

Covington County Schools Learning Models 2020-2021

In response to COVID-19, Covington County Schools is extending access to virtual learning for all grades, K-12, as an alternative setting to traditional school. Students in both models—traditional and virtual—will:

- Communicate their intent for Traditional or Remote Learning via the [CCS Learning Intent Form 2020-2021](#) by 5:00 pm on July 17, 2020
- Follow the academic calendar for 2020-2021 posted on the Covington County Schools website.
- Complete all assessments required by the Alabama State Department of Education
- Learn standards described in the Alabama Courses of Study for the grade and/or subject in which the student is enrolled
- Receive feedback at the mid-quarter and end-of-quarter with progress and grades.

Covington County Schools Virtual Learning Model

Parents and guardians who want their children to participate in Covington County Virtual Learning must complete the [CCS Learning Intent survey](#) by 5:00 pm on July 17, 2020. The intent survey and form signify your interest in Covington County Virtual Learning. Class rosters and teaching assignments will be adjusted based on the intent survey. Official registration for Virtual learning will open on August 3, 2020. You will find registration forms on the Covington County Schools district webpage. Students may enter/exit the virtual school option at the beginning of a new semester, 9-12 students, and beginning of a new quarter for PreK-8 students.

Students must have access to a computer device (not a phone) and reliable high-speed internet in order to participate in Covington County Virtual Learning. The intent survey will provide guidance to those families who do not have access to a computer device and/or high speed internet. **The Covington County Virtual Learning Model is NOT the same as the Emergency Distance Learning Model used in the spring of 2020.** Students and families should expect to be engaged in daily online learning with the standards, pacing, rigor, and grading system used in the traditional model.

Attendance for Covington County Virtual School is determined by participation in daily and weekly assignments. For students with an IEP, an amendment to the IEP

may be written based on the individual needs of the student as a learner in a virtual setting.

For students in grades 9-12, all elective courses may not be available. As much as possible, Covington County Schools will use ACCESS online courses already provided by the Alabama State Department of Education for students enrolled in grades 8-12. ACCESS courses are monitored by Covington County Schools but the instruction is delivered by certified teachers outside of Covington County Schools. All other courses and classes will be delivered via the Schoology learning platform using online content provided by the Alabama State Department of Education.

Parents and guardians who select Covington County Virtual Learning will receive further information in an orientation session before school begins. This orientation session will be conducted virtually.

Covington County Schools Traditional Model

Parents and guardians who want their children to participate in the Covington County Traditional Learning model should complete the [CCS Learning Intent survey](#) by 5:00 pm on July 17, 2020. The Covington County Traditional Learning model requires students to come to school campuses daily. Covington County Schools is following the guidance provided by the Alabama State Department of Education and the Alabama Department of Public Health to open schools. As guidance from these organizations change, the protocols for traditional learning may change. No scope of careful precautions can completely protect all students or staff from risk of infection. Covington County Schools is committed to providing an environment for learning that lessens the risk as much as possible.

The greatest risk for infection occurs when people are in close contact with someone with a confirmed positive case. **Close contact is defined as being within approximately 6 feet of a confirmed COVID-19 case for a total of 15 minutes or longer or having direct contact with infectious secretions of COVID-19 by a confirmed COVID-19 case.**

The risks associated with close contact are most effectively mitigated by following three practical guidelines—the use of facial coverings, physical distancing and handwashing/sanitizing. Teachers will use good judgment to protect themselves and students when assisting students within close contact, as defined above. Classroom furniture, class

routines, or class schedules may be rearranged to minimize high risk contact students have with other students. **However, complete physical distancing over the course of the day is not possible in a traditional school setting.** Students will be required to use hand sanitizer or wash their hands frequently during the school day.

The first line of defense for preventing the spread of infection in our schools is the home defense. Parents and families should be familiar with the symptoms associated with infection and keep students at home if any of these symptoms are evident. These symptoms include:

- Fever of 100.4
- Cough, runny nose, or sinus congestion
- Trouble breathing or persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- Abdominal pain or stomach ache
- Diarrhea or vomiting

If a student or faculty member is diagnosed positive for COVID-19, the parents or guardians of any student with risk of infection due to close contact, **as defined above**, will be notified. Parents and guardians will be advised to contact the student's healthcare provider to be assessed and given further directives.

- A student or staff member with a **positive COVID-19 diagnosis** will be subject to a 14- day quarantine and will follow the guidance of their healthcare provider and the Alabama Department of Public Health. The person can return to school once they are symptom free and complete a 14-day quarantine.

Students in quarantine will continue to receive assignments from classroom teachers using Google Classroom. In the case of a large group quarantine or a school closure, students will still receive instruction and assignments from the traditional learning model's classroom teacher(s) utilizing Google Classroom. The rigor and pace of learning will continue through quarantine or closure and be supported by classroom teachers. Students who are ill or symptomatic during quarantine will receive extended time to complete assignments.

All parents and guardians should complete the CCS Learning Intent survey for each child by July 17, 2020, at 5:00 pm. [Click here to access the survey.](#)