



OCS Reopening Plan

Information provided in this document is based on the infection rate of the City of Opelika as of the publication date of this document. An increase in the COVID-19 rate in the local area may modify our plans. The Opelika City Schools (OCS) will follow the guidelines provided by the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) and the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) as feasible. We will revisit our reopening plan frequently and communicate with our teachers, students, and parents as changes occur. Thank you for your patience and flexibility as we make decisions to support our students in this ever-changing environment.

- ★ Opelika City Schools students will return to in-person traditional school on August 9, 2021. Our priorities are the health and safety of students and staff and providing traditional academic instruction to prepare students for the challenges of the 21st-century workplace.
 - OCS will focus on making decisions that are practical and feasible with a student-centered approach.
 - Flexibility will be important as we transition back to the traditional school setting. Instructional adjustments may need to be made over the course of the 2021-2022 school year.
 - All students will follow the OCS school calendar. Any changes about school reopening will be communicated prior to the start of school.
 - Communication from OCS will occur through the following methods: OCS email, OCS website (www.opelikaschools.org), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and School Messenger.

Health and Safety Protocols

- ★ Precautions will be implemented including, but not limited to:
 - Parents are requested to complete temperature checks prior to sending children to the school building. Students with a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher should not report to school.
 - Students and staff should remain home if they are sick.
 - Hand-sanitizing and hand-washing stations will be available throughout each school.
 - Focused cleaning will be completed throughout all buildings.
 - Reusable face coverings will be available for students if requested.
 - Masks are **not required** inside school buildings (*updated 1-31-22*).



Academic Instruction

★ School Instruction

- Daily instruction will be provided for all students in-person while adhering to additional safety guidance related to handwashing and cleaning.

Operations

★ Visitors

- We are returning to normal school visitor policies. All visitors are asked to register at the front office.

★ Health Services

- Handwashing breaks using soap and water will be provided where feasible.
- Hand-sanitizer will be available in all classrooms and common areas.
- School nurses will assist and provide medical support to students.

★ Procedures for a confirmed case of COVID-19

- If a positive test for COVID-19 occurs in a school building with a student or staff member, the Alabama Department of Public Health will notify all close contacts directly and provide instructions related to quarantine or isolation.

COVID-19 is a required reportable infection by law.

- A quarantined student/staff member with COVID-19 will follow current ADPH guidance.
- Potential school closure will be based on the level of risk determined by the school/district.

★ School Nutrition

- Pre-plated meals will be available.
- A contactless payment system (www.myschoolbucks.com) will be implemented.
- Additional lunch waves will be implemented to limit group sizes where feasible.
- Enhanced cleaning protocols will be implemented.
- Cafeteria staff will maintain compliance with ALSDE and ADPH when preparing and serving food.

★ Transportation

- Students are encouraged, but not required to wear face masks/facial coverings when loading the bus and during the transition to and from school buildings.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided on each bus.
- Parents are encouraged to drop-off and pick-up students to lower bus capacity.
- Buses will be cleaned daily.

Publication Date-June 23, 2021

Updated-July 27, 2021

Updated-April 5, 2022



★ Extended Day Programs

- Extended Day programs will continue at all OCS elementary schools and Opelika Middle School.

Please submit any comments or questions related to the OCS Reopening Plan to questions@opelikaschools.org