



**Carroll County Schools
2020-21 Reopening Plan
Updated January 1, 2021**

Carroll County School System is developing a plan for the reopening of schools for the 2020-2021 school year. This plan and its strategies are based on guidance from the Governor's Office, Georgia Department of Education, Georgia Department of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and local agencies. The priority of this plan is the health and well-being of students, teachers, and other staff members.

This plan presents the district's most current thinking and will continue to be a work in progress based on data and feedback. As the district moves closer to the planned August 10 opening of school, the district will continue to consult with the partners listed above and make adjustments, as necessary, in response to their guidance and recommendations. The four phase approach listed below outlines the areas of focus the district will use to provide premier educational opportunities for Carroll County students.

If you have questions regarding the information in this plan, please contact your child's school. To stay up to date on reopening plans and any changes to the 2020-21 school year, please visit us at www.carrollcountyschool.com.

Area	Phase I	Phase II	Phase III	Phase IV
Teaching & Learning	Schools will be closed and students will participate in an at-home distance learning model.	Schools will use a hybrid learning model that includes limited onsite activities with at-home virtual learning to minimize the impact of the virus on school functions.	Schools will use a blended onsite learning model with at-home virtual learning as an option.	Schools will use a traditional onsite learning model with virtual learning accommodations for individual students as needed.
School Operations	Only essential staff will be onsite at district facilities and will follow safety guidelines and preventive measures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools will be open for limited activities and functions. • This phase will minimize large groups settings, implement recommended safety protocols and include extra 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools will be open for modified activities and functions. • This phase may minimize large groups settings, implement recommended safety protocols and include extra cleaning, hygiene practices and preventive measures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools will be open for traditional activities and functions. • Standard operating procedures with district safety guidelines and preventive measures used to ensure the safety and well-being of students and staff..

		cleaning, hygiene practices and preventive measures. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication and training will be used to minimize impact. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication and training will be used to minimize impact. 	
Transporting Students	No student bus routes with buses used to deliver meals.	Buses will be available as needed using district safety guidelines and preventive measures.	Buses will run normal routes using district safety guidelines and preventive measures.	
School Nutrition	School Nutrition will use a distance food service approach.	School Nutrition will use hybrid serving models following district safety guidelines and preventive measures.	School Nutrition will use modified serving models following district safety guidelines and preventive measures.	School Nutrition will use standard serving models following district safety guidelines and preventive measures.
Large Group Gatherings	Schools will be closed with no large group gatherings allowed.	Schools will adhere to district guidelines limiting the size of groups allowed to gather.	Schools will adhere to modified guidelines limiting the size of groups allowed to gather.	Schools will adhere to standard guidelines regarding the size of groups allowed to gather.
Athletics, Arts & Activities	No extracurricular activities unless sanctioned by GHSA.	Schools may be open for small groups, camps, and extracurricular activities for defined group sizes using district safety guidelines and preventive measures.	Extracurricular activities will follow modified operating procedures using district safety guidelines and preventive measures.	Extracurricular activities will follow standard operating procedures.
Protecting Vulnerable Populations	Vulnerable essential staff will be encouraged to work from home.	Vulnerable students/staff will be encouraged to stay and work from home.	Modified operating procedures will be used to protect vulnerable students and staff..	Standard operating procedures will be used to protect vulnerable students and staff.
School Climate & Social Emotional Wellness	Staff will use strategies to stay connected and focus the social-emotional wellness of students and staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capturing Kids’ Hearts and other social emotional wellness strategies will be used to connect with and support students and staff. • Special attention and support will be given to issues resulting from social factors or prolonged school closures • An emphasis will be placed on ensuring equity and inclusive environments. 		

Area Specific Modifications & Accommodations:

To facilitate the safety and wellness of students and staff the following modifications and accommodations from typical operations will be in place until further notice. The approach taken in this calls for more restrictive procedures to begin the year with hope that less restrictive strategies can be implemented in the weeks ahead. Possible updates and changes will be considered as needed and implemented where appropriate.

General Conditions:

