

**HATTIESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**2023-2024 Safe Return Plan**  
**BUILT FOR GREATNESS**

**Revision #8: Dated June 19, 2023**



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Delores McNair, President  
Yolanda Morris, Secretary  
Eric K. Steele  
Dr. Eddie Holloway  
G. Neil Rogers  
Percy Watson, Board Attorney

**SUPERINTENDENT**

Robert L. Williams, Ph.D.

# HATTIESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## 2023-2024 Safe Return Plan

### BUILT FOR GREATNESS

#### VISION

To create a model teaching and learning environment that graduates **EVERY** student prepared for success in life, college, and the workforce.

#### MISSION

To educate **ALL** students to become productive citizens of a dynamic, global community.



Hattiesburg Public Schools is committed to its mission of educating all students to become productive citizens in a dynamic, global community. The safety and well-being of our students, staff, and families

# HATTIESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## 2023-2024 Safe Return Plan

### BUILT FOR GREATNESS

are the foundation of fulfilling that mission. When developing the plan for a safe return to school, Hattiesburg Public Schools consulted with parents, teachers, students, health officials, and community stakeholders to better understand their concerns and ensure we were taking the necessary precautions. We have developed and will continue to revise our Safe Return Plan as necessary.

Virtual Learning Option **will not** be an option for students beginning the 2023-2024 school year, unless deemed necessary by the administration.

#### SAFE RETURN GOALS

1. Utilize the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE), Center for Disease Control (CDC), Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH), and American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) guidelines and recommendations to ensure the safety and well-being of staff and students.
2. Assess academic gaps and provide accelerated catch-up growth opportunities.
3. Evaluate the social and emotional needs of our students and staff.
4. Keep schools open all year without having to endure school closure.

#### MITIGATION AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS

- 1) All eligible students, teachers, and staff should receive COVID-19 vaccination.
- 2) All students, teachers, and staff who have symptoms of any infectious illness, regardless of vaccination status, should stay home from school and be evaluated by their healthcare provider.
- 3) Each school site will establish procedures for temperature checks.
- 4) Surfaces will be cleaned daily and disinfected frequently.
- 5) Hand sanitizer stations will be available throughout campuses.
- 6) Campus visitation will be limited; visitors must schedule visits through the building administration.
- 7) Parent/guardian (or employee) must notify the principal (or supervisor) immediately upon receiving positive test results.
- 8) The District will isolate and exclude COVID-19 infected students/staff.
- 9) Ongoing analysis of school data to determine appropriate learning mode.
- 10) Administration may transition individual(s), school(s), class(es), or grade(s) to virtual learning as deemed necessary.

#### MASKING GUIDANCE AND OTHER RESTRICTIONS

# HATTIESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## 2023-2024 Safe Return Plan

### BUILT FOR GREATNESS

Four indicators will be measured bi-weekly to determine the school district's transmission level. When a minimum of three (3) indicators occur simultaneously within a phase, coinciding mitigation strategies will be enacted. The administration will have the authority to move within phases depending on the criteria being met. The following indicators will be used as a guide and are subject to change:

1. Indicator 1: Staff Positivity Rate
2. Indicator 2: Student Positivity Rate
3. Indicator 3: Quarantine Rate
4. Indicator 4: Community Levels per CDC/MSDH ([Click Here for COVID-19 Community Levels](#))

Transmission Levels	Indicators	*Mask Levels/Restrictions (subject to CDC/MSDH guidelines and recommendations)
<b>Low</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Staff positivity rate 1% or below</li> <li>2. Student Positivity rate 1% or below</li> <li>3. Staff/Student Quarantine Rate is less than 5%</li> <li>4. CDC/MSDH Community Levels</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wear a mask based on your personal preference, informed by your personal level of risk</li> <li>• Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines</li> <li>• Get tested if you have symptoms</li> <li>• No restriction related to large indoor gatherings, field trips, or class settings</li> </ul>
<b>Moderate</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Staff positivity rate between 1% – 3%</li> <li>2. Student Positivity rate between 1% – 3%</li> <li>3. Staff/Student Quarantine Rate between 5% - 8%</li> <li>4. CDC/MSDH Community Levels</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you are at high risk for severe illness, talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions</li> <li>• Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines</li> <li>• Get tested if you have symptoms</li> <li>• Mask <b>RECOMMENDED</b> when indoors <b>AND</b> in the presence of others</li> <li>• Minimal restrictions to large gatherings and classes (i.e., eating in alternative locations, reduced seating capacity, one-directional seating, etc.)</li> </ul>
<b>High</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Staff positivity rate greater than 3%</li> <li>2. Student Positivity rate greater than 3%</li> <li>3. Staff/Student Quarantine Rate is greater than 10%</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mask <b>REQUIRED</b> when indoors <b>AND</b> in the presence of others.</li> <li>• Large gatherings require the approval of the superintendent/assistant superintendent (i.e., field trips/travel restricted, eating in alternative locations, etc.)</li> </ul>

# HATTIESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## 2023-2024 Safe Return Plan

### BUILT FOR GREATNESS

	4. CDC/MSDH Community Levels	
--	------------------------------	--

\*Note: People may choose to mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask.

### SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES

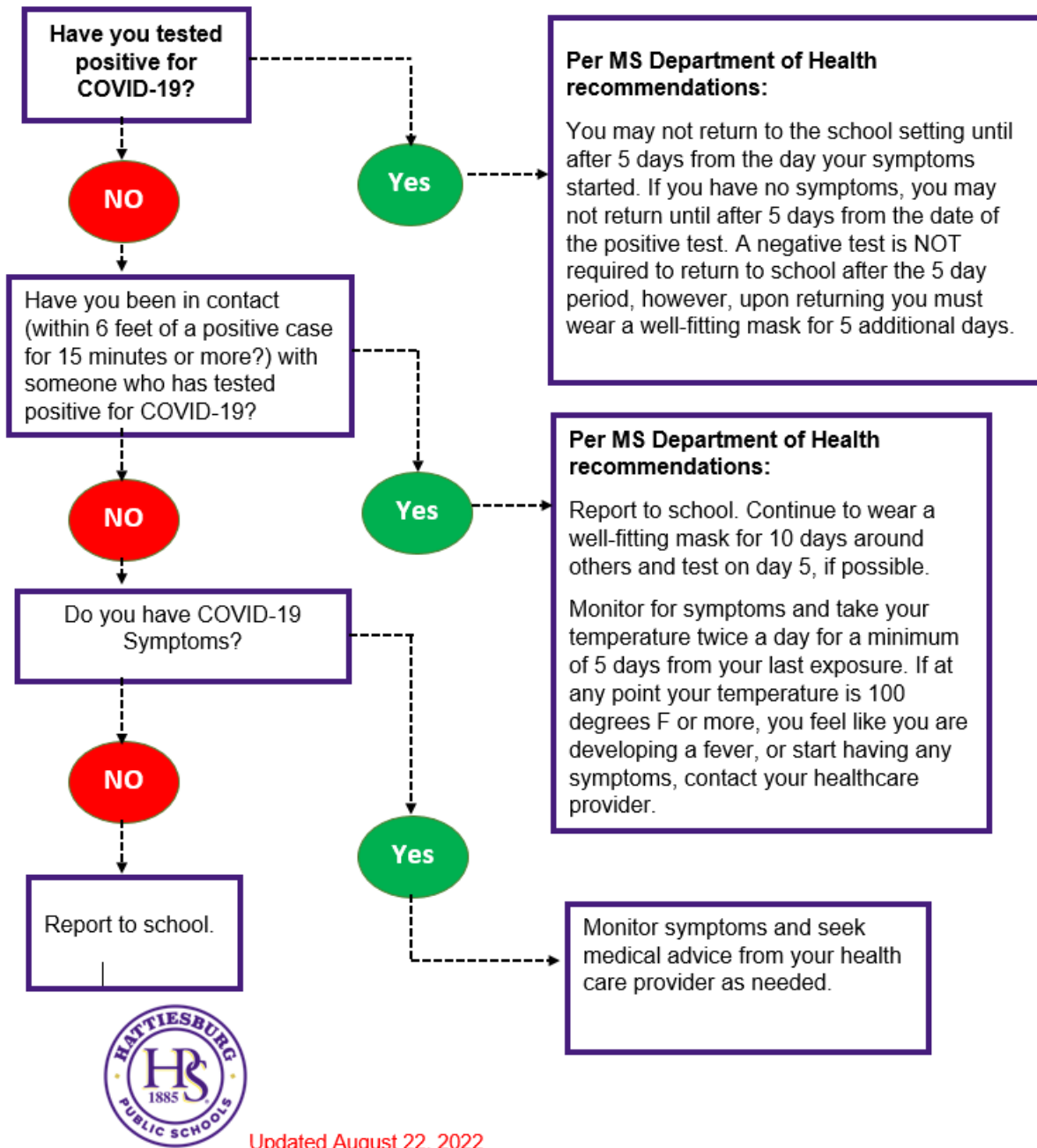
TOPIC	FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES	HPS RESPONSIBILITIES
<b>PPE &amp; Supplies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Launder/clean face coverings.</li> <li>● Replace unserviceable face coverings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Have face coverings available for all students.</li> <li>● Provide hand sanitizer, soap, gloves, and disinfectants to custodial teams.</li> </ul>
<b>Health Checks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Check your child's temperature each morning.</li> <li>● Keep your child at home when sick.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Conduct periodic temperature checks of staff and students.</li> </ul>
<b>Technology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Provide internet connectivity for the child's device OR indicate the need for support with connectivity.</li> <li>● Inspect student devices daily and alert the school of damage or loss.</li> <li>● Keep your device charged overnight.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Provide an internet-ready device for all HPS students.</li> <li>● Provide technical support to parents.</li> </ul>

