


# DeKalb County School's Framework for a Safe, Efficient, and Equitable Return to School

	Minimal Community Spread	Moderate Community Spread	Substantial Community Spread
<b>Class Size/Spacing Requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes to class sizes and spacing unnecessary, normal seating</li> <li>• Assemblies and field trips are prohibited</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrange all desks facing the same direction toward the front of the room with as much space between them as possible</li> <li>• Arrange desks in order to practice as much social distancing as possible</li> <li>• Classroom windows should be open when possible</li> <li>• Assemblies and field trips are prohibited</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools are closed and remote learning will take place</li> </ul>
<b>Movement Operations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No changes in movement between classes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flow in hallway can be divided with either side following the same direction</li> <li>• Efforts should be made to try and keep six feet of distance between persons in the hallways</li> <li>• Efforts should be made to limit the number of students in the hallway by staggering dismissal</li> <li>• Prohibit use of lockers and gathering in the hallway</li> <li>• Teachers should stand out in the hallway with their doors open to support continued movement and traffic flow and limit touching of door hardware</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools are closed and remote learning will take place</li> </ul>

<p><b>Protocols for screening students</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students are allowed to enter/exit the building normal procedures</li> <li>• Parents should check student's temperature at home every morning; students with a temperature of 100.4 or above should stay home</li> <li>• Parents should ask their children or monitor for any cough, congestion or shortness of breath every morning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students are allowed to enter the building at only 1-2 sites</li> <li>• Parents, delivery services and/or visitors are not allowed in the school building, only the front office</li> <li>• Schools perform temperature checks on students once per day. Car rider's temperature will be taken before exiting the car. Bus riders temperature will be taken upon exiting the bus</li> <li>• Parents should check their child's temperature at home every morning; students with a temperature of 100.4 or above should stay home</li> <li>• Parents should ask their children or monitor for any cough, congestion or shortness of breath every morning</li> <li>• Students who fall ill at school should be placed in an area of quarantine with a surgical mask in place until picked up</li> <li>• Students who have a temperature of 100.4 or above must produce negative COVID-19 results or self-quarantine for 14 days.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools are closed and remote learning will take place</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Protocols for Staff Arrival</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teachers are to enter/exit the building normal procedures</li> <li>• Teachers should check temperature at home every morning; teachers with a temperature of 100.4 or above should stay home</li> <li>• Teachers should monitor for any cough, congestion or shortness of breath every morning.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All staff should be screened with a no touch thermometer and ask COVID-19 screening questions. Those with elevated temperatures or who fail the screening questions are asked to return home.</li> <li>• Employees should wash or sanitize hands upon entering the building</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools are closed and remote learning will take place</li> </ul>
<p><b>Protocols for dining, gathering and extracurricular activities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students, teachers and cafeteria staff wash hands before and after every meal</li> <li>• Meal activities continue with normal operating procedures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students, teachers and cafeteria staff wash hands before and after every meal.</li> <li>• If possible, classrooms should be used for eating in place.</li> <li>• Students may bring in food from home.</li> <li>• School supplied/packaged meals may be used</li> <li>• Meal times can be staggered to create seating assignments</li> <li>• Disposable utensils should be used and placed on the tray by an adult</li> <li>• Serving and cafeteria staff should use barrier protection, including gloves, face shields and masks when possible</li> <li>• Grab and Go meals are highly recommended for breakfast</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools enact offsite food programs</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alternate eating meals in the classroom and in the cafeteria for lunch</li> <li>• Open selection of food such as salad bars, self-service stations, should be closed or manned by an adult to avoid multiple surface touches</li> </ul>	
<b>Gatherings and Extracurricular Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academic competitions will be considered on a case by case basis</li> <li>• After school programs are open and operating normally</li> <li>• No assemblies or off site field trips will be permitted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Off site field trips are not permitted</li> <li>• After school programs may continue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No on or off site school related activities are allowed</li> </ul>
<b>Protocols for Athletic Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All activities are allowed to continue as normal</li> <li>• Spectator events are allowed per normal procedures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weight room and physical conditioning activities should only be used with proper social distancing</li> <li>• Schools will consult with health officials and school sports governing bodies for current public health guidance on sports with close contact</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All athletics are suspended</li> </ul>
<b>Cleaning Protocols</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Routine cleaning with standard cleaning supplies</li> <li>• Efforts should be made to minimize sharing of materials between students as much as possible.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Routine cleaning with standard cleaning supplies</li> <li>• Frequently touched surfaces, including lights, doors, benches, bathrooms, etc., should undergo cleaning more frequently</li> <li>• Libraries, computer labs, arts and other hands on classrooms should undergo standard cleaning procedures per normal operating status</li> <li>• Student desks should be wiped down at the beginning of each day</li> <li>• Playground and athletic equipment can be cleaned twice daily</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools are closed and cleaning practices adjusted to maintain school buildings in clean and well-functioning order</li> </ul>

