



 Peach County Schools

**2021-2022
COVID-19 Plan**

Peach County Schools 2021-2022 COVID-19 Plan

Peach County Schools' mission is to graduate college and career ready students and our vision is to ensure that our students are learning today to become leaders for tomorrow. The safety and well-being of our students is our #1 Priority; therefore, as we begin the 2021-2022 school year, we are updating measures for students and staff as recommended by the Department of Health (DOH), Center for Disease Control (CDC), Governor's Office, Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE), Superintendent and School Board.

At this time, Peach County Schools will not mandate quarantines to staff for close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19; however, the CDC does recommend testing 3-5 days after exposure, and the wearing of a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result. When principals are notified of a positive case, they will notify any affected staff and parents of those students who have been in close contact with the positive student and the need to monitor their child for symptoms. No precautionary quarantines when exposed at school will be required; however, the CDC does recommend testing 3-5 days after exposure, and the wearing of a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result. If a student or staff member receives a positive COVID-19 test, they must stay home and notify their school administrator or Central Office contact. Students and staff who live in the same household with a person who tests positive will need to be quarantined for 10 days or 7 days if a test comes back negative with no symptoms.

COVID-19 vaccines are not required for staff or students, but are encouraged and recommended. We will continue to monitor cases within our community and follow the guidelines and recommendations of the CDC and Department of Health. Should the need arise to adjust procedures and protocols, further guidelines and decisions will be communicated.

The protective measures and learning options are detailed below:

Protective Measures for Students and Staff

- Social Distancing
- Face Coverings
- Cleaning and Hygiene
- Custodial Services

- School Nutrition
- Water and Ventilation Systems
- Transportation
- Other Information

Learning Options: Student Instruction will be 100% In-Person Learning. Virtual learning will be offered at Peach County High School for credit deficient students only.

For a list of external virtual learning opportunities please click visit: [Online Course Info.](#)

Protective Measures for Staff and Students

Social Distancing

Social Distancing is identified as a key method to prevent the spread of COVID-19, also known as the Coronavirus. Social distancing is identified as at least six feet of space between yourself and others.

Schools will work within their buildings to develop practices that minimize crowd flow and reduce crowding during arrival, dismissal and during class change. The following strategies will be used to promote social distancing to the greatest extent possible:

- Directional signage that may include designated entrances/exits, one-way hallways and areas of restricted access
- Monitored transitions/class exchanges with staff assigned to discourage congregating. In the morning and during dismissal, students will be directed to go straight from their vehicles, buses and drop off points to their classrooms and vice versa.
- Schools will provide frequent reminders to students and staff to stay at least 6 feet away from each other whenever possible.
- Desks and other seating will be arranged in classrooms to maximize distance between students.
- When possible, students will be kept in small cohorts or groups during the day.
- Outdoor recess will be provided and will be modified in order to reduce the mixing of classes.
- Plexiglass barriers are installed for protection at receptionist desks, cafeteria registers and other areas where appropriate.
- Traditional field trips, meetings, assemblies and performances may be modified.
- Large assemblies will be modified.
- Parent Meeting (Student Support Team, Section 504 and individual Education Plan, etc.) may be modified.
- Outside visitors to the school (parents, community, etc.) will be discouraged. In the event that the principal determines the necessity, visitors will be allowed.

Face Coverings

Although face masks are not required, they will be highly recommended. If an employee or student has been vaccinated, wearing a mask is not required. If an employee or student has not been vaccinated, wearing a mask is encouraged.

Cleaning and Hygiene

The COVID-19 virus is thought to be spread through respiratory droplets released when people talk, cough or sneeze. The virus may spread to hands from a contaminated surface and then to the nose or mouth, causing infection. That is why personal hygiene practices (such as hand-washing and staying home when sick), social distancing and environmental cleaning and disinfecting are so important. The following practices will be implemented to aid in cleaning and hygiene.

- Proper hand-washing techniques for students and staff include washing with soap at least 20 seconds and staff should allow students regular hand washing breaks throughout the day.
- Restrooms will be stocked with antibacterial soap and towels and students will be strongly encouraged to wash their hands during the school day.
- Hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol will be provided at building entrances, in the cafeteria, on buses and in classrooms. These will be systematically checked and refilled. Children will be supervised in the use of these products.
- Adequate supplies will be provided to support healthy hygiene behaviors throughout the day (e.g. hand soap, hand sanitizer, paper towels, wipes, etc.). Parents may also send donations of hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol content, disinfecting wipes and facial tissues for their child's classroom.
- Teachers should also use the wipes to clean frequently touched surfaces such as door handles, light switches, computer key board, mouse, interactive boards and telephones.
- Students will be encouraged to sneeze and cough into their elbows or to cover with a tissue.
- Student personal items (such as pens, crayons and scissors) should be kept separately in individual cubbies or containers. Students will be instructed not to share these items with other students.
- Non-essential, cloth covered items such as draped, pillows, cushions, furniture, area rugs and all other items not essential to learning may be removed from the classroom or area,
- Shared items that cannot be consistently disinfected will be discouraged (stuffed toys, balls, etc.).

Custodial Services

Regular sanitization practices will be adhered to throughout the district. The following custodial cleaning practices will be implemented:

- Throughout the day, custodial services will sanitize high touch surfaces and restrooms to reduce the possible transmission of the virus. Between classes, teachers will wipe down high touch surfaces and any shared instructional materials.
- Teachers and students will be expected to pick up all items from the floor and clear desktops and tabletops at the end of the day to allow for more thorough cleaning by custodians at the end of each day. At the end of the day, custodians will clean high touch surfaces with disinfectant.
- In the event of a possible exposure to the virus, custodial staff will isolate and deep clean impacted classrooms and spaces. Facilities may need to be closed for an extended period of time to deep clean affected areas.

School Nutrition

- All cafeteria space will be sanitized by the custodial staff prior to students eating meals and after each student group leaves the cafeteria. Regular cleaning of high touch surfaces will occur between each serving session.
- Safety practices for all cafeteria workers include the wearing of masks/face shields, gloves (where appropriate) and hand sanitizing.

- Students will be required to wash their hands before and after each meal, and hand sanitizer will be available.
- Individually packaged utensils, condiments and pre-packaged /boxed lunches may also be provided.

Water and Ventilation Systems

- All water fountains will be turned off. Water Stations will be open and available for students and staff members.
- Heating and air conditioning units are continuously maintained to ensure ventilation of spaces.

Transportation

Physical distancing on a school bus is most challenging due to limited available space. According to CDC Guidelines, masks are strongly encouraged, whether vaccinated or not.

Communication

The district is committed to focused and frequent communication with schools, families and our community during these challenging times. We will do our best to share decisions as they are made. We will share additional information about what to expect throughout the school year on a regular basis.

Communication will be sent via the REMIND APP, which is the district's mass communication notification system. Parents, students and staff members may receive information via phone calls, email message and text message. In addition, the district will use such mediums as the district website, school web pages, and social media to communicate. Please check to ensure your contact information is up to date in Infinite Campus for all of your children. Your contact information can be updated through the Parent Portal and by contacting your child's school.

Signs will be posted throughout the buildings to remind students and staff of recommended healthy hygiene practices. Students will be reminded of proper hand-washing and covering techniques for coughs and sneezes.

The best way to keep our schools open and our staff and students safe is by practicing the safety guidelines that have been strongly recommended: vaccination, masks, and social distancing.