

Back To School
Reopening Presentation
July 14, 2020

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From The Experts

- ▶ *“The American Academy of Pediatrics strongly advocates that all policy considerations for the coming year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school.”*

www.aap.org

- ▶ *The most important thing from my point of view, from a public health point of view, from a risk vs risk point of view, is that we need to reopen our schools and we need to plan to keep our schools reopened.”*

Dr. Robert Redfield, Director of CDC

Options for Parents

- ▶ **Traditional:** Return to School for Face to Face Instruction
- ▶ **Online:** Students work Online from Home
 - ▶ **Online requires a commitment of the entire semester.

**Back
to
School**

What safety precautions are we going to put in place for those who choose traditional instruction?



STOP  **THE**
SPREAD!

The graphic features the word "STOP" in large, bold, red letters. The letter "O" is replaced by a red circle with a diagonal slash, over which is a green virus icon. To the right of "STOP" is the word "THE" in smaller, red, bold letters. Below "STOP THE" is the word "SPREAD!" in large, bold, green letters with a white outline. The background is white with a green geometric design on the right side.

Safety Precautions Wellness & Hygiene

- ▶ Hand Sanitizer available in classrooms & on buses
- ▶ Encouraged use of water bottles
- ▶ Hand washing encouraged throughout the day
- ▶ Age appropriate lessons to students on prevention practices

Safety Precautions

Masks / Shields

- ▶ Masks/Shields strongly encouraged for students & staff
- ▶ Additional PPE available in clinics when serving medically fragile or ill students
- ▶ Masks provided from DOE
- ▶ Safety shields provided for staff as needed
- ▶ Hats with shields allowed - *no shield, no hat*

Shields with Hats



Safety Precautions Signs & Messages

- ▶ Health Signage will be prominently displayed throughout the buildings
- ▶ Information posted on how to prevent the spread of COVID-19
- ▶ Reminder messages via social media, emails, & web page
- ▶ Signs, Mirror Clings, Floor Stickers, etc.



Safety Precautions

Enhanced Cleaning*

- ▶ Enhanced Cleaning & disinfecting of facilities
- ▶ High Touch Areas disinfected daily
- ▶ Bathrooms disinfected at least twice daily
- ▶ Safe & effective cleaner available to teachers & office staff to use throughout the day & between classes
- ▶ Classrooms/buses fogged as needed

Safety Precautions Transportation

- ▶ Parents may transport when possible
- ▶ Hand sanitizer on all buses
- ▶ Assigned Seating as possible
- ▶ Buses disinfected after morning & afternoon routes
- ▶ Masks/Shields encouraged for drivers & students
- ▶ Air buses out when not in use
- ▶ Increased ventilation when bus is in use (windows down)
- ▶ Limited out-of-town trips

Safety Precautions

Student Meals

- ▶ More frequent use of disposable plates & utensils
- ▶ PPE for lunchroom staff required (masks/shields, gloves, etc.)
- ▶ Maximize seating in lunchrooms to allow more distance between students
- ▶ Some classes eat in classrooms to allow additional space in lunchroom
- ▶ Tables frequently wiped down throughout the day

Visiting During COVID-19

**No visitors are allowed
on site at this time**



Safety Precautions School Logistics

- ▶ Building Visitors & Parents restricted to Lobby Areas
- ▶ Classrooms spaced to allow 3' distance between students, when possible
- ▶ Students will face same direction, when possible
- ▶ Parent meetings scheduled virtually when practical
- ▶ Discourage sharing items
- ▶ Limit number of students in restroom

Safety Precautions

Health Services

- ▶ All persons who are sick are expected to stay home
- ▶ Those who become sick at school will be sent home
- ▶ Parents should ensure that contact (and additional contact) information is up-to-date
- ▶ COVID-19 Temperature Guidance: 100.4

Safety Precautions Health Services

- ▶ Due to current health concerns, Echols County Schools will no longer provide, or dispense, Tylenol, Ibuprofen, Tums, or Benedryl except in an emergency situation. (Ex. High Fever or allergic reaction).
- ▶ Only prescription medication will be stored and dispensed from the Nurses Clinic. It must be brought in by parent so appropriate paperwork can be completed.
- ▶ To limit exposure, as much as possible, the school nurse or a designated person will be called to the classroom or other area to assess a sick child. If needed, child will be moved to a designated isolated area for parent pick-up.
- ▶ Anyone that presents with a temperature of 100.4 or higher must be sent home. No exceptions.

