

# **DODGE COUNTY SCHOOLS**

## **2021-2022**

**We are all about DODGE:**

**Dedicated to  
Our  
Desire to  
Graduate  
Everyone**



**Success leading to graduation is a portal to lifelong learning!**

### **Dodge County Schools**

720 College Street  
Eastman, Ga 31023  
478-374-3783

**Superintendent: Dr. Susan W. Long**

#### **Dodge Pre-K**

401 Harrell Ave  
Eastman, Ga 31023  
478-374-6499

Director: Mrs. Keri Lancaster

#### **North Dodge Elementary**

167 Orphans Cemetery Rd  
Eastman, Ga 31023  
478-374-6690

Principal: Dr. Sheila Honeycutt  
Asst Principal: Mrs. Dana Lowery

#### **South Dodge Elementary**

1118 McRae Hwy  
Eastman, Ga 31023  
478-374-6691

Principal: Mr. Russell Bazemore  
Asst Principal: Ms. Dana Brown

#### **Dodge County Middle**

5911 Oak St  
Eastman, Ga  
478-374-6492

Principal: Mrs. Marcie Jones  
Asst Principal: Dr. Jennifer Bellflower  
Asst Principal: Ms. Juaquita Williams

#### **Dodge County High**

350 Pearl Bates Rd  
Eastman, Ga 31023  
478-374-7711

Principal: Mrs. Pamela Melvin  
Asst Principal: Ms. Brande Vaughn  
Asst Principal: Mr. Wayne Cadwell  
Asst Principal/CTAE Director: Mr. Richard Gay

#### **Dodge Achievement Center**

1400 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr  
Eastman, Ga 31023  
478-374-4756

Director: Dr. Patricia Connell

# BACK TO SCHOOL PLAN 2021-2022

We are continuing to watch the current COVID situation very closely. Dodge County Schools request your help in ensuring that any student that is sick remains at home until the student meets the return-to-school guidance for any illness. Our goal is to operate the school safely with in-person instruction, and we have been making every effort to keep our students, faculty, and staff healthy.

**Please review the following information to know for 2021-2022:**



Based on the Governor's decision through Executive Order to end the Public Health State of Emergency on June 30, 2021, we are returning to pre-pandemic school operations for the 2021-22 school year, which begin for students Aug. 4, 2021.

1. **Masks are highly recommended and encouraged.** Students and staff are encouraged and recommended to follow the CDC guidelines regarding mask usage. If a close contact individual and confirmed-positive individual are both wearing a mask, the close contact may return to school wearing a mask if no symptoms are present. The close contact should monitor symptoms and contact his or her healthcare provider if symptoms occur. The confirmed-positive individual needs to continue following CDC/DPH guidance. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/index.html>
2. **Everyone is encouraged to practice proper hygiene.** Students and staff should self-monitor for Covid-19 symptoms daily.

3. **Visitors are welcome back into the schools, but may need to wear masks and have temperature checked.** Visitors should self-monitor for Covid-19 symptoms prior to entering the facilities and attending any extra-curricular events. Please contact the principal or director of your student's school if you have questions.
4. **Exposed staff or students who have been vaccinated will NOT be required to quarantine, if the person has no symptoms or no positive test. Exposed staff or students wearing a mask will NOT be required to quarantine IF the person who is positive was also wearing a mask when the exposure occurred, and have no symptoms.** If a child is running a fever or exhibiting other COVID-19 symptoms at school, a parent will be contacted to pick up the child after assessment from the school nurse. Students with COVID-19 symptoms will be separated while waiting for their parents. This is the same State-mandated practice DCSS follows for other serious communicable diseases

*\*DPH Defines Close Contact/EXPOSURE as 3 feet or Less for 15 Minutes or Longer*

5. **Students or staff who test positive for COVID-19** will continue to follow Department of Public Health guidelines. See CDC/DPH guidelines below.
6. **COVID-19 vaccinations are not required for employees or students, but are encouraged and recommended.** The Dodge County Health Department and many local healthcare providers have COVID-19 vaccines readily available. There are **no plans to host COVID-19 vaccination events at DCSS schools or offices.**
7. The school calendar can be found at  
[http://www.dodge.k12.ga.us/UserFiles/Servers/Server\\_59740/File/Dodge%20County%20Schools%20Approved%20Calendar%202021-2022%20.pdf](http://www.dodge.k12.ga.us/UserFiles/Servers/Server_59740/File/Dodge%20County%20Schools%20Approved%20Calendar%202021-2022%20.pdf)

## **School Closure**

DCSS will determine partial or total closures under direction and guidance of the Department of Public Health and the local Health Department. In the event the Governor issues an executive order to close schools at any time during the 2021-2022 school year, or if schools close due to the spread of COVID-19, the system-wide eLearning model will be utilized for all students in grades K-12. Dodge Pre-K has specific procedures set forth by Bright from the Start that will be shared with parents if a closure occurs. This protocol will remain in effect in the event of a short term closure for any reason, including weather days.

