

HENRY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



REOPENING PLANS: THE BASICS

Henry County Public Schools is committed to providing a safe learning environment for our students and staff as we reopen during this pandemic. Safety must come first as we create options that will ensure academic growth for ALL our students.

ATTENDANCE OPTIONS:

- Traditional: Your child(ren) will attend in-person classes daily adhering to guidelines and measures.
- Online Academy: Your child(ren) will attend school at home through a virtual platform, communicate regularly with teachers and complete the same or similar work as their in-person peers.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS:

MASKS: Everyone will be asked to wear masks while in our buildings this fall and winter.

Masks will not be required for children in preschool or younger, or for those with medical exemptions.

SOCIAL DISTANCING: Classrooms will be arranged with social distancing in mind.

Traffic patterns and other logistics will be controlled to achieve social distancing whenever possible.

STUDENT HEALTH: Parents will ensure students are fever-free before getting on the bus or arriving to school as car riders. Temperature checks will also be conducted at schools for anyone entering the building.

MEALS: Some students will eat meals in their classrooms or other designated areas, while additional tables will be placed in cafeterias to allow for proper social distancing for those dining there.

BUSES: Wearing a mask on the bus will be expected for students Kindergarten through 12th grade. Students will be encouraged to sit with their family groups and will have assigned seating.

CLEANLINESS: There will be increased cleaning protocols in all areas of our schools and on buses, with emphasis on high touch areas, as well as routine sanitization with disinfecting misters. Teachers will also be encouraged to clean high touch areas in their classrooms throughout the school day.

HCPS CONTINUES TO DEVELOP PLANS FOR RETURNING TO SCHOOL AND MORE INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED OR UPDATED AS NECESSARY AND AVAILABLE. FOR MORE, VISIT WWW.HENRY.KYSCHOOLS.US.

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REOPENING PLANS: ATTENDANCE

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ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION:

Students will have two attendance options this school year: traditional in-person classes, and our Online Academy with instructional support at home. Daily participation will be expected for both, while attendance is a more flexible standard this school year.

ATTENDANCE:

- Parents should place more importance in participation over attendance for this school year. Schools will report "daily participation" to the state.
- "Participation" can come in the form of (1) attendance of in-person classes; (2) remaining current on work completion and participating in Online Academy; (3) real-time participation when enrolled in in-person classes but absent from attending; (4) student time logged into any kind of software system completing assignments; (5) in-person students turning in appropriate assignments on-line during the time of absence or immediately upon return from the absence to demonstrate participation; and (6) submission of paper-based assignments for students in a non-digital, non-traditional setting.
- Participation is a measurement of student engagement, attempt and effort. It is NOT a measure of quality of student work. Students will earn a grade or score for the quality of work based on their own instructional ability level.
- Schools will accept doctor's notes and excuses for absences as documentation and as proof if a student was unable to participate during the time of illness; however if a student is physically able to participate while absent, their absences will be excused. For safety reasons, participating learners will still have an excused absence marked.
- Parents are encouraged to err on the side of caution when sending their children to school with any degree of illness or symptom. Parents should keep their students at home if they exhibit ANY health concern, a fever or a COVID-related symptom, without undue worry about truancy, number of excused absences or parent notes. Parents should instead communicate to their child's teacher and make sure that their student continues to participate from home when absent if he or she is an in-person student and is physically able to do so.
- If the entire district is forced to close and move to an NTI model, students and parents will receive communication detailing how to participate appropriately for the length of the closure. This can be in the event of a whole district quarantine or in situations involving weather for any period of time.

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REOPENING PLANS: ONLINE ACADEMY

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ONLINE ACADEMY

Students enrolled in the online academy will receive daily instruction and interaction from a teacher on a set schedule virtually. This option is designed for families who do not feel it is in the best interest of their child's health to return to the school building. To ensure that the Online Academy is commensurate with traditional learning, please know that the level of expectation and accountability will resemble that of the traditional classroom. Our goal is to provide equitable instruction to students at home and in school.

