



Habersham County Schools Covid-19 Response Plan

This document was developed based on guidance from the Georgia Department of Education and Georgia Department of Public Health’s *Guidance for Georgia K-12 Schools and School Based Program (June 2021)*. This document is intended to serve as guidance for Habersham County Schools; however, all Habersham County schools have the authority and flexibility to meet their individual needs.

	Temporary Closures	Response and Prevention
<i>Instructional Model</i>	The Superintendent has established a COVID-19 Response Team. This response team will review relevant data and consult with the Georgia Department of Public Health in order to make recommendations regarding the closing of a specific school, schools or system.	<i>Traditional Instruction</i>
	Learning from Home – Implement targeted Learning from Home for a particular school, schools or system as necessary.	Traditional Instruction – <i>school buildings open with implementation of more intensive mitigation strategies; enhanced social distancing</i>
<i>General Preventative Strategies</i>	School Buildings Closed – School buildings will continue to be cleaned and sanitized.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Parents are required to monitor the health of their child before sending them to school each day. Students should be free from any COVID-19 symptoms before being placed on a school bus or brought to school. In addition to parent monitoring, middle and high school students should self-monitor before attending school each day (See Is Your Child Well Enough to Attend School? at the end of this document.).</i> • <i>School staff will monitor students for COVID-19 symptoms.</i> • <i>School staff will teach and reinforce good hygiene practices.</i> • <i>Handwashing breaks will be instituted and hand sanitizer will be made available throughout the schools.</i> • <i>Students may bring water from home.</i> • <i>The use of face coverings is allowed for those staff and students who choose to do so.</i> • <i>Custodial staff will focus on sanitizing high touch areas throughout the facility.</i> • <i>Additional cleaning and sanitizing procedures implemented.</i>
<i>Transportation</i>	Bus Transportation not provided due to schools being closed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Increased ventilation of busses</i> • <i>Drivers and students may wear face coverings if desired.</i>



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<i>School Buildings</i>	School Buildings Closed Deep cleaning and sanitizing performed during the closure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Parents may request virtual meetings with teachers and administration rather than in person meetings.</i>
<i>Meals</i>	School Buildings Closed Serve drive-thru meals at 8 elementary schools for students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Standard operating procedures with preventative measures in place</i>
<i>Classrooms</i>	School Buildings Closed – Learning from Home Plan in effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Maximize classroom space where possible.</i>
<i>Virtual Option</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Parent/guardian of a student with a serious health issue or who does not feel safe sending their child back to school may request a virtual learning option. Parents need to contact the child’s principal to discuss the virtual schooling option.</i>
<i>Specific School Closures</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Superintendent has established a COVID-19 Response Team. This response team will review relevant data and consult with the Georgia Department of Public Health in order to make recommendations regarding the closing of a specific school, schools or system. A school will not close for a single case. A school closure will be based on the level of spread in the community or in a specific school and on the availability of staff in a particular school.</i> 	



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Is your child well enough to attend school?

Parents should monitor the health of their child daily before attending school. Each morning, parents should check their child's temperature and answer the following questions of each child attending school.

1. Has your child experienced any of the symptoms below in the last 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications?
 - Fever greater than 100.4° F? YES NO
 - Cough? YES NO
 - Chills? YES NO
 - Shortness of breath? YES NO
 - Muscle Aches? YES NO
 - Sore throat? YES NO
 - New loss of taste or smell? YES NO
2. Within the past 10 days has your child received a positive test result for COVID-19? YES NO
3. Is your child awaiting a test result for COVID-19? YES NO
4. Has your health provider recommended your child stay home for any reason? YES NO

If your child's temperature is less than 100.4° F **and** the answer is NO to all questions above, your child is cleared for school attendance.

If your child's temperature is greater than 100.4° F **or** the answer is YES to any of the above questions, please keep your child home from school and contact the school nurse.

When a Student Becomes Ill at School

If the student has symptoms that could be related to COVID-19 such as **fever greater than 100.4° F, cough, chills, shortness of breath, muscle aches, sore throat, and new loss of taste or smell.**

- School staff will monitor the student in a designated location.
- Staff will provide the student with a face covering unless he/she is having difficulty breathing or has a chronic condition that prevents the use of face coverings.
- The parent or guardian will be contacted to pick up the child from school.
- The parent or guardian may choose to seek medical advice from health care provider.
- The student must be symptom free for 24 hours before returning to school.

School Response to student or staff member who is waiting on Covid-19 test results

- The student or staff member must self-isolate at home when exhibiting symptoms of Covid-19 and waiting on test results.



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School Response to a student or staff member who tests positive for COVID-19

When the school receives information regarding a positive case of COVID-19, the following process will be implemented.

- The student or staff member must self-isolate a minimum of 10 days from testing date or onset of symptoms. The individual must be fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication before returning to school.

School Response to student or staff exposed to COVID-19

- Any Habersham County Schools student or staff member who has been exposed to COVID-19 must quarantine from the date of exposure for either 10 days or for 7 days if they are tested on day 5-7 and receive a negative test result. Students and staff must be fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication and symptoms improving.
- Any student or staff member who may have been exposed in another setting and has been directed by a qualified health care professional or agency to self-isolate must comply with those directives.
- Any person who has been fully vaccinated is not required to quarantine due to exposure to a positive case unless they develop symptoms.

NOTE: This COVID-19 Response Plan is subject to change at any time. The school system will monitor daily the COVID-19 status of our community and will adjust to additional guidance from the Georgia Department of Education, The Georgia Department of Public Health or the Governor's Office.

***Additional guidance and information regarding COVID-19 can be found at <https://dph.georgia.gov/> or contact the COVID-19 Hotline at (844) 442-2681.**