

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

SCHOOL SCHEDULES / HOURS:

- Each Rankin County School District school will begin on Friday, August 6, 2021.
- The Rankin County School District's bell schedules for the 2021-2022 school year will be closely aligned with bell schedules used prior to 2020. The begin and end times for each school will be posted on the websites. The full bell schedules will be shared with parents and students via Google Classroom/Canvas.
- Due to the Mississippi Department of Education ending the one-year waiver on minimum instructional minutes per day, there will not be reduced days on Wednesday during the 2021-2022 school year.

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

MASKS:

- Currently, there are no state mandates regarding the wearing of masks for Mississippi school districts. (The RCSD will notify parents/guardians if any mandates are issued by the Governor during the school year.)
- **Indoors:** The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) recommends universal indoor masking for all students, staff, teachers, and visitors regardless of vaccination status. The RCSD highly recommends the wearing of masks but will allow the parents/guardians of students and employees to make the decision related to the wearing of masks. **Exception: See Transportation.**

* See Quarantining/Close Contact section to learn how masks can limit quarantining and the number of quarantining days.

- **Outdoors:** Per the guidance of MSDH, in general, people do not need to wear masks outdoors, but masks should be considered in crowded outdoor settings or during activities of close prolonged contact with other students/teachers.
- **If a location has more than 10% of their population quarantined, masks while indoors will be required for a minimum of 10 days for that location.**

SOCIAL DISTANCING:

- Per guidance from the MSDH, schools should maintain at least 3 feet of social distance between students within classrooms settings, when feasible.
- MSDH recommends at least 6 feet of physical distancing in all other indoor circumstances, when feasible.
- This guidance is made with an understanding of the potential physical constraints and other barriers in

classroom settings when providing in-person classes for all students.

OTHER IMPORTANT HEALTH / SAFETY REMINDERS:

- Parents/guardians should perform a daily at-home screening assessment of their child(ren)'s health before leaving home including:
 - » Check student's temperature before they leave home. When they have a temperature of 100 degrees F (38 degrees C) or higher, they should stay at home. Students should be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school.
 - ~ If your child feels unwell, or has any of the following symptoms, please do not allow him or her to come to school and contact your healthcare provider:
 - ~ People with these symptoms may have COVID-19: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and/or diarrhea. (When they do not pass the daily at-home screening examination, they should stay at home.)
 - » Employees should perform a daily at-home screening assessment also.
- Families should self-report symptoms of illnesses to the school nurse. Students should stay home if they are sick.
- A nurse will be assigned to every campus.
- Everyone should practice good hygiene measures such as hand washing often with soap and water for 20 seconds, use of hand sanitizer when applicable, and covering coughs and sneezes.
- Faculty and staff will assist in monitoring students for symptoms and will refer anyone with symptoms to the school nurse/school designee for evaluation.
- Hand sanitizer will be available on all buses, in hallways, classrooms, and at school entrances and exits. Hand soap and paper towels will be in bathrooms.
- Teachers will have cleaning supplies in their classrooms for the disinfection of high touch surfaces during the school day.

ISOLATION, CONTACT TRACING, AND QUARANTINE (PER THE GUIDANCE OF THE MSDH)

ISOLATION/CONTACT TRACING:

- Isolation areas will be set up to quarantine students with symptoms.
- Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 should be excluded from the school setting and remain in isolation for a full 10 days from the onset of symptoms and are fever free for 24 hours (or excluded for 10 days from the date of the test if asymptomatic).