

# **CORINTH SCHOOL DISTRICT** **BACK TO SCHOOL** **GUIDELINES** **UPDATED - JULY 13, 2023**

The Corinth School District is committed to providing a safe, caring and respectful learning environment for learners, teachers, staff, and parents.

The 2023-24 school year provides new opportunities for our students, teachers and schools. This plan will evolve and be updated over the school year. The latest guidance offered by the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH), the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) will be considered.



[www.corinth.k12.ms.us](http://www.corinth.k12.ms.us)

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## BACK TO SCHOOL GUIDELINES

COVID-19 RESPONSE.....	3
LEARNING MODELS.....	4
PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS.....	5
TRANSPORTATION.....	6
FOOD SERVICE.....	7
SCHOOL DAY PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES: WHEN SOMEONE BECOMES SICK AT SCHOOL CONCENTRATION OF CASES .....	8

# COVID-19 RESPONSE

*Corinth School District* experienced a successful 2022-2023 school year providing on-campus in-person learning for the entire school year. The District will begin the 2023-24 school year with the traditional school model for all students. We look forward to continuing to meet the needs of Corinth learners as everyone returns for this school year.

Changes to this plan may be necessary based on regulations or guidance. The CSD is prepared to move to hybrid or virtual models of instruction should the need be. However, total virtual learning will only be implemented under the most severe instances.

Although we have not experienced a recent COVID-19 outbreak, each of the schools has a plan for addressing COVID-19 issues during the 2023-24 school year, and those plans have been updated considering the latest guidance in this document. This guidance will be updated throughout the year based on the latest information from the MDE, MSDH, and CDC.



# LEARNING MODELS

## *Traditional Instruction*

The District will continue to incorporate identified safety measures to keep learners and staff as safe as possible while implementing a traditional in-person instructional model. This document is based on the latest guidance from the MSDH, MDE, and CDC. Safeguards in place will be detailed throughout this document. Hybrid and virtual learning models may be implemented at any time during the 2023-2024 school year should the impact of COVID-19 necessitate the change.

## *Hybrid Instruction*

Should the impact of COVID-19 make the traditional instructional model impracticable, the District will be prepared to move into a hybrid model. Learners will be divided into two groups with an alternating A/B Schedule, alternating face-to-face and virtual instruction during the week.

## *Virtual Learning*

If the impact of COVID-19 makes the hybrid instructional model impracticable, the District will move into a complete virtual learning model. Teachers will provide learners with a robust instructional plan to continue to accelerate learning. This plan will be accomplished by:

- Developing virtual learning protocols and materials ahead of the time to facilitate the move to hybrid learning.
- Training teachers on instruction in a virtual environment.
- Developing and deploying training modules for parents/families to familiarize them with virtual learning.
- Providing access to virtual lessons to learners and parents.
- Establishing teaching schedule/office hours and communicate such to parents.

# PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS

As we navigate these times for our learners and staff, please be confident that the Corinth School District pledges the following:

- We are committed to meeting the needs of all learners in our District.
- We are committed to providing a safe and healthy school environment.
- We are committed to supporting and encouraging your child throughout his or her educational career in our District.

As we work to protect learners and staff in our schools we ask you to partner with us during this school year by:

- Providing current working phone number(s) to the school in case we need to reach you during the day. Our nurses will be screening learners and employees throughout the school day and may find it necessary to contact you.
- Assessing your child(ren)'s health before leaving home. 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.
- Learners, faculty, and staff should stay home when they are sick, when they have a temperature of more than 100°F (38°C), or when they do not pass the daily at-home screening examination. Please watch the District website as this information will be updated throughout the 2023-2024 school year.
- Unvaccinated learners and staff who live with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 should stay home from school until the risk of transmission has passed.
- The District plans to start the school year with optional face coverings, but masks may become necessary during the course of the school year depending upon local, state or national requirements, or increased spread of illness.
- Persons with COVID-19 should isolate for 5 days and also be free of fever for 24 hours before returning to school.
- Reinforce healthy behaviors that we will be practicing at schools. These behaviors include social distancing, covering coughs and sneezes, handwashing and face covering wearing as appropriate.
- Everyone should practice good hygiene measures such as handwashing often with soap and warm water for 20 seconds and covering coughs and sneezes.
- Faculty and staff will assist in monitoring learners for symptoms and will refer anyone with symptoms to the school nurse/school designee for evaluation.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in hallways, classroom, and at school entrance and exits. Hand soap and paper towels will be in all restrooms.
- Stations will be set up to quarantine learners with symptoms.

# TRANSPORTATION

## *Bus Service*

The Corinth School District Transportation Department will follow safety protocols as prescribed by local and state government, the MDE, MSDH, and CDC. Parents are key partners in helping make the school transportation safe and effective this year. The District is currently experiencing a shortage of bus drivers and at times routes may be combined so that all learners needing transportation can receive services. This may result in longer ride times.

The following procedures will apply:

- Social distancing will be employed to the extent possible on each bus but cannot be guaranteed.
- When possible, windows will be open on school buses to aid in ventilation.
- Siblings or children living in the same household will be seated together or close when possible.
- Parents and guardians are encouraged to bring learners to school in order to reduce the number of bus riders and better enable social distancing among learners who do use the buses.
- As feasible, morning routes will load learners into assigned seats from the back of the bus to the front.
- Hand sanitizer is provided for learners and bus drivers.
- Drivers are asked to monitor for symptoms and stay home when feeling ill.
- Buses are sanitized following both the morning and afternoon routes, and bus aired out between uses as practicable.

# FOOD SERVICES

## *Child Nutrition*

- Provide learners handwashing/hand sanitizing before and after meal service.
- Lunch will be served in school cafeterias.
- Mark spaced lines to enter the cafeteria and serving lines to the extent practicable and designate entrances and exit flow paths.
- Conduct cleaning of cafeterias and high-touch surfaces throughout the school day.
- Sanitize tables where learners have finished eating before the next group arrives.
- Schools may employ alternative serving models for meals when appropriate due to increasing COVID case numbers such as:
  - Serving meals in classrooms;
  - Serving meals in cafeteria with spaced seating (utilize outside eating areas if possible); or
  - Longer meal serving times for more staggered serving.
- Serve meals in multiple socially distanced locations such as outdoors and gyms.
- Follow the District's specific protocols for communication in the event of confirmed cases among cafeteria staff.

# SCHOOL DAY PROCESSES & PROCEDURES

## *When Someone Becomes Sick at School*

- Each school will have a designated separate sick/isolation room for suspected COVID-19 cases, keeping those learners, faculty and staff away from other types of illness or injury cases that may be seeking treatment or care.
- School nurses and or other designees will use standard precautions and transmission-based precautions when caring for sick people.
- Symptomatic staff members and learners should not return to school until they have met the criteria to discontinue home quarantine.
- Persons with COVID-19 should quarantine for 5 days and also be free of fever for 24 hours before returning to school.

## *When a Concentration of Cases Occurs*

- The District will consider MSDH and CDC recommendations in determining when classes and schools should quarantine based on outbreaks within the schools.