

LEE COUNTY SCHOOLS GUIDELINES FOR REOPENING

Based on the latest guidance from the Georgia Department of Education and Georgia Department of Public Health recommendations and in consultation with state/local officials, Lee County Schools will follow the guidelines listed for reopening schools

Student/staff/
community safety is
the priority when
schools open.



SCHOOL NURSE

- The school nurse will be the school's main point of contact concerning COVID 19.
- Periodic health screenings of students and employees may be conducted including random temperature checks.
- Students and employees with COVID-19 symptoms or a temperature of 100.4 and above will be immediately isolated and sent home. Local health officials will be notified immediately for guidance on next steps, including closures.

SELF REPORTING



- Students and employees must stay home if they have COVID-19 symptoms, tested positive for COVID-19 or had close contact with a person with COVID-19 within the last 14 days.
- Employees and parents/guardians are asked to self-report to the school nurse.
- Quarantined students will have access to their education through virtual learning; Lee County Schools will not have perfect attendance awards or programs for the school year.



CLEANING PROTOCOLS

- Hand sanitizer will be available throughout each building. Students and staff are also encouraged to bring hand sanitizer from home.
- To promote COVID-19 protective measures, signs will be posted in highly visible locations and schools will broadcast daily messages.
- Schools and departments will develop a schedule for increased cleaning and disinfection.
- Buses will be cleaned and disinfected regularly.
- Common areas such as gyms, cafeterias, labs, and media centers will have enhanced cleaning protocols in place.



HAND WASHING

- Frequent hand washing breaks will take place daily in all schools where students will be required to wash their hands for a minimum of 20 seconds.
- Students and employees will be reminded to wash their hands throughout the day.
- We encourage all to wear facemasks and be sure to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue and to place the tissue in the trash and immediately wash their hands.

OTHER GUIDELINES



- Nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations will be limited.
- In lieu of field trips, assemblies, special performances, and school-wide meetings or events, including open house and curriculum nights, virtual activities will be pursued. Parent/guardian teacher conferences will be held virtually, if possible.
- Students transitioning to a new school may have the opportunity to visit in person before the school year begins.



DISTANCING

- Based on classroom configuration and where possible, student desks will face in the same direction and students seated at tables will sit on the same side.
- The sharing of items that are difficult to clean or disinfect will be discouraged. While ensuring the safety of children, when possible, student meals may take place in ways that allow safe distancing including classrooms, cafeteria, and outdoor areas.
- Traditional water fountains will be closed. Students and staff are encouraged to bring bottled water.
- Non-essential student movement throughout the school day will be limited. Outdoor recess will continue but the number of students gathered in one area will be limited.



The guidelines for reopening Lee County Schools are subject to change.

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TRANSPORTATION

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for bus drivers including masks and face shields
- Hand sanitizer available on the bus
- Student seating assignments to facilitate safe loading and unloading
- Daily cleaning of buses with focus on high touch surfaces such as seating
- Face coverings required since social distancing is not practical for school buses
- Parents may choose to transport children



VIRTUAL LEARNING

- Families may choose virtual learning
- One grading period commitment expected for grades K-8
- One semester commitment expected for grades 9-12
- Students may transition from virtual to in person learning after one grading period (K-8) or semester (9-12)

STUDENT MEALS



- Parents encouraged to pay for meals online
- Some students will eat in classrooms or picnic areas
- Students eating in the cafeteria will be seated in a manner that encourages social distancing
- Students will use disposable trays and utensils
- Cafeteria staff will wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

EXTRACURRICULAR



- Athletic programs will adhere to Georgia High School Association safety guidelines
- Activities such as band, chorus, clubs, and theater will follow school protocols for student safety
- Students who choose virtual learning may participate in some extracurricular activities



PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- Face coverings such as masks or face shields are required for employees
- Face coverings strongly encouraged for students at school and required for student riding the bus
- Additional PPE in clinics to better serve medically fragile students

HEALTH PROTOCOLS



- All persons who are sick, expected to stay home
- Collaborate with state/local health department to protect student health
- Designated area to isolate/assess symptomatic students
- Students and staff who become sick at school will go home
- Additional PPE in clinics and serving students medically fragile students

EXTENDED DAY



- After school care available for students
- Extended Day is an extension of the school day
- Safety protocols will align with expectations for school
- Staff will wear PPE as appropriate



Specific questions about reopening should be directed to the school.