



# TOGETHER TROJANS

## RETURN-TO-SCHOOL PLAN

### 2020-2021

Carrollton City Schools has approved a detailed plan outlining return-to-school protocols for the 2020-2021 school year beginning in August. Throughout the process, we have relied on guidance from the Georgia Department of Education, Georgia Department of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as our local and state leaders. We will continue to finalize a model that supports academic success while prioritizing the health and safety of our students, staff and community. At this time, we will continue to assess the plan with **four key areas** in mind:

- **MEALS** - Schools play a vital role in helping students establish healthy eating behaviors by providing nutritious and appealing foods and beverages. CCS will continue to provide student meals by implementing modifications to daily service to protect the safety and welfare of all students and staff.
  - Prepare individually-wrapped meals for breakfast and lunch.
  - Serve meals in classrooms and/or locations that promote social distancing until further notice.
- **TRANSPORTATION** - School bus services are critical to providing quality education to all children. School buses are designed with safety in mind and the following measures will be implemented to reduce the transmission of disease for students who use them:
  - Monitor students for symptoms and enforce good hygiene habits.
  - Require staff and students to wear face masks on all bus routes.
  - Provide hand-sanitizing stations on each bus.
  - Wipe down buses after every route.
  - Disinfect buses after morning and evening routes.
  - Open windows during bus routes.
- **SOCIAL DISTANCING** - These measures are intended to prevent the spread of any contagious disease by maintaining a physical distance between people and reducing the number of times people come into close contact with each other. CCS will implement the following practices to support social distancing during the school day:
  - Require face coverings for staff, students and visitors during school hours and bus transportation. Schools will build in regular “mask breaks” during the day when appropriate social distancing is achievable. This requirement will be



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sensitive to the needs of students and staff with medical issues that make wearing a face covering inadvisable.

- Configure classroom space to allow for social distancing.
  - Stagger use of communal spaces.
  - Limit the transitions of students during the school day as much as possible.
  - Limit large group gatherings, events, and extracurricular activities.
  - Reschedule all field trips for later in the year.
  - Limit the amount of visitors to all schools.
  - Limit sharing of student supplies, equipment and technology in classrooms.
- **PERSONAL HYGIENE-** Good personal hygiene helps prevent the spread of disease. Several measures will be implemented to protect the health of students and staff on school campuses:
    - Monitor students and visitors for signs and symptoms of illness.
    - Teach and reinforce hygiene best practices including hand washing continually.
    - Disable water fountains in schools and use alternate water options for students.
    - Require routine disinfection of classrooms and work areas and provide consistent cleaning expectations for staff.
    - Clean and sanitize bathrooms routinely and all other common areas throughout the day in addition to the regular cleaning schedule.
    - Provide sufficient cleaning supplies to all areas and hand sanitizing stations in classrooms and high-traffic areas.

CCS will implement the above protocols in coordination with the [Georgia Department of Education's Pathway to Recovery for K-12 Schools](#) to effectively navigate the reopening of schools. Staff will be trained to effectively support the four key focus areas above to ensure compliance with key safety measures.

### RESPONDING TO COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

The success of mitigating the spread of COVID-19 will depend greatly on the partnership with parents to daily monitor symptoms before sending students to school. According to the CDC, people with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:



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- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Any staff or student exhibiting the above symptoms should stay at home. If a staff member, child, or visitor becomes sick, the following protocols will be followed per guidance from the Department of Public Health:

- An isolation room or area will be identified and used to separate anyone who exhibits COVID-like symptoms.
- Areas used by a sick person will be closed off with no further use until cleaning and disinfection of the space occurs.
- Symptomatic persons with confirmed COVID-19 or suspected COVID-19 can return to school after:
  - At least 24 hours have passed since recovery defined as fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medications AND improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); AND, at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- Asymptomatic persons with confirmed COVID-19 can return to school after:
  - At least 10 days have passed since the positive laboratory test and the person remains asymptomatic.

*Note: Asymptomatic persons who test positive and later develop symptoms should follow the guidance for symptomatic persons above*
- Individuals who are sick with a non-related COVID-19 illness should not return to school until they no longer exhibit symptoms (must be fever-free for 24 hours without any fever reducer medication) or have been cleared by a medical professional.



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CCS will keep a daily log of teachers, staff, and students who a) did not attend school due to COVID-19-related illness or b) were sent home due to displaying COVID-19 symptoms and report cases to local public health officials.

