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Re-Opening FAQ

September 8, 2020

School Day Related Questions

Will students be required to wear masks all day?

Masks are to be worn when social distancing is not easy to achieve. The CDC and the DPH have released strong guidance on the benefits of wearing masks. When a student is within 6 feet of another student it will be encouraged that they wear a mask. One of our goals is to ensure that there are many situations and instances where social distancing is possible (i.e. outdoor classrooms when appropriate, utilizing non-traditional spaces to spread out students, and more).

Are there any stipulations as to the type of mask my child can wear?

As long as it is a CDC approved face covering and is appropriate, your child will be allowed to wear it. Please note the CDC recommends that Cloth face coverings should **not** be worn by:

- Children younger than 2 years old
- Anyone who has trouble breathing
- Anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance

Will the students eat in the lunchroom or in the classroom?

Our School Nutrition Staff is working directly with each school to organize meal times. Each school will have a different protocol, as they deal each have different circumstances. Once these plans are finalized we will update you.

Will the students have recess?

Yes, students will be able to participate in recess.

Will the students have P.E. (physical education)?

Yes, students will still have PE.

Will students be expected to wear a mask outside during recess and/or P.E.?

As long as students have the ability to social distance, masks will not be expected outside.

Will there be certain guidelines for going to the restroom?

Each school already has a protocol for going to the restroom. This protocol is being reviewed to ensure that it meets the social distancing guidelines.

Will there be social distancing on the bus?

All students will have a temperature check before getting on bus. We are asking that parents not allow their children on buses with a fever. We plan on sitting households together. This will help with social distancing.

What are you doing to keep my child safe?

In addition to the social distancing measures, we will also be checking temperatures during day as needed. We will be cleaning shared surfaces multiple times a day, establishing one-way hallways in certain areas, staggering passing times, sanitizing classrooms and buses, instituting a handwashing/sanitizing regiment in each classroom, and decreasing large groups of students congregating. Staff will also be subject to these screening measures and temperature checks.

Learning Option Questions

If I choose to participate in online learning, can my child still participate in extracurricular activities (Sports, Fine Arts etc.)?

Yes, they will need to meet all of the regular criteria to be eligible. All students participating in extracurricular activities will be expected to attend practices, games, and events as if they were attending school Monday-Friday. Parents and Guardians will be responsible for providing transportation to and from practice.

What if I want to switch learning options?

We encourage students to stay in the first model that they choose. We will do what is best for the student.

If my child has a temperature, what will happen?

If your child presents with a temperature throughout the day, they will be taken to a staging area and parent contact will be made. The student will then need to be picked up. Medical approval is required to return.

Meals

Meals will be provided for all students that attend school.

School Closure Questions

How do you decide if you need to close schools again?

The decision to close schools would be made in conjunction with the DPH, CDC, DOE, and other local agencies. Johnson County Board of Education is in close contact with these entities and will keep parents and community members informed of any changes as soon as we can.

Teacher Contact/ School Contact

Can we contact the Board of Education during this time?

Yes, you can call 478-864-3302 between the hours 8:00 AM- 4:30 PM Monday-Friday. You can also e-mail – eddiemorris@johnson.k12.ga.us

How will teachers interact with my child on a consistent basis?

For students the primary mode of contact is google classroom or email. Additionally, each student should be hearing from their teacher in some form each week.

Who can I contact if I have concerns with my child's teacher(s)?

Please contact the building level administrator if you are having any issues.

Will the school provide counselors to assist our children if they need to speak with someone?

Yes, you can contact the school and set up a time for the counselor to contact you.

Special Education and Section 504

If I have a special needs child how will my child interact with teachers and their case worker?

Special Education Teachers will communicate with their students as frequent as needed.

Will we still conduct our required IEP and 504 meetings?

Yes, they will be conducted virtually or in person with masks and social distancing in place.

What about additional services my child may receive (OT, PT, and Speech)?

You will be contacted about these services. If you have not, please email debbie_morris@johnson.k12.ga.us

Enrollment/Transfer/Withdrawal Information

If we are new to the community, how can we enroll our students?

Please contact the school in which your child will enroll.

What will be the procedure for withdrawing my child if we are going to another county?

Withdrawals will still have to be done through the schools.

Medication Questions

I have medication at the school, how do I get it?

Contact the school and they will work with you to retrieve the medication.

Will my child still be able to have medicine administered to them by the school nurse?

Yes, the school nurse will still provide the services that were offered last year.

CDC: COVID-19 and Children – Frequently Asked Questions

What is the risk of my child becoming sick with COVID-19?

Based on available evidence, children do not appear to be at higher risk for COVID-19 than adults. While some children and infants have been sick with COVID-19, adults make up most of the known cases to date. You can learn more about who is at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 at [People who are at higher risk for severe illness](#).

How can I protect my child from COVID-19 infection? You can encourage your child to help stop the spread of COVID-19 by teaching them to do the same things everyone should do to stay healthy.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue and throw the tissue in the trash.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects (e.g., tables, countertops, light switches, doorknobs, and cabinet handles).
- Launder items, including washable plush toys, as appropriate and in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. If possible, launder items using the warmest appropriate water setting for the items and dry items completely. Dirty laundry from an ill person can be washed with other people's items.

You can find additional information on preventing COVID-19 at [Prevention for 2019 Novel Coronavirus](#) and at [Preventing COVID-19 Spread in Communities](#). Additional information on how COVID-19 is spread is available at [How COVID-19 Spreads](#). More information on [Children and Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#) is available online.

Are the symptoms of COVID-19 different in children than in adults?

No. The symptoms of COVID-19 are similar in children and adults. However, children with confirmed COVID-19 have generally presented with mild symptoms. Reported symptoms in children include cold-like symptoms, such as fever, runny nose, and cough. Vomiting and diarrhea have also been reported. It's not known yet whether some children may be at higher risk for severe illness, for example, children with underlying medical conditions and special healthcare needs. There is much more to be learned about how the disease impacts children.

Should children wear masks?

CDC recommends that everyone 2 years and older wear a cloth face covering that covers their nose and mouth when they are out in the community. Cloth face coverings should NOT be put on babies or children younger than 2 because of the danger of suffocation. Children younger than 2 years of age are listed as an exception as well as anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance. Wearing cloth face coverings is a public health measure people should take to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in addition to (not instead of) social distancing, frequent hand cleaning, and other everyday preventive actions. A cloth face covering is not intended to protect the wearer but may prevent the spread of virus from the wearer to others. This would be especially important if someone is infected but does not have symptoms.

How do I prepare my children in case of COVID-19 outbreak in our community?

Outbreaks can be stressful for adults and children. Talk with your children about the outbreak, try to stay calm, and reassure them that they are safe. If appropriate, explain to them that most illness from COVID-19 seems to be mild. [Children respond differently to stressful situations than adults.](#) CDC offers [resources](#) to help talk with children about COVID-19.

What steps should parents take to protect children during a community outbreak?

This is a new virus and we are still learning about it, but so far, there does not seem to be a lot of illness in children. Most illness, including serious illness, is happening in adults of working age and older adults. However, children do get the virus and become ill. Discourage children and teens from gathering in other public places while school is dismissed to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in the community.

Will the parents be notified of potential exposure(s) at school?

The school nurse will communicate all potential exposure. We will have continuous communication with our local health department and the South Central Health District.