## **Communication**

Back-to-school communication will be shared through, but not limited to, the DCSS Facebook page and each School's Facebook Page, district and school websites, One-Call Now, and the *Dodge County News*.

## **Attendance**

All perfect attendance awards, school monthly attendance awards, exam exemption based on attendance, and all other attendance incentives will be reinstated for the 2021-2022 school year.

Dodge County Schools will enforce the attendance procedures and policies required by the Georgia Department of Education. Information can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gadoe.org/wholechild/Pages/Student-Attendance-Guidance.aspx>

## **Extracurricular Activities (Including Athletics)**

According to recommendations from the Georgia High School Association (GHSA) and guidance from the Department of Health, extracurricular activities will continue as regularly scheduled for the 2021-2022 school year. DCS encourages all participants and spectators to follow Georgia Department of Public Health guidance during each event.

<https://www.ghsa.net/>

<https://dph.georgia.gov/>

## **Safety Protocols**

To help prevent the spread of infection and viruses, the following measures will be put in place:

- A nurse is available at each school.
- Staff and students are agreeing that by virtue of coming to school, they do not have a temperature of 100.3 degrees or higher and do not have any symptoms of illness.
- Parents should pre-screen students before sending them to school or bus stops. Any student with a measured temperature of 100.3 degrees or higher should not be sent to school.
- Schools and all facilities, buses, and gyms will be sprayed and cleaned and disinfected frequently.
- Schools will be cleaned daily using safe and approved viracides and techniques.
- Heating and AC units will be continuously maintained to ensure safe ventilation of spaces.
- If staff or students are sick, they must stay home. If students or staff come to work sick, they will be immediately sent home. Sick students will be quarantined in an isolation room until parent pick up.
- Ample hand sanitizer and hand soap will be available throughout the schools for proper hand hygiene.
- Frequent hand washing will be encouraged for students.
- Social distancing will occur when possible.
- Every classroom will have hand sanitizer. Hand sanitizer stations will also be available throughout the schools.

## **Transportation**

To help prevent the spread of infection and viruses, the following measures will continue on buses:

- Bus drivers and monitors will self-evaluate health each day prior to reporting to work.
- Drivers and monitors will be required to wear masks during each route.
- Buses will be sprayed with disinfecting spray each day prior to each route.
- Bus drivers will let down every other window on the bus before each route (weather permitting) for ventilation on the buses.

- Students will have assigned seats, and siblings will sit together.
- All students will be offered hand sanitizer as soon as they step on the bus.
- Students are required to wear masks while on the bus.
- Students will be asked to socially distance as much as possible.
- All students will be asked to sit facing the front of the bus.
- If parents are uncomfortable with any of the above information, they should consider driving their students to and from school.

## Updated Guidance from CDC and DPH-July 2021

### Students Who Have Been Tested for COVID-19

Scenarios	Procedures
Positive Test with Symptoms	Student can return after: (1) At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared, AND (2) At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of medication, AND (3) Symptoms have improved.
Positive Test with NO Symptoms	Student can return after at least 10 days have passed since the student was tested IF the student does not develop any symptoms. If a student does develop symptoms, he/she should follow guidance for students with symptoms (above).

### Students Who Have Been in Close Contact with Positive Case

Scenarios	Procedures
<b>Unvaccinated</b> student with Known Exposure	(1) Student may return to school once he/she tests (Antigen or PCR) on day 5 with negative results, returning on day 7, <b>AND</b> (2) Student develops NO symptoms, <b>AND</b> (3) Student tests negative for COVID-19 when tested no earlier than 5 days after exposure <b>OR</b> (1) At least 10 full days have passed since exposure, <b>AND</b> (2) Student develops no symptoms.
Vaccinated student with Known Exposure	Student is not required to quarantine if it has been at least 14 days since the completion of the COVID-19 vaccination series. *Close contact decisions will be made and communicated by the DPH and the South Central Health District.

**Please stay up-to-date with procedures and recommendations from the CDC and the Georgia Department of Public Health at the following sites:**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

<https://dph.georgia.gov/>

We look forward to welcoming students and staff back in August and will adjust our plans to adhere to state guidelines as needed. The mission of Dodge County Schools is to produce high-achieving students, and safety is our number one priority. Dodge County Schools remain committed to the

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safety and education of our students and the safety of our staff. We are eager to get back to school and to see our students! We welcome your questions and appreciate your support as we continue to make the best decisions possible.