Options for Parents

Traditional Learning

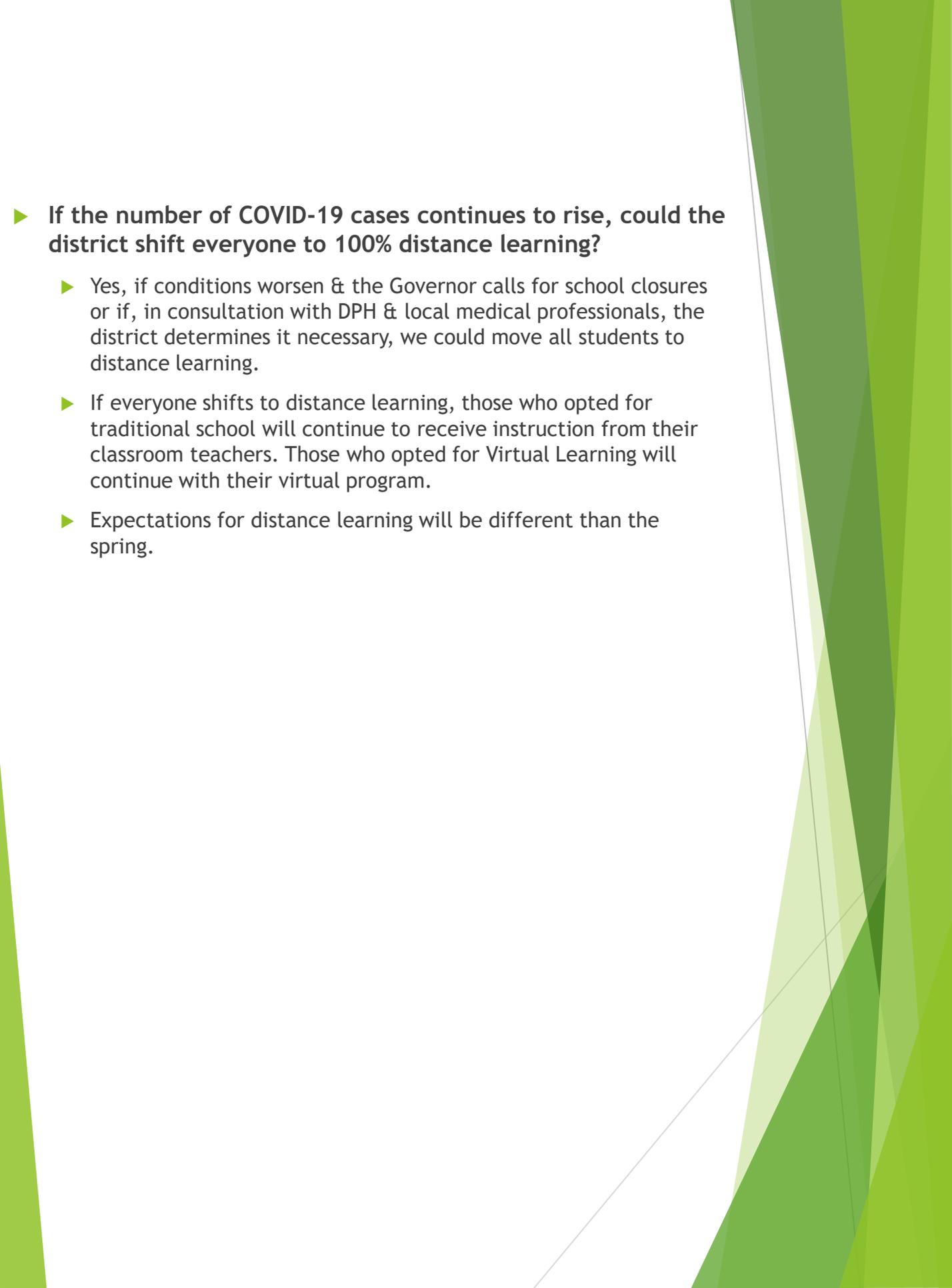
- Classes begin in person on August 7th with enhanced safety precautions.
- If cases increase and cause a school closure, we will use a distance learning plan.

