# Columbus Municipal School District
## Safe Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Service Plan 2021-2022

### General Information

**District Information**  
Columbus Municipal School District  
District 4420  
Cherie Antoinette Labat, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

**Email Information:** labatc@columbuscityschools.org

### Academic Programming

**Instruction**  
The Columbus Municipal School District will schedule instructional delivery to students when schools open using a traditional full five-day schedule, for one hundred eighty days during the 2021-2022 academic school year. Students and teachers will be in regular attendance for scheduled classroom instruction.

Students will be exposed to real time face to face instruction with grade level instruction with academic tasks through standards-based instruction. Students populated into the MTSS process will be begin interventions immediately based on MAAP results and August Benchmark assessments that will be a more accurate picture of summer learning loss. Daily instruction will focus on scaffolding unfinished learning and curriculum standards that have not been met. Instruction will be based on using high quality instructional materials, through acceleration and intense grade level instruction. Parents will have the option of enrolling students in the districtwide after-school programs that will focus on unfinished learning, enrichment, and socio-emotional learning.

Professional development for technology integration will be provided through detailed feedback from teachers and other staff. Technology influencers will be on each campus. Technology influencers will receive training through MDE (Mississippi Department of Education) and other entities.
SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR INSTRUCTION
Safety mitigation for in person five days a week will consist of a facial mask requirement, social distancing at least three feet as much as possible, contact tracing, weekly COVID-19 testing, regular hand washing and limited capacity for student activities. The Columbus Municipal School District will shift to our Virtual Contingency Plan for instructional delivery for students in event that we are forced to close due to an outbreak, closure will be determined at each respective school site. The Columbus Municipal School District will monitor instruction in accordance with the Mississippi Professional Growth Model with a requirement of formative and summative evaluations. Evaluation of instruction with coaching, detailed staff feedback and data analysis will be a routine of support for instruction.

UNDERLYING HEALTH ISSUES
The Columbus Municipal School District will follow all federal compliance measures in addressing underlying health issues. Other learning options will be available for students with underlying medical condition with documentation for other health impairment in accordance with IDEA Sec.300.9 (c) (9).

ATTENDANCE
It will be required to check attendance every day in the Columbus Municipal School District. All students will be required to follow all compulsory attendance requirements. All students must meet the daily attendance requirements as the Mississippi Compulsory School Law will be enforced.

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT
Pursuant to Mississippi Code 37-13-91, a parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child in this state shall cause the child to enroll in and attend a public school or legitimate nonpublic for the period of time that the child is of compulsory-school-age.

https://www.mdek12.org/OCSA

The Office of Compulsory School Attendance Enforcement is responsible for ensuring that all Mississippi students are afforded the opportunity to attend school and to enforce the Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance Law §37-13-91 of the Mississippi Code 1972 Annotated. The law governs compulsory school attendance. It requires a parent, legal guardian or custodian who has legal control or charge of a child age six (6) to seventeen (17) enroll him or her in an education program (i.e. public, private or home school). Student enrollment must occur except under the limited circumstances specified in subsection three (3) of §37-13-91 which includes, but are not limited to, sending the child to a state approved, nonpublic, or educating the child at home in an organized educational program. July 1, 2003, the law was amended to include the following: a child, five (5) years of age, who enrolls in public kindergarten, will have to abide by the same guidelines as outlined in §37-13-91. (https://www.mdek12.org/OCSA)
**Operations**

**STUDENT ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL**
Two drop-off and pick-up points will be established.
1. School Bus Drop off with temperature checks occurring prior to entering the building.
2. Car rider Drop-off with temperature checks occurring prior to entering the building.

**TRANSPORTATION PROTOCOLS**
Bus Transportation is available to all students who live more than one (1) mile from the school or if there is a natural boundary such as a major highway that separates them from the school. The Columbus Municipal School District will operate a bus route with reduced student capacity, using a tier bell schedule to allow for an increased number of buses to serve each school. Students and drivers will be required to wear mask and drivers will be required to have their temperature checked.

