

REOPENING INFORMATION

- CCSD - Information Session at Clarke Central High (10/28/20) - [Presentation](#) / [Video](#)
- [CCSD - COVID-19 Health & Safety Procedures Presentation](#) / [Webinar](#) / [SPAN](#)
- [CCSD - Reopening Guidebook](#) / [SPAN](#)
- [CCSD - School Reopening Infographic](#)

HEALTH & SAFETY

Q. When will CCSD notify parents/guardians if students have to return to virtual learning due to a change in case data or local health officials' recommendations?

The district will continue to [report](#) every Friday the updated total number of COVID-19 positive cases, as well as precautionary quarantines at CCSD schools and facilities. Per the Centers for Disease Control, each indicator or combination of indicators should not be used in isolation, nor should they be viewed as hard cut-offs by school district decision-makers -- they serve as broad guideposts of inherent risk to inform decision-making. The district will continue to monitor these indicators frequently and consult the Department of Public Health officials to adjust accordingly.

Q. In the event of outbreaks within schools, how will the district decide whether to quarantine individual students, entire classes, entire grade levels, or the whole school?

CCSD will follow the Department of Public Health (DPH) guidelines for quarantine and isolation. The COVID Response Teams will conduct contact tracing to determine the appropriate action. Any identified clusters of COVID-19 within a school will be reported to the DPH and addressed per DPH recommendations. Public health data and DPH recommendations will guide a decision on school closures.

Q. Can we have school COVID positivity data available to the public (i.e., on a school's website)?

The district is committed to being transparent in communications regarding COVID and will continue to post [weekly numbers](#).

Q. Can you explain the COVID data — are the positive cases listed rolling? Cumulative?

Per recommendations from the Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control, CCSD monitors 14-day trends of cases/100k and positivity rate. The district is not looking at cumulative case counts.

Q. Why is eating in the classroom considered safe? Masks will be off, and social distancing cannot always be maintained.

We cannot eliminate all risks as we return to school. We can use the information we have to make the best decisions we can. Eating in the classroom with the same group of children is safer than eating in the cafeteria with a different, larger group of children. Social distancing during meal times is essential. Eating outside is the safest option and should be encouraged if at all possible.

Q. Can my student bring their lunch to school?

Yes.

Q. Will I be notified if someone exhibits COVID-19 symptoms in my child's classroom/school? What will the timeline be?

Yes, when we have a positive case of COVID-19 reported to the school, we will notify all families. Anyone identified as a close contact will receive an additional notification with instructions to quarantine at home for 14 days. We will provide these notifications to families as soon as possible after a positive report is received.

Q. When our school nurse becomes ill, will our school immediately be given another?

Yes.

Q. We heard a lot about students. What is the process for teachers who need to be quarantined or isolated?

It is the same process for students. If a teacher is positive for COVID, they will isolate for 10 days per Department of Public Health guidelines. If they are identified as a close contact to someone with covid, they will quarantine for 14 days.

Q. What are thoughts/plans for implementing new CDC Guidelines released last Wednesday defining "close contact" now as 15 cumulative minutes in a 24-hr period? How will this impact how CCSD defines and notifies "close contacts" for quarantining?

Over the summer, guidelines changed from 15 minutes of consecutive exposure to cumulative. This is not a new change, even though it made headlines last week. The CCSD school nurses have been conducting contact tracing using the cumulative 15 minutes since mid-July and will continue to do so as we re-enter schools. Fifteen (15) cumulative minutes with a 24-hour period does mean that there will be more quarantines.

INSTRUCTION

Q. Why is CCSD not allowing high school students to return in person on November 9? When will high school students return to in-person learning?

Since all students began the school year in a virtual environment (and delayed a month), the decision was made not to interrupt students during the middle of the semester. The current plan is for high school students to return to schools in January.

Q. What is the plan for online learning? Will students be given new teachers, new classmates? Will the teachers be from their school?

The plan for online learning will remain the same; however, students may receive new teachers to support in-person and virtual learning options based on student needs. As the presentation shared, principals selected the instructional model that meets their students' needs. If a student is moved, the school will make personal contact with the child and their family. At this time, all elementary students will be taught by teachers from their home schools.

