positive for COVID-19, an in-depth sanitation of the bus will occur.
- Parents/guardians may choose to transport children to/from school.

Public health signage will be displayed/shared in schools/buildings to reinforce guidance.

For more information visit <https://www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/open4learning>.