**CONTACT INFORMATION FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY FOR THE COLUMBUS MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**
Glenn J. Dedeaux, Assistant Superintendent dedeauxg@columbusecityschools.org

**FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL SERVICE AREA**
The Columbus Municipal School District will operate food and nutritional services. The breakfast served in the classrooms, and lunch will be served in the school cafeteria maintaining social distancing. Outdoor dining will be available to mitigate student capacity and exposure. All trash will be collected by the custodial staff daily and rooms will be sanitized. The food service staff will be equipped with masks, gloves, shields, aprons, gowns, and hair/beard nets.

Each student will receive breakfast in the classroom. Lunch will be served in the school cafeterias. Meals will be transported down each hall in a stainless sanitized cart by cafeteria employees. Milk will be placed in an insulated cold box. The cafeteria workers will have foam, liquid, and gel sanitizer available on the food carts. Eating utensils and napkins will be individually wrapped. Also, each student will receive an individually packaged sanitize wipe with each meal to clean their hands. Each teacher will have water available the classroom. Students will receive a bottle of water upon student’s request. The food will be delivered in to-go trays. Cafeteria employees will thoroughly sanitize each cart after each use.
START AND END DATES
START DATE FOR FALL SEMESTER August 6, 2021
END DATE FOR FALL SEMESTER December 21, 2021
START DATE FOR SPRING SEMESTER January 6, 2022
END DATE FOR SPRING SEMESTER May 24, 2022

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT
The Columbus Municipal School District started intensive parent and student advocacy meetings to focus on academic support at the district level. Each school will be required to provide parent support meetings in conjunction with their parent literacy liaisons. Schools will hold in person meetings along with surveys to obtain feedback about instructional programs and needed support.

Communication
COMMUNICATION
Point of contact: Mary Pollitz
Hotline or phone number: 662-241-7400
Dedicated email address: covid19@columbuscityschools.org
Dedicated website address: http://www.columbuscityschools.org/covid-19/

COMMUNICATION WITH FAMILIES IF THERE IS AN OUTBREAK AND IMMEDIATE CLOSURE
If there is an outbreak, families will receive an individual phone call or an automated phone call from the School Messenger with the pertinent details and next steps. We will also communicate via the website, local media, text messaging, mass call out and social media.

Health and Safety
MASK REQUIREMENT
Columbus Municipal School District will mandate masks for all individuals in all facilities and while being transported on the bus.

CLEANING AND SANITATION
We will sanitize all areas below as stated in our district comprehensive safety plan and follow all CDC guidelines.
  • Buildings, classrooms, and common areas
  • Food and nutritional service areas
  • Transportation (buses, service areas, and equipment)
  • Areas associated with cocurricular or extracurricular events.
CMSD SAFETY MITIGATION
Mandatory Face Mask for Employees and Students
Social Distancing
Regular Sanitization
Desk Shields
Limited Mobility of Students and Teachers
Traditional Class Schedules
Face Shields
Additional Technology Personnel for Parent and Teacher Support
Contact Tracing

SOCIO-EMOTIONAL LEARNING
Covid-19 has highlighted the need to address the social and emotional well-being of students and staff. Social-emotional learning (SEL) helps improve students' academic performance, curtail bullying, reduce dropout rates, and build character. Studies show that social-emotional skills—such as problem-solving, self-regulation, impulse control, and empathy-help improve academics, reduce negative social behaviors like bullying, and create positive classroom climates. SEL can help address various forms of inequity and empower young people and adults to co-create thriving schools and contribute to safe, healthy, and just communities.

During the 2021-22 school year, CMSD will continue to address the social-emotional needs of students and staff by implementing the SEL standards approved by MDE. [sel_standards_final_1.21.21.pdf (mdek12.org)]

- Each school will implement multi-tiered system to ensure the social emotional needs of students are met.
- Each school will have a SEL implementation team.
- Each classroom will implement SEL strategies based on grade level.
- CMSD will work with community mental health resources to help support student success.