## Should I Report to School? COVID-19 Decision-Making Flowchart for HPS Students

# HATTIESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## 2023-2024 Safe Return Plan

### BUILT FOR GREATNESS



### ACADEMIC SUPPORT

All students will attend school for face-to-face in-person instruction as the primary mode of instructional delivery. The Superintendent or designee must approve any parent requesting virtual option beyond quarantine or isolation requirement.

# HATTIESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## 2023-2024 Safe Return Plan

### BUILT FOR GREATNESS

#### Length of School Day

	Breakfast	Start Time	Dismissal
Burger Middle School	7:00-7:20	7:20	2:45
STEAM Academy	7:00-7:25	7:25	2:40
Lillie Burney Learning Center	7:20	7:30	2:35
Hawkins Elementary	7:20	8:00	3:00
Grace Christian Elementary	7:20	8:00	3:00
Rowan Elementary	7:20	8:00	3:00
Thames Elementary	7:30	8:00	3:00
Woodley Elementary	7:30	8:00	3:00
Hattiesburg High	8:00-8:25	8:30	3:55

#### Notes:

1. All dual enrollment students will follow the assigned schedule of the post-secondary institution.
2. Intervention and remediation will be offered through the academic school year.
3. Summer remediation and enrichment will be offered to address the academic needs of students (as applicable).
4. Students placed in quarantine or isolation may attend classes virtually until it is safe for them to return to school.
5. Chromebooks are available for checkout for student use at home/school.

#### BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

1. Based on school population and cafeteria size, protocols may differ from school to school.
2. If school(s) transition to virtual learning mode, meals will be available for pick-up at each school between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. daily (subject to change).

#### EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

1. Extracurricular activities and sports are subject to the same mitigation protocols as our physical school buildings. Therefore, if a student cannot attend school in person because of concerns for transmission of COVID-19, they cannot participate in these activities for the same reason.
2. Community transmission rates will be considered to determine which activities are appropriate.

# HATTIESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## 2023-2024 Safe Return Plan

### BUILT FOR GREATNESS

3. Spectators, nonessential visitors, and nonessential activities may be limited or prohibited.

#### DISTRICT-ISSUED TECHNOLOGY (EQUIPMENT)

Both the parent/guardian and the student are responsible for properly using and caring for technology and equipment. District-issued technology and equipment are to be used following school board policies. If a student intentionally causes damage or loses either the device or any other issued equipment, the parent/guardian will be responsible for all fines. District-issued technology (equipment) must be returned to the school immediately upon request.

Loss, Damage, or Neglect	Estimated Repair/Replacement
Broken screen or keyboard	\$50.00
Power adapter/cord	\$25.00
Lost, stolen, replacement due to irreparable damage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less than 1-year-old full replacement cost</li> <li>• 1 year up to 2 years old 70% of replacement cost</li> <li>• 2 years up to 3 years old 50% of replacement cost</li> <li>• 3 years up to 5 years old 30% of replacement cost</li> </ul>

#### SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have a question about assignments or need to communicate with a teacher, contact the teacher through the Learning Management System, email ([firstname.lastname@hattiesburgpsd.com](mailto:firstname.lastname@hattiesburgpsd.com)), or contact the school administration.