Q. Will in-person and virtual learning assignments be the same? Will students use the same learning platforms they've been using even when they return in-person?

We will modify in-person and virtual learning based on student and teacher needs. Students will use the same learning platforms (Google classroom and iReady). Math resources include learning platforms that teachers will continue to integrate into their daily instruction.

Q. Will the attendance requirement remain the same for virtual students?

The attendance requirements will remain the same for virtual students. Students are expected to make daily contact with their teacher either through being present for synchronous instruction or turning in daily assignments through asynchronous instruction.

Q. When will the district announce a decision regarding high school students?

Late November/early December. High school students will likely return in January.

Q. Why are students marked tardy when they are in a "waiting room" to get in class or internet problems? Teachers need to be a little bit more lenient. Too much back and forth to argue with 5 or 6 teachers. Please be more understanding!

We recognize our current virtual circumstances require understanding and flexibility. Parents with concerns such as these are encouraged to reach out to their child's teacher for guidance, and additionally, the school's administration if necessary.

Q. Will there be recess?

Yes.

Q. If the in-person classes go virtual again, will my student be able to rejoin his current teacher? Will students be able to rejoin their original class in January?

Rosters established for the November 9 opening will remain intact for the remainder of the semester (January 15).

Q. Why not use the high schools to provide more space for K-8 students? Cohort groups are less than ideal.

We are not utilizing high schools because we have not determined the date for those students to return.

We are not using a cohort model because students will have transitions to special services. We will monitor where students transition, who they transition with, and develop seating charts for consistent seating assignments.

Q. Can my child eat outside regardless of the weather? Is this an option?

Schools have the flexibility to make decisions based on the needs of their community. Parents who have concerns regarding breakfast or lunch settings should reach out to their local school(s) to request such flexibility.

Q. Will there be limitations on the number of students that can use bathroom facilities at one time?

Yes.

Q. Will there be issues around schools with more returning students in a particular school and capacity? If so, what is the contingency plan?

All schools are prepared to provide instruction using their school staff. School leaders work with their teams and Principal Supervisor to determine the best instructional models and staff assignments.

Q. When a student is quarantined, how will they receive instruction and with whom? Will they stay connected to their teacher during quarantine time, or if they will simply join other online learners during that time?

They will stay connected to the teacher they were assigned on November 9th. The schools will work directly with the parents to determine the delivery model for instruction during quarantine.

Q. Will there continue to be a virtual option at the next transition point from Q2 to Q3 (Jan 15)? If yes, will it be CCSD teachers or external?

There will be a virtual option for next semester, and students taught by CCSD certified staff.

Q. Do students have to wear a uniform?

Uniform requirements are a school-based decision. School leaders will share uniform expectations with their school community.

Q. Can you share a thorough plan for SPED other than the letter or slide prepared?

Special Education plans are individualized based upon student needs. Case managers will work with parents to develop a plan for virtual and in-person support.

Q. How are ESOL services going to be provided and maintained for virtual students?

ESOL teachers are creating schedules that allow them to flex their time between in-person and virtual settings to provide support to all students on their caseload.

Q. Dividers will do little to mitigate spread but will be HIGHLY detrimental to the classroom experience. Will they be mandatory? Especially since they are not even clear on all sides. Perhaps just while students eat?

The dividers are clear on all sides, and their usage aligns with DPH and CDC guidance. If a parent feels the use of a divider is detrimental to their student, they are encouraged to contact the school.

Q. What plans are in place to cover classes if a teacher is out sick or in quarantine, and no substitutes are available? Will classes be combined?

Classes will not be combined. Substitute teachers will be utilized, and if necessary, other school/district staff. If a school has a high number of staff absent, a school may be closed and moved to online learning.

Q. Consistency for our kids has been severely lacking during this COVID era. How will the hybrid plan affect my kids - we are staying virtual. I would like to see 1 consistent learning model for my kids. This sounds like an experiment at best and should not have been implemented until 2021.