HEALTH AND SAFETY FOR EXTRACURRICULAR AND COCURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (See Appendix A)
The virus that causes the Coronavirus 2019 Disease (“COVID 19”) is easily transmitted, especially in group settings, and it is essential that the spread for the virus be slowed to safeguard public safety and the safety of our students. COVID-19 can be transmitted from infected individuals even in they are asymptomatic or their symptoms are mild, such as a cough, and it can also spread by touching a surface of an object that has the virus. The virus that causes COVID-19 can infect people of all ages, and while relatively few children with COVID-19 have been hospitalized, some severe outcomes have been reported in children. While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of furthering the spread of COVID-19, the
current science suggests there are many steps schools can take to reduce the risks to students, coaches, and their families. 
The Columbus Municipal School District will take the necessary precautions and recommendations from the federal, state, and local government, and CDC to safeguard the participants and staff of our athletic programs. The CMSD will communicate the updated changes that may occur regarding COVID-19 and as new information and treatments become available. The recommendations will be adjusted as needed as new information becomes available in order to decrease the risk of exposure for our staff, students, and spectators.

**Athletic Director Contact**
John Davis, Athletic Director davisj2@columbuscityschools.org
Appendix A
Columbus Municipal School District Athletics

The virus that causes the Coronavirus 2019 Disease ("COVID-19") is easily transmitted, especially in group settings, and it is essential that the spread for the virus be slowed to safeguard public safety and the safety of our students. COVID-19 can be transmitted from infected individuals even if they are asymptomatic or their symptoms are mild, such as a cough, and it can also spread by touching a surface of an object that has the virus. The virus that causes COVID-19 can infect people of all ages, and while relatively few children with COVID-19 have been hospitalized, some severe outcomes have been reported in children. While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of furthering the spread of COVID-19, the current science suggests there are many steps schools can take to reduce the risks to students, coaches, and their families. (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/index.html)

The Columbus Municipal School District will take the necessary precautions and recommendations from the federal, state, and local government, and CDC to safeguard the participants and staff of our athletic programs. The CMSD realizes knowledge regarding COVID-19 may constantly change, as new information and treatments become available. The recommendations below will be adjusted as needed as new information becomes available in order to decrease the risk of exposure for our staff, students, and spectators.

**MANDATES**

The following is mandatory for all phases for Middle School and High School Athletics during the COVID-19 pandemic:

- All student athletes, coaches, and staff will undergo a COVID-19 health screening prior to any practice, event, or team meeting. The purpose of the health screening is to check for signs and symptoms of COVID-19. The location of this health screening will be announced prior to the practice or event. The purpose of screening is to check for signs and symptoms of COVID-19.
- Promote healthy hygiene practices to limit the spread of COVID-19 including:
  - Hand washing (20 seconds with warm water and soap)
  - Students should wear a mask when feasible. (Face covering will not be required for athletes while practicing or competing.)
  - Coaching staff and other adult personnel should wear face coverings (masks or face shields) at all times, unless doing so jeopardizes their health.
  - Use hand sanitizer.
- Intensify cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation in all facilities.
Encourage social distancing through increased spacing, small groups, and limited mixing between groups, when feasible.

Educate athletes, coaches, and staff on health and safety protocols.

Require that anyone who is sick to say home.

Follow the CDC guidelines for a student or employee who gets sick.

Regularly communicate and monitor development with local authorities, coaches, staff, and families regarding cases, exposures, and updates to policies and procedures.

Athletes and Coaches MUST provide their own water bottles for hydration. Water bottles must not be shared.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) will be used as needed and situations warrant or determined by local/state government. These items include gloves, face masks, and eye protection.

**Stadiums/Gyms**

- Social distancing signs, including no mask no entry, will be posted inside & outside of facilities.
- All game day personnel involved in the athletic event will be screened prior to working the event. Game day personnel include, but are not limited to, officials, athletic trainers, timers, judges, scorers, ball boy/girl, etc.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be placed throughout the facility.
- On duty personnel will wear a mask at all times.
- Any auxiliary persons (ticket takers, concession stand workers, security, media, and volunteers) will be screened prior to working an athletic event.
- Any auxiliary participant who experiences any symptoms of COVID-19 should follow CDC and MDH guidelines before being allowed to work an event.
- PA announcer will broadcast social distance reminders.
- Pedestrian flow will be restricted in common areas.