EXPECTATIONS:

- Students will be enrolled in the Online Academy for the entire quarter or semester.
- Use of a reliable device, like Chromebook, laptop or desktop computer. Cell phones will not allow students to complete the level of work needed for this learning choice.
- Ensure your child has a reliable WiFi connection in order to attend live sessions, stream videos and submit assignments EACH day.
- As an alternative, jump drives will not be issued freely. Those wishing to work from jump drives must submit a Google form, available on the HCPS Online Learning Resources Site. The distribution of jump drives must be district approved, and will be provided out of medical necessity ONLY, or for those with extenuating circumstances.
- Daily attendance and participation in online classes and assignments following a set schedule, as well as attendance in multiple live Google Meets with teachers DAILY for instruction and check-ins.
- Provide consistent communication and feedback between teacher, student, and parents.
- For elementary families: Prepare for all subjects to now be taught and assigned each day. Your student's workload each day may increase.
- For elementary families: There is a possibility that your child's current teacher assignment may change. Depending upon in-person enrollment numbers, some teacher assignments may change. Your child may or may not have the same teacher after Fall Break that he or she had at the beginning of the school year.
- All students enrolled in the Online Academy MUST adhere to the above expectations. Those not meeting expectations may be asked to return to in-person instruction. Attendance and participation, as well as assignment completion and due dates, will be closely followed.

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REOPENING PLANS: STUDENT & STAFF HEALTH

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STUDENT AND STAFF HEALTH POLICIES:

- Parents will ensure students are fever and COVID symptom-free before getting on the bus or arriving at school as car riders or drivers each day. Parents of students enrolled in traditional in-person classes are encouraged to err on the side of caution if their child shows even mild symptoms by keeping them home without penalty.
- Each school in the district will have a healthcare services staff member onsite each school day to facilitate student health protocols.
- Temperature checks will be conducted at schools for anyone entering the building. If a student has a temperature of 100.4 or greater or shows at least one symptom (muscle or body aches, fever or chills, new uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing, sore throat, nausea/vomiting or diarrhea, new rash, new loss of taste or smell, or other symptoms determined by the CDC), parents will be notified to pick up the child. Schools have designated areas for isolation of sick students with adult supervision until the student is picked up by a parent, guardian or designee. Students with symptoms will not be allowed to ride a bus home.
- Students and staff with a fever or COVID related symptom(s) will be encouraged to notify their health care provider for further guidance and possible testing for COVID-19.
- Students and staff members sent home with fever or COVID-19 symptoms who then test negative for COVID-19, have a definitive alternate diagnosis from a physician and are fever and symptom free for 24 hours without medication may return to school.
- Students and staff sent home with COVID-19 symptoms who are not tested for COVID-19 or do not have a definitive alternate diagnosis from a physician may only return to school when they have been fever and symptom free for 72 hours (without medication).
- Parents must notify the school of a COVID-19 related absence and adhere to required quarantine when sick or directly exposed to someone with a positive COVID test. If a student or staff member of HCPS tests positive for COVID-19, the health department will enact contact tracing and notify impacted individuals, advising them of what actions, if any, they are recommended to take.
- If a positive test is reported for a student or staff member, HCPS will notify families only that there was a confirmed case and the respective school; additional details would be a violation of privacy laws. In the event of a positive COVID-19 case, the health department becomes the accountable agency and will disseminate any additional information as they deem necessary.

Please refer to the provided Decision Tree for specifics regarding quarantine and exclusion criteria related to COVID symptoms, exposure or confirmed cases

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REOPENING PLANS: STUDENT SAFETY

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SAFETY MEASURES/EXPOSURE REDUCTION

The following measures will be put into place to reduce possible exposure and help ensure a safe learning environment for our students.

MASKS:

- Students in Kindergarten-12th grades will be expected to wear masks on the bus, during transitions and in classrooms, unless the student has a medical waiver that excludes him or her from wearing a mask. If the student cannot wear a face mask due to a medical exemption, a face shield can be used for his or her protection. Preschool students and younger are not required to wear a face covering.
- All staff and essential visitors will be required to wear a face mask unless they have a medical exemption.
- If a student forgets or loses his or her mask, one will be provided to the student.

SOCIAL DISTANCING:

- Social distancing will be used in common areas. There will be no large or small group gatherings, assemblies or field trips.
- Traffic patterns, restroom breaks and other logistics will be controlled to achieve social distancing whenever possible.
- Students will be encouraged not to touch another student, invade a student's private space, use other students' school supplies, and distance as much as logically possible.
- No water fountains will be in use unless they are equipped to fill a water bottle. Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle from home.

HYGIENE:

- Additional hand sanitizing stations will be available throughout our schools, and students will be encouraged to be vigilant in their hand-washing practices.