Online Learning

- ▶ Survey should be completed by **July 27th at Noon, 2020** to allow time to make scheduling adjustments
- ▶ Parents are responsible for internet (requirement)
- ▶ One semester commitment
- ▶ Courses assigned based on numbers
- ▶ Requires students to be self-motivated
- ▶ Requires supportive at-home adult to serve as learning coach
- ▶ Mandatory orientation meeting with parent & school

Questions and Answers

**Answers are according to current information.

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- ▶ **If the number of COVID-19 cases continues to rise, could the district shift everyone to 100% distance learning?**
 - ▶ Yes, if conditions worsen & the Governor calls for school closures or if, in consultation with DPH & local medical professionals, the district determines it necessary, we could move all students to distance learning.
 - ▶ If everyone shifts to distance learning, those who opted for traditional school will continue to receive instruction from their classroom teachers. Those who opted for Virtual Learning will continue with their virtual program.
 - ▶ Expectations for distance learning will be different than the spring.

▶ **Will there be social distancing at school?**

- ▶ While we will take steps to minimize the spread of the virus, parents should not expect complete social distancing to always occur at school.

▶ **Will the school system be able to offer extra-curricular activities & sports? If so, will students who choose virtual learning be able to participate?**

- ▶ We will follow guidance from GHSA for our sports programs. In most situations, that guidance will also be applicable to other extra-curricular activities.
- ▶ Yes, those students will be able to participate in extra-curricular activities or athletics.

▶ **Will parents be allowed in the buildings?**

- ▶ To limit the number of people in the areas where our students and staff are, parents and visitors will be restricted to the lobby area. Parent conferences may be held by phone or virtually when possible.
- ▶ **Exception--**PreK and Kindergarten parents will be allowed to walk their students in on the first day of school. These parents will be provided specific instructions.**

▶ **Will we have open house?**

- ▶ Yes, we will have open house- but not our traditional open house.
- ▶ Our maintenance staff & cleaning crew have worked countless hours this summer getting our schools sanitized and disinfected. To limit the number of people in our classrooms, we will offer a staggered schedule for open house in our gym. -(See schedule on next slide)
- ▶ Please limit participation to student and two parents.
- ▶ All participants will be limited to the gym and lobby area.
- ▶ All participants will be strongly encouraged to wear a mask and follow all CDC guidelines for social distancing.

Open House Schedule

- ▶ August 4th (Gymnasium)
 - ▶ PreK Students by appointment only
 - ▶ Limit of two parents and PreK student
- ▶ August 5th (Gymnasium)
 - ▶ 2:00-3:00, Grades K & 1
 - ▶ 3:00-4:00, Grades 2-5
 - ▶ 4:00-5:00, Grades 6-8
 - ▶ 4:45-5:30, 9th Grade Orientation (Auditorium)
 - ▶ 5:30-6:15, Grades 10-12

What will the first day of school look like?

- ▶ For the same reasons in previous slide, parents will not be able to walk their students to class on the first day of school.
- ▶ The exception to this will be Pre-K and Kindergarten students, Pre-K & Kindergarten parents will be able to walk their students to class on Friday, August 7.
- ▶ PreK & Kindergarten Parent Instructions for First Day
 - ▶ Parents planning to walk their child in will need to wait in their vehicle until directed to enter the building.
 - ▶ Parents entering the building will walk their child to the lunchroom for drop off.
 - ▶ A maximum of two parents may enter the school with their child.
 - ▶ All visitors will be strongly encouraged to wear masks while on campus.

Will Pre-K students be allowed to enroll in online school?

- ▶ Our Pre-K program operates under different guidance from K-12. Spaces are also limited in Pre-K. If you are not ready to send your child to school, we understand.
- ▶ We believe that early childhood education is essential. In most situations, we see a noticeable difference in children who attend our Pre-K program and those who do not, both academically and socially.
- ▶ Pre-K Students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) will be able to receive special education services, regardless of choice.

How will students be able to stay home when sick and not worry about the attendance policy?

► Covid-19 absences

For the 2020-21 school year, the attendance policy will allow for students to be excused from school due to Covid-19 symptoms. When a student displays Covid-19 symptoms, they will be required to leave school per school nurse. The Echols County School System strongly recommends that the student follow all guidelines associated with detecting, treating and spreading the virus. If it is detected that the student has Covid-19, please contact the school.

Next Steps for Parents

- ▶ Traditional Option - No Action Necessary
 - ▶ School begins Friday, August 7th.
 - ▶ Information will be posted on social media & webpage
- ▶ Online Option - Select this option on survey
 - ▶ Parents must submit survey request no later than **July 27th at Noon** to allow time to adjust schedules and hold required meetings with these parents
 - ▶ Survey will be sent out by email and available online at www.echols.k12.ga.us beginning Wednesday, July 15th.



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