<u>School</u>	<u>Principal Name</u>	<u>Email</u>
Grace Christian	Dr. Vanessa Lofton	<a href="mailto:vanessa.lofton@hattiesburgpsd.com">vanessa.lofton@hattiesburgpsd.com</a>



# HATTIESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## 2023-2024 Safe Return Plan

### BUILT FOR GREATNESS

Hattiesburg High	Dr. Victor Hubbard	<a href="mailto:victor.hubbard@hattiesburgpsd.com">victor.hubbard@hattiesburgpsd.com</a>
Hawkins	Dr. Taneka Lett	<a href="mailto:taneka.hawkins@hattiesburgpsd.com">taneka.hawkins@hattiesburgpsd.com</a>
STEAM Academy	Dr. Tekeica Chapman	<a href="mailto:tekeica.chapman@hattiesburgpsd.com">tekeica.chapman@hattiesburgpsd.com</a>
Lillie Burney	Mrs. Teresa Merwin	<a href="mailto:teresa.merwin@hattiesburgpsd.com">teresa.merwin@hattiesburgpsd.com</a>
N. R. Burger	Mrs. Carol Jones	<a href="mailto:carol.jones@hattiesburgpsd.com">carol.jones@hattiesburgpsd.com</a>
Rowan	Mrs. Jaronda Allen	<a href="mailto:jaronda.allen@hattiesburgpsd.com">jaronda.allen@hattiesburgpsd.com</a>
Thames	Dr. Christie Moss	<a href="mailto:christie.moss@hattiesburgpsd.com">christie.moss@hattiesburgpsd.com</a>
Woodley	Mrs. Felica Morris	<a href="mailto:felica.morris@hattiesburgpsd.com">felica.morris@hattiesburgpsd.com</a>

For any other assistance, please refer to the HPSD website at [www.hattiesburgpsd.com](http://www.hattiesburgpsd.com) or reference the [HPSD "Who Do I Contact For" Information List](#).

# HATTIESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## 2023-2024 Safe Return Plan

### BUILT FOR GREATNESS

#### VIRTUAL LEARNING REQUIREMENTS

**The Virtual Learning is only for students with medical limitations that require a virtual setting**, or cases where the administration has determined virtual instruction is the best option for the student at the time (to include, but not limited to, quarantine or isolation). To participate in virtual learning, parents and students (if age-appropriate) shall sign a commitment that acknowledges receipt, acceptance of, and commitment to virtual learning requirements. The student must meet the requirements below, and the District reserves the right to revoke any student's virtual learning permission if they fail to meet any of the listed requirements. The student will be required to return to face-to-face in-person instruction immediately. To participate in virtual learning, a student must:

- 1) Maintain good grades (maintain a "C" average or higher in all classes);
- 2) Comply with the District's student code of conduct and discipline policies;
- 3) Maintain attendance by attending all classes (no more than three (3) unexcused absences).
- 4) Complete and submit all assignments as given by their teachers by the specified date and time;
- 5) Have access to a reliable internet connection;
- 6) Abide by any other responsibilities approved by the Board of Trustees or the Superintendent.

Additional Guidelines and Requirements:

- The grading system and promotion/retention policy utilized for on-campus students will also apply to virtual students.
- Adheres to academic honesty guidelines. Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to:
  - The unauthorized representation of another's work as one's own (plagiarism).
  - Borrowing from print or electronically published material, either directly quoted or paraphrased, without including proper citations.
  - Knowingly providing work to another student who then copies or presents the work as their own.
  - Using materials or electronic devices not approved during tests, quizzes, and other assessments.
- Parents/guardians will be responsible for all costs and expenses necessary to provide reliable internet service and computer equipment.
- Students who accumulate five or more unlawful absences will be reported to the truancy officer.
- All assessments are required to be taken on campus.
- Attendance requirements during virtual learning are the same as in-person classes. However, if a course requires a virtual student to be on campus (ex. To give a speech or present a project), that student will be required to be physically present on campus to meet that requirement.

**Parents who seek the virtual learning option for their child must schedule an appointment with the building administrator to complete the Virtual Learning Commitment Form.** The administration reserves the right to approve/deny any virtual learning request.

HATTIESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2023-2024 Safe Return Plan

BUILT FOR GREATNESS