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REOPENING PLANS: CLEANLINESS

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CUSTODIAL:

In addition to our existing standards of cleanliness, increased protocols will be implemented to ensure a clean, safe learning environment for staff and students.

CLEANING:

- Every building will receive a deep cleaning each school day.
- High-touch areas like door handles, railings, light switches, etc. will be disinfected frequently throughout each day.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be available throughout each building. Students are also encouraged to carry their own personal hand sanitizer, preferably unscented.
- Standard hand-washing protocol will be reinforced with students. Hand washing should occur before and after eating, using the restroom and when returning to class from recess or PE.
- Restrooms will be sanitized several times throughout each school day.
- After students leave for the day, sanitizing misters will be used throughout each building.
- High-touch surfaces will be cleaned in classrooms after each class during the school day.
- Buses will be disinfected after each route and sanitized daily using sanitizing misters.
- Gloves will be worn for cleaning and sanitation, food service and school health procedures.

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REOPENING PLANS: BUSES

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TRANSPORTATION:

Students will be safely transported to and from school each day using provided guidelines. Parents can also choose to transport students themselves.

BUSES:

- Drivers and monitors will wear face masks and/or shields that will not impede their driving ability.
- Every bus will be staffed with a bus monitor each school day.
- Parents will ensure students are fever and COVID-symptom free before getting on the bus or arriving to school as car riders and high school drivers.
- Students Kindergarten through twelfth grade will be expected to wear a mask on the bus unless they have a medical exemption that excludes them from wearing a mask.
- When loading, older students will load from back to middle and younger students will load from middle to front, and when applicable, students will sit with their household members. The exception will be for pre-K students who must be seated in designated areas. Seating will be assigned and recorded for contact tracing purposes.
- The front seat immediately behind the driver is required to remain empty and will contain hand sanitizer. Students are expected to use hand sanitizer when getting on and off the bus. There will also be a designated seat for students who are sick or who exhibit any COVID symptom.
- The number of buses unloading and loading at a single time will be reduced to allow for social distancing measures and may load or unload in more than one designated area.
- Prior to exiting the bus in the morning, the monitor and driver will work together to conduct temperature checks on each student. If a child has a temperature of 100.4 or greater, he or she will be taken to medical personnel at that school who will then implement our student health protocols.
- In addition to routine cleaning practices, buses will be disinfected after each route and each bus will have at least one deep sanitation per day using sanitizing misters.
- Only students who have registered for transportation privileges will be allowed to ride the bus. There will be NO bus passes issued. Students will only be allowed to ride their designated bus to their primary location. Parents or guardians must provide transportation to any other alternative location.

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REOPENING PLANS: MEALS

Henry County Public Schools is committed to providing a safe learning environment for our students and staff as we reopen during this pandemic. Safety must come first as we create options that will ensure academic growth for ALL our students.

SCHOOL NUTRITION:

Breakfast and lunch will be safely served to in-person students each day using provided guidelines. Meals will also be available to Online Academy students who choose to receive them.

MEALS:

- All students in grades K-12 should wear a mask when entering cafeterias, unless the student has a medical waiver that excludes him or her from wearing a mask. If the student cannot wear a face mask due to a medical exemption, a face shield can be used for his or her protection. Preschool students and younger are not required to wear a face covering.
- Students will not serve themselves, but will be served by cafeteria staff wearing masks and gloves.
- Disposable products (trays, pre-wrapped utensils, etc.) will be utilized. If school trays are used, they will be washed and sanitized.
- Breakfast at all schools will be served in a "grab and go" fashion with students moving to designated areas to eat breakfast. Multiple breakfast carts will be used to prevent congregate gatherings.
- For lunch, some students will eat in their classrooms, while others will use cafeterias. This is a school-specific decision. Additional tables will be available to allow for appropriate social distancing for those dining in and around cafeterias.
- There will be no share tables.
- Non-essential visitors will not be allowed to have lunch with students.
- All serving lines will be covered with Plexiglass.
- Students enrolled in our Online Academy will have the option to pick up weekly meals of five breakfasts and five lunches at a school each Friday.
- Elementary and middle school students attending in-person classes will receive one breakfast and one lunch when they leave school on Thursday for Friday consumption. High school students attending in-person classes will receive three breakfasts and three lunches when they leave school for the week.

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