

# CARES Schools

## Reopening Safely Plan

### School Year 2020-2021

These have been uncommon times as the world has responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. As federal and state restrictions continue to change, we remain focused on keeping our students and staff safe. This guide has been developed with an eye toward physical safety while listening closely to national and local experts to model our plan.

## Scheduling and Academic Programming

---

**CARES Schools** plan to begin the school year on **August 17, 2020** on a traditional schedule. The schools' schedules will include a minimum of 4 hours of instructional time daily to facilitate social distancing and to accommodate the schedules of the school districts that place students in our schools.

Distance learning will be an option for parents who are not in agreement with sending their children back to school due to COVID-19 and for students who may not be able to attend school due to medical reasons and/or being quarantined. Distance learning will require a minimum of 4 hours of instruction as documented through participation in MOCA courses, i-ready, instructional packets, virtual teaching with licensed teachers and therapeutic services by licensed therapists through teletherapy.

If the traditional schedule cannot be implemented due to executive order by the governor, or by state and local officials, all students will be placed on Distance Learning Schedules.

## Technology

---

Technological devices will be made available for students who do not have devices at home in the event of moving to Distance Learning. Cares Act funds are being used to purchase hardware for students to enable us to have a device for each student. During the closures in 2019-20, we were able to provide a device for every student who did not have one. We will assist families to locate free WIFI access areas within their home school districts and in other public places, as needed.



# Health and Safety

---

## Parent Expectations

- **Do not send your child to school sick.**
- To protect others, you must check your child's temperature daily before sending him or her to school while coronavirus (COVID-19) remains a threat. If his or her temperature is **99.9 or above**, do not send him or her to school.
- If your child has been in contact with anyone suspected of having the coronavirus (COVID-19) virus or who is waiting on test results from a COVID 19 test, do not send your child to school.
- If your child is coughing and/or having any difficulty breathing, do not send him or her to school.
- If your child becomes sick while at school, you will be required to come to the school immediately to pick him or her up to avoid exposing other students.
- If your child becomes ill, he or she must remain at home for 72 hours after fever has subsided or a doctor has released him or her to return to school.
- If anyone who lives in your home has any of these symptoms, do not send your child to school.
- Your child must wear a mask to school, but we cannot guarantee that he or she will wear it during the school day.
- **A Wellness Screening Form will be sent home each day for you to complete each morning to assure us that it is safe for your child to attend school. Please complete it each morning and have him or her give it to us upon arrival to school.**
- Water fountains will not be in use. Please send a water bottle (labeled with your child's name) if possible.

## Safety Precautions for Students at School

- Temperature checks will be required before entering the school building. If your child has a temperature, you will be notified and your child will be sent back home immediately. If you transported your child, you will be required to take him or her home.
- We will have procedures in place to socially distance students from others when possible.
- Students will be asked to wash their hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Hand sanitizer will be used in the classrooms when soap and water are not readily available.
- Teachers and staff will avoid person-to-person contact such as hugging and shaking hands.
- Sanitizing wipes or spray will be available in all departments—Teachers and staff will clean student workspaces at least twice a day, including keyboards, desktops, doorknobs, and any other touch points.



- Student supplies will not be shared to avoid contamination.
- Students will be encouraged to practice good respiratory etiquette by sneezing or coughing into a tissue or the inside of his or her elbow.
- School buildings including entrances, classrooms, restrooms, offices, therapy rooms, cafeterias and all other areas where students and staff work and learn will be cleaned and disinfected daily according to the recommendations of the Center for Disease Control. Additional measures will be taken in the event that a person becomes ill at school.
- In the event that a child becomes ill at school, he or she will be isolated from others while waiting to be picked up by parents.

### School Staff Precautions

- School staff members will be required to wear masks or other cloth material that covers his or her mouth and nose when working with the students.
- School staff members will be screened daily upon arrival to work. Temperature checks will be required, and staff who have a temperature or who have been in contact with others who have COVID 19 will required to go home.
- Staff will be trained to use proper handwashing practices.
- Staff will be trained to provide proper school and classroom cleaning and sanitizing practices.
- Staff will not gather in conference rooms, break rooms or common areas to remain socially distant when possible. Meetings will be held remotely or in areas that allow social distancing.

### Visitors

At this time, we are restricting vendors, family member, or guest entry into the buildings. Any vendors entering CARES School buildings must be essential for business reasons and must be pre-approved.

## Operations

---

### Child Nutrition

Students will be socially distanced during meal times either in the cafeteria or in their classrooms. Protocols have been put in place including:

- Daily screening of all staff
- Requiring all food service staff to wear face coverings and gloves during meal preparations and/or serving of meals.



In the event of school closures, students will be able to participate in the child nutrition services being provided within their home school districts. In our residential setting, child nutrition services will continue to be provided.

## Transportation

**CARES Schools** do not provide transportation to and from school, but we will expect that all bus drivers self-screen prior to beginning their bus routes to and from our schools.

## Family and Community Support

Parents of our Day School have been contacted by phone a minimum of once weekly as we work with them to provide appropriate services for their children. Telehealth has been used throughout the spring and summer to support our students and families. Each student has had a minimum of one individual therapy session per week. Family support will continue through the 2020-21 school year through face to face therapy and teletherapy dependent on family preference and safety considerations.

## Communications

Plans have been sent to the families via email and our staff has been in contact with each family to review the plans and answer questions they may have. Staff members are on call to answer questions as concerns may arise. In addition, our plans will be posted on the CARES Schools' website ([mycanopy.org/caresschools](http://mycanopy.org/caresschools)) and on Canopy Children's Solutions Social Media platforms.

For more information about the CARES Schools Reopening Safely plan, contact 769-777-1310.