<b>Protocols for Busing and Student Transportation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• School busing operations proceed normally</li><li>• No changes to schedules on the buses</li><li>• Seating patterns are at the discretion of the driver</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Windows should be open when possible and the conditions allow</li><li>• Unloading of buses at school will be staggered to minimize mixing of students and temperature checks inside of the building</li><li>• Siblings and family members sit together</li><li>• Assign seats for students</li><li>• Seats and handrails should be wiped down daily</li><li>• Bus driver will instruct riders when it is time to unload</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All busing operations are suspended</li></ul>
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## **Framework for a Safe, Efficient, and Equitable Return to School**

This framework provides a roadmap for schools across DeKalb County to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. It is based on the most up-to-date public health recommendations given the evidence to date. It does not, however, constitute medical advice and it will need to be adapted in real time as the epidemic evolves.

### **Community Spread and School Operating Status:**

Within each of the pandemic scenarios, the virus will manifest in local communities in one of three ways at any given point in time:

1. Minimal
2. Moderate
3. Substantial

The level of community spread is the core public health input that should inform school leaders' decision making relative to school reopening. To determine the level of community spread, school leaders will have periodic discussions with local public health officials, city and county leaders to determine trends under observation and whether there are plans to change the school's reopening phase status.

### **School Opening Scenarios**

Given the coronavirus pandemic scenarios and the manifestation of community spread, there are three possibilities for school opening in the fall of 2020 and decisions should be based on public health framework for reopening:

- Schools open on time and remain open
- Schools open on time but are eventually forced to close with the possibility of reopening with hybrid classes
- Schools open on time but are eventually forced to close with remote learning

**Transportation:**

It is highly encouraged that you provide transportation for your child if at all possible. Since buses are confined spaces and social distancing guidelines may be difficult to observe, it is highly recommended that face coverings be worn. Hand sanitizer will be available on each bus. These recommendations are derived from school operating procedures and the best “reasonable standard” given feasibility constraints.

**Plan of action:**

When an individual in the school is showing signs or symptoms or has been diagnosed with COVID 19 the following are important elements of the plan:

- Immediately place a cloth face covering or surgical mask on the ill individual and move them to the place your school has identified as a safe place to isolate
- Anyone assisting the individual should put on a cloth face covering. Limit the number of people who are in direct contact with the ill.
- Ensure the individual is safe and does not need emergent medical attention.
- Notify the sick individual’s parent or guardian so they can be picked up from school
- Clean and disinfect areas where the ill individual has been while in the building.

**Additional Screening Information:**

At this time, CDC recommends temperature screening of students upon entry in any feasible situation. When screening does occur, it should comply with privacy and HIPAA requirements. Masks will be provided for staff and students. This is not a requirement at this time; however, highly encouraged. Symptom screening questions at school will include:

- Have you been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the past 14 days?
- Are you experiencing a cough, shortness of breath, sore throat or stomach symptoms?
- Have you had a fever in the last 48 hours?
- Have you had a loss of taste or smell?

COVID 19 tests are provided at no cost at the DeKalb County Health Department. Upon request the health department will issue a written test result in order for you to bring back to school.

This is an initial plan with general guidelines for a situation that is changing daily. This plan was developed using information from Center For Disease Control, Tennessee Department of Education, State and Local Health Departments and local Health Care professionals. This plan is far from inclusive and has been developed for parents to use in making a determination whether it would be in the best interests to attend school in person or participate via remote learning.

We are asking that our parents contact their child's school weekdays between 9:00 and 2:00 prior to July 22 if it is their desire for their child to participate in remote learning.

Mr. Patrick Cripps  
Director of Schools

DeKalb County Board of Education

DeKalb County Schools COVID Task Force