**Cleaning & Sanitizing**

- Shared equipment, such as tackling dummies, balls, and agility drill aids should be cleaned daily after use using CDC Approved cleaning solutions.
- Shared locker room or indoor practice space and equipment must be cleaned daily after use. This includes shared flooring such as tumbling mats (follow manufacturer cleaning directions), team seating, or restrooms.

**Dressing Rooms**

COLUMBUS MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION
• These areas must be cleaned daily if used by single teams, or between teams in the event they are used for a tournament or competition that involves several teams using the same facilities during a single day.
• Time spent in dressing room should not be excessive.

Coach and Administrator Preparedness
• Coaches should regularly confirm the availability of, and access to hand-washing facilities, hand sanitizer and cleaning materials at all locations used by their students.
• Teams should enter and leave the field of play promptly without intermingling with spectators after competition.
• Pre and post-game interactions between competing teams and personnel as well as competing teams and fans should be limited as much as possible.
• Water bottles should be designated to each player whenever possible. In the event that this is not possible (due to team size, venue, etc.) then non-shared water sources need to be used such as disposable water cups.

Venues
• When possible, team bench areas should be arranged so access is for team personnel only. In addition, bench areas should accommodate proper physical distancing. When not feasible, other mitigation methods, such as facial coverings may be implemented.
• Designated parking areas for team buses/equipment trucks will be established.

Strategies for effective and consistent cleaning regimens and masking policies to reduce the overall risk of transmission

Hygiene & Masking
• Hand washing or hand sanitizing should be completed before beginning activity, at frequent intervals during workouts or competition, and upon completion of activity before leaving the facility.
• All non-competing students, sideline personnel, officials, and game administrators should be masked at all times.
• Competing athletes should be allowed the option of wearing a mask during competition or working out.
• Students who are rotating out of competition, coaches, and sideline personnel should be masked.

COLUMBUS MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION
• To eliminate the risk of masks becoming dislodged or becoming a choking hazard, it is recommended that during competition athletes use a neck gaiter style mask, which can be slide down if desired during competition and slide up on the sideline while out of play.
• Teams will be responsible for supplying extra masks in the event one should become soiled, damaged, or lost during competition.

**Screening Strategies**

• A checklist should be used for each student and coach participating each day to screen for signs and symptoms of COVID 19 as well as exposure to COVID 19
• Screenings will include a temperature check and questioning to each person for COVID-19 symptoms. These responses should be recorded and stored to provide a record.
• A log of those participating daily will be kept and maintained for the purpose of contact tracing in the event that a student or coach is diagnosed or suspected to have COVID 19.
• Temperature checks before participation will be incorporated. A temperature of 100.0 Fahrenheit or higher should be considered a fever and trigger evaluation for COVID 19.

**Mitigation Strategies**

• Those who have been exposed to COVID-19 (regardless of where the exposure occurred) should follow protocols set forth by the CDC, and MDH.
• Any time physical distancing cannot be maintained by students, coaches, spectators, etc. wearing a facial covering is required when feasible. This includes sidelines, benches, etc. for all contest participants.
• Only school personnel, certified coaches, athletic trainers, and student-athletes should be present during practices. Attendance of non-essential personnel is not recommended until further notice.
• Any individual with suspected positive COVID-19 symptoms should not be allowed to take part in workouts, practices, or events at that time.
  o Coach and/or Student athlete will need to contact parents/guardians for immediate pick-up.
  o It is recommended that parents contact their primary care providers or other appropriate health-care professional for guidance. The athlete will only be readmitted to athletic activities once they are confirmed to be symptom-free.
**Strategies for a consistent isolation, contact reporting, quarantine, and return to play**

**Exemptions for Fully-Vaccinated Individuals**

Individuals are defined as “fully-vaccinated” if they have completed a vaccine series more than 2 weeks prior to exposure and within the last 9 months prior to exposure. A vaccine series represents both Pfizer or Moderna vaccine injections or the single Johnson and Johnson injection.

