Stephens County School System
2022-2023 COVID-19 Response Plan

Stephens County School System looks forward to welcoming our teachers/staff and students back for the 2022-2023 school year. The safety of our students, staff, and families is the top priority of our school system. Please see our COVID-19 Response Plan below. The district will continue to use local data to inform decision-making. We will adjust procedures if necessary and communicate those changes as they occur.

Prevention Practices	• School nurses will be the main point of contact for COVID-19 at each school. • Parents/Guardians are asked to monitor the health of their child and keep children home if they are ill. • Parents/Guardians are asked to contact the school immediately if their son or daughter tests positive for COVID-19. • Parents/Guardians whose student exhibits symptoms and have chosen to have the student tested, SHOULD NOT send him/her back to school until they receive a negative test result. Students cannot attend school while they await test results. • Encourage social distancing measures as much as possible. • Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread of COVID-19. • Hand sanitizer will be provided. • Masks optional. • Enhanced Cleaning and disinfecting will take place at all facilities. • Impacted areas/classrooms will be isolated and deep cleaned. • A protocol for students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms when at school will be implemented.
Transportation	• Hand sanitizer will be provided on buses. • Frequently touched surfaces on buses will be cleaned after each route. • Buses will be sanitized after each route.

Support for Teaching and Learning	• Limit sharing of supplies. • Encourage social distancing. • Use of hand sanitizer in classrooms. • Clean/disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
Student/Staff tests positive for COVID	• Following DPH and CDC guidelines, it is recommended that those who test positive for COVID-19 stay home a minimum of 5 days, from test date or onset of symptoms **AND** be fever-free for 24 hours with other symptoms improving before returning to school/work. • Absences for positive students should be excused with a parent or doctor's note. • Staff members with COVID-19 are required to use sick leave.
Student/Staff who become sick at school	• Symptoms will be evaluated by the school nurse, and based on this evaluation, staff members may be sent home. • Students will remain in isolation, with supervision, while parents are contacted to pick them up. • Students must be fever-free for 24 hours before returning to school.
Student/Staff exposed to COVID-19	• Student/Staff who are exposed to someone who tests positive for COVID-19 should attend school/work as long as they are symptom free. • Parents/Guardians who choose to isolate their student due to exposure to COVID-19 should provide a parent/doctor note upon returning to school.

NOTE: This COVID Response Plan is subject to change at any time.
7/28/22