Schools are making instructional model decisions based upon the student numbers and teacher placements. Every effort is made to maintain as much consistency for students as possible. In most cases, students in the virtual setting will not experience any significant instructional delivery model changes. However, some students may receive their instruction virtually using a simultaneous model, which allows the teacher to teach students who are in-person and virtual at the same time.

Q. If the face-to-face kids end up going virtual again, can the kids remaining virtual rejoin their original classes? Will continuing virtual kids be able to rejoin their original classes in January?

Students will remain with the teacher they were assigned on 11/9. We anticipate having a virtual option again next semester. Students may be moved due to staffing and parent responses to a survey before the holiday break.

Q. What is the mode of instruction for a student that is in quarantine or isolation? What is the plan if a teacher is symptomatic? Will substitutes facilitate zoom school? Or will we switch to an asynchronous model?

Schools will make these decisions. If a teacher is symptomatic, they may continue to teach virtually at home if they are well enough to do so. A substitute can be assigned to the in-person students. If there is a widespread outbreak, the district may decide to close a school.

Q. How will chorus and PE be held when a person with mild or asymptomatic COVID-19 can put enough virus in the air to infect 970 others?

Social distancing is expected even in specials, and schools will monitor class sizes and utilize rotation and/or station teaching. Covers have been purchased for instruments in band.

Q. How will virtual students take their milestones exams? Will they be required to come to campuses?

The Georgia Department of Education provides guidelines for the administration of Georgia Milestones. Virtual administration is not an option provided by the DOE, and therefore students will need to complete the assessment on site.

Q. What's the deadline for principals to communicate detailed plans and new class assignments?

Schools will be sharing student placement information with parents during parent-teacher conferences when possible. However, with the deadline of October 30 for final decisions regarding virtual or in person, some adjustments may be needed. With this in mind, contact with parents regarding placement may not happen until the week of November 2.

OPERATIONS

Q. Have any modifications been made to classrooms to make it safer for staff and students?

All air systems have been reviewed, and filters are regularly changed, fresh air is blown throughout all of our buildings, cleaning and sanitizing is done daily, and deep cleaning on the weekend. PPE will be provided to any student or staff.

Q. Will all classrooms be utilized in the building to accommodate small classrooms? This is important to help students continue to social distance throughout the day and remain 6 feet apart.

Schools will use all classroom spaces and staff to minimize the number of students in the classroom.

Q. Will hotspots still be provided for students who remain in virtual learning?

Hotspots will be provided for students who remain in virtual learning.

Q. Do all students have dividers?

All students in grades K-5 will have dividers.

Q. Why do middle schools not get dividers?

The district will look into providing dividers for middle school students.

Q. Will staff be held to the same safety protocol expectations? As a teacher, I have witnessed some staff members not wearing masks properly for weeks now, which is very concerning to me.

All staff will be required to adhere to all safety guidelines.

Q. Are the PPE and supply closets stocked at this very moment in every school? Parents have had to supply soap and hand sanitizers in non-COVID years, and now it is impossible to find PPE and certain sanitizing supplies.

The Operations Department is distributing (and maintaining the supplies of) PPE to all of the schools.

Q. How will you ensure high school students who do not have access to pick-up meals get their meals after Nov 9?

We are working on how we can continue to deliver meals to high school students.

Q. Will you be preparing curbside meals in high school locations to reduce exposure to high-risk students?

Currently, high schools are not used as food preparation sites.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Q. Will the district pay for long term health care if a teacher contracts COVID while in the classroom and has long term health effects?

No.

Q. We do not have enough staff to monitor these tracing protocols. Is the district hiring people to do this?

The district hired a temporary employee to assist with contact tracing, and additional temporary workers will be hired if necessary.

Q. Will the district be hiring additional teachers and staff to reduce class sizes? The need for smaller classes and distancing is likely to continue for the foreseeable future.

At this time, the district does not foresee a need to hire additional teachers. To maintain social distancing, 16 students is the ideal number for elementary classes. However, some schools have larger rooms and may be able to accommodate more students. Approximately 30% of students are remaining virtual, which will reduce the number of students in the classroom. Building staff will work within a grade to help to reduce class size.