In the event the vaccination status of an individual in question is uncertain, or they are unable or unwilling to provide proof of vaccination, then they should be considered unvaccinated and subject to the same precautions as the unvaccinated.

Students, coaches, and administrators are excused from close contact quarantine and contact tracing after exposure if:

1. They can be shown to be fully vaccinated, and are experiencing no symptoms after the current exposure

2. They have been confirmed, via a positive COVID test, to have contracted COVID in the last 3 months and are experiencing no symptoms after the current exposure.

3. Due to rare cases of vaccinated patients contracting COVID after completion of their vaccine or after previous infection, it is required that any participant that shows symptoms of COVID have a negative COVID test prior to resuming activity. In the instance of a fully vaccinated person or a person shown to be infected in the last 6 months that is showing upper respiratory symptoms, a negative COVID test will allow immediate resumption of participation. It is recommended that symptoms continue to be monitored and discretion be used in repeat testing if symptoms persist.

4. It is required that fully-vaccinated individuals who are exposed to COVID be screened 48-72 hours after exposure regardless of symptoms, although they are allowed to participate in the meantime.

***To clarify, if a person develops any symptom associated with COVID, such as fever, body aches, loss of taste and smell, they are required to be tested before resuming activity REGARDLESS OF VACCINATION STATUS. If they are vaccinated, a negative test means they may resume activity without close contact quarantine. An unvaccinated individual who has been exposed would still be required to enter close contact quarantine regardless of test results.***

**Close Contact Quarantine**

Students, coaches and administrators that are exposed to COVID are prohibited from participation in CMSD activities, including off season workouts and in season activities such as practice and games until they meet the following conditions:
1. They may resume activity 10 days after exposure without testing as long as they never develop symptoms.

2. They may resume activity after 7 days if they have a negative COVID test on day 5, 6 or 7 and have no symptoms.

3. The minimum close contact quarantine for exposure is 7 days, regardless of access to testing and symptoms.

**Positive Cases**

Students, coaches and administrators that contract COVID are prohibited from participation in CMSD activities, including off season workouts and in-season activities such as practice and games until they meet the following conditions:

1. They may resume activity after 10 days if they are asymptomatic for the last 48 hours of the 10 days of quarantine.

2. Any participant that displays symptoms more than 72 hours OR who requires hospitalization OR medical care beyond that required for diagnosis must be cleared by a medical doctor (MD or DO) before resuming activity.

**Emergency:**

Role of the First Responders:

- Immediate care of the injured or ill student athlete by head coach and/or physical trainer.
- Emergency Equipment retrieval will be picked up by trained athletic manager(s).
- Activation of emergency medical system (EMS) by assistant.
  - 911 call (provide name, address, telephone number, number of individuals injured, condition of the injured, first aid treatment, specific directions, any other information that is needed.) DO NOT HANG UP UNTIL THE EMS OPERATOR HANGS UP.
  - Campus police and administrators will be notified of situation immediately.
- Direction of EMS to scene
  - Open appropriate gates and/or doors.
  - Designate individual to meet EMS at the site and direct them to injured.
  - Scene Control: limit scene to first aid providers and move bystanders from the area.
Columbus Municipal School District

Point of Contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School/Program</th>
<th>Contact Person</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brandon Central Services Center</td>
<td>Greg Hunley, Director of Human Resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Education</td>
<td>Tiffany Lanier –Special Education Director</td>
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<td>Columbus High School</td>
<td>Craig Chapman, Principal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mckellar Vocational Center</td>
<td>Christopher Bray, Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Columbus Success Academy</td>
<td>LaShanda Garrett, Principal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Columbus Middle School</td>
<td>Kimberly Gardner, Principal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cook Elementary</td>
<td>Billie Smith, Principal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fairview Elementary</td>
<td>Dr. Melinda Robinson, Principal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Franklin Academy</td>
<td>Kennetra Smith, Principal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sale Elementary</td>
<td>Dr. Aaron Lee, Principal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stokes-Beard Elementary</td>
<td>Dr. Tanesha Jennings, Principal</td>
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