### COMMUNICATION

CCS will follow the guidance of local health officials when there is a positive case of COVID-19 identified at school and will provide appropriate classroom communications to those impacted. Individual communications will be made to “close contacts” of a person who has tested positive for the virus as defined by and in accordance with the Department of Public Health. Communications will be consistent with applicable law and privacy policies, including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

### RETURN TO SCHOOL LEARNING SCENARIOS

In addition to the key focus areas above, CCS is prepared to open schools based on the proposed 2020-2021 school calendar under one of the following four scenarios. **CCS plans to open schools following the LEVEL TWO protocol until it is deemed safe to operate under a less restrictive environment.**

- **LEVEL ONE:** A traditional school setting with no restrictions.
- **LEVEL TWO:** On-campus learning model that minimizes large group settings and implements social distancing measures and robust cleaning and hygiene practices.
- **LEVEL THREE:** Modified on-campus model that includes at-home learning to minimize the number of students on campus at one time.
- **LEVEL FOUR:** Campus will be closed and at-home learning will be implemented for all students.

CCS will utilize local health officials and Georgia DOE guidance when considering a change in learning scenarios, school closures and mitigation strategies. We maintain flexibility to implement strategies and adopt instructional models that best serve our students, teachers and community.



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### **AT-HOME LEARNING OPTION**

Regardless of which scenario Carrollton City Schools employs, we acknowledge that some families will remain concerned about the impact of COVID-19 on their children and families with school reopening. The At-Home Learning Plan for the 2020-2021 school year is a robust, online option developed to accommodate families who elect this learning option due to COVID-19 concerns, particularly those whose students are medically compromised. A major commitment from families will be needed to support this learning model and ensure a student's success. Parents who elect this option will be required to sign an at-home learning contract with their child's school outlining each party's responsibilities in this learning model. The curriculum will be delivered using an online platform aligned to learning standards in the student's assigned courses and paced to match the classroom setting.

- Online platform will include both Edgenuity & Google Classroom.
- Online instructional alignment allows for a seamless transition to in-person classroom instruction.

Each family will be assigned an At-Home Learning Facilitator. The facilitator will be a liaison between home and school to ensure that communication is seamless. Facilitators will fully support the technology aspects of online learning while the classroom teachers will support the academic and instructional aspects. Facilitators will contact students and families weekly.

- At-Home Learning Facilitator - Provides technical support for online learning.
- Classroom teachers - Provide limited academic support, feedback for completed work, and grading.

Please understand that contact hours for support will be on a scheduled basis.

- At-Home Learning Facilitators will provide support to students and families through Google Meets and/or phone calls once per week. The initial contact will provide specifics to availability including their planning time and after school from 3:00-4:00 pm, Monday through Thursday.
- Since traditional in-person school requires full-time planning and instruction, classroom teachers will only respond to academic and instructional support requests from families once weekly.





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Our goal is for all students to return to campus; therefore, students who begin the school year choosing the at-home learning option are not required to remain in this model for a designated time period. School administrators will work with families who wish to transition back to the in-person learning environment. Parents must elect either at-home or in-person learning as there will be no hybrid option.

Anyone planning to participate in At-Home Learning should notify your child's principal preferably by July 31, or as soon as possible.

We recognize some of these scenarios are less than ideal for instruction and we believe in-person instruction continues to be the most effective model. If a non-traditional school scenario is required, we will do so with the assumption it will be temporary and only during a period when public health or state officials advise against districtwide, in-person instruction.

As guidance from state and federal agencies continues to evolve based on patterns with infection rates and other critical variables, Carrollton City Schools will continue to consult with state and local health officials while monitoring local conditions to make appropriate adjustments to the reopening plan. In doing so, the safety of students, faculty and staff will continue to be the top priority.

If you have questions regarding the information in this document, please contact your child's school. To stay up to date on the reopening plans and any changes to the 2020-2021 school year, please visit us at [www.carrolltoncityschools.net](http://www.carrolltoncityschools.net).

### **SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Carrollton Elementary School: 770-832-2120

Carrollton Upper Elementary School: 770-830-0997

Carrollton Junior High School: 770-832-6535

Carrollton High School: 770-834-7726

### **REOPENING PLAN SUMMARY**

[\(EN ESPANOL\)](#)

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

[\(EN ESPANOL\)](#)