



CARES Schools Reopening Safely Plan

School Year 2021-2022

These have been uncommon times as the world has responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. As Center for Disease Control (CDC), federal, and state restrictions and recommendations continue to change, we remain focused on keeping our students and staff safe. This guide has been developed with a focus on 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 9, 2021 on a traditional schedule. The schools' schedules will include 330 minutes of instructional time daily. Distance learning will not be an option except in the event of an emergency or weather related school closure. If distance learning is provided in either case, remote instruction will be provided for 330 minutes per day. 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 to students in the event of moving to Distance Learning. Devices are available for each student, teacher, therapist and administrator. We will assist families to locate free WIFI access areas within their home school districts and in other public places, as needed. In the event of an extended period of school closure, Hot Spots will be made available when no other options are available.

Health and Safety

Precautions

- **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 a student 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 indoors at school, but we cannot guarantee that he or she will wear it during the school day.
- **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

- Non-vaccinated 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 be required to go home.
- Staff will be required to use proper handwashing practices.

- Staff will be required to provide proper school and classroom cleaning and sanitizing practices.
- Social distancing of at least 3 feet apart be practiced to limit the potential spread of COVID 19 between staff and students.

Visitors

Visitors and guests will be screened upon entering CARES School buildings. If the screening questions indicate any risk of infection or exposure, the visitor will be asked to leave the building. We will ask that all non-vaccinated visitors and guests wear masks or cloth face coverings.

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 non-vaccinated food service staff to wear face coverings during meal preparations and/or serving of meals.

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.

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 Canopy Children's Solutions – CARES Schools website.