- To facilitate planning and make preparations for needed modifications and accommodations for the coming school year, the district is recommending modifying the instructional calendar for students to start in-person and virtual learning on Monday, August 24. If in-person learning is not possible on August 24 the district will start distance learning until such time that in-person learning is possible.
- Periodic screenings, including random temperature checks, may be conducted. Students and staff with COVID-19 symptoms or a temperature of 100.4+ will be isolated immediately and sent home.
- Students and employees should stay home if they have COVID-19 symptoms, tested positive, or had close prolonged contact with a person with COVID-19. Department of Health guidelines will be followed for deciding when to return to school/work.
- Physical distancing, within 6 feet of other people, will be encouraged to the extent practical.
- Students and staff are expected to wear face coverings when physical distancing is not possible when indoors.
 - Individual medical concerns of students or staff members which would make face coverings medically ill-advised will be considered and addressed on a case by case basis.
 - Breaks to remove face coverings should be used when needed.
 - Faculty and staff have the ability to remove face coverings when teaching, supervising or working when beyond six feet of anyone.
- Frequent hand washing and hygiene best practices will be taught and reinforced continually.
- Hand sanitizer will be stationed around facilities and students will be encouraged to bring hand sanitizer from home.
- Students and staff will be trained to use safety protocols to ensure compliance with preventive measures.
- Mitigating the spread of COVID-19 requires a partnership between schools and parents to daily monitor symptoms before sending students to school. Use the following link for more information on the symptoms of COVID-19. [CDC Coronavirus Symptoms](#)
- Carroll County Schools, in collaboration with local health officials, may deem it necessary to close parts of schools, specific schools, clusters of schools or the district to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Closures could be Targeted to isolate and disinfect specific areas, Short-term to close for a facility-wide deep cleaning or Extended to close facilities for a longer period of time as needed.
- For more information regarding the Coronavirus, visit the Carroll County Schools Website and click on the Resources tab.

Teaching and Learning:

- Carroll County Schools will be providing two learning models for the 2020-21 school year.
 - **Traditional Learning Model** - For families who desire for their children to have in-person learning in a school building five days a week, the traditional learning model will allow students to return to their school buildings with enhanced safety protocols in place. The traditional model will move to virtual learning from home if the COVID-19 spread becomes substantial in the community or in a building or classroom. Students who are already enrolled in school in the Carroll County School System do not need to register for the Traditional

Learning model. If a student is new to Carroll County, they will need to register on the district website at [Carroll County Schools Enrollment Page](#).

- **Virtual Learning Model** - For those who are apprehensive of their children returning to school in-person to start the school year, Carroll County Schools will offer a virtual learning model. The pacing and academic expectations of the virtual learning model will mirror traditional learning. Parents who opt to apply and are accepted into the Virtual Learning Program will be required to participate in a return to school orientation, sign a contract attesting to access to the internet, a device for student use, commitment to support for their student each day and willingness to remain in the Virtual Learning Model for one full grading period. The enrollment window for virtual learning will be July 14 - 24. Parents desiring to learn more about the Virtual Learning Program option should contact their child's school. Registration information for the program can be accessed at this [website](#).
- Carroll County Schools believe the most effective learning model for most students continues to be traditional in-person on-site instruction. If Phase I or II scenarios are required, we will do so with the assumption it will be temporary and only during a period when public health or state officials advise against districtwide in-person instruction.
- Age-appropriate review activities will be prepared for return to school procedures including healthy hand-washing, social-distancing and symptoms of sickness during the first week of school.
- Rooms will be configured to encourage physical distancing, arranged with student desks facing the same direction and with students seated at tables sitting on the same side where feasible.
- Students will be discouraged from sharing books, materials, supplies or equipment including devices and equipment used for athletics/physical education until further notice.
- Parent/school meetings/events may be held virtually or in blended fashion when possible.

School Operations:

- Monitor students, staff and visitors for signs and symptoms of illness.
- Post signage in classrooms and around facilities encouraging use of safety protocols.
- Provide hand sanitizer, disinfectant spray and disinfect facilities on a regular basis
- Cleaning/disinfecting of buildings, surfaces, and high-touch objects will be done more frequently.
- Cleaning/disinfecting protocols will be used in computer labs, media centers, and athletic facilities
- Students will be encouraged to bring water bottles from home.
- Stagger use of playgrounds, recess, use of communal spaces and transition times as needed.
- Implement protocols to manage or limit transition opportunities.
- Limit large group gatherings, events and activities as needed.
- Limit visitors.
- Limit field trips.

- Conduct meetings and events virtually or in a blended format when practical.

Transportation:

- Monitor students for symptoms and encourage good hygiene habits.
- Masks will be strongly encouraged for drivers and students.
- Physical distancing will be encouraged when feasible.
- Provide hand sanitizer on each bus.
- Disinfect buses after morning and afternoon routes.
- Load and unload buses to minimize contact.
- Open windows during bus routes whenever possible.

School Nutrition:

- Implement modifications to protect the safety and welfare of students and staff.
- Physical distancing will be encouraged when feasible.
- Serve breakfast and lunches in classrooms, the cafeteria or other locations that support safety guidelines.
- Stagger lunch periods and modify the spacing of lunchroom tables.
- Individually-wrapped meals will be used more often.
- Disinfect and sanitize more frequently

Large Group Gatherings:

- Minimize large group gatherings with physical distancing encouraged when possible.

Extracurricular Activities:

- Extracurricular programs will follow the expectations outlined by the Georgia High School Association as well as the Carroll County Schools Athletic and Band Return to School Guidelines.

Protecting Vulnerable Populations:

- Vulnerable populations may be encouraged to stay home.
- When onsite, accommodations will be implemented as needed to protect vulnerable populations.

Dealing with Covid-19 Cases

- Department of Public Health guidelines will be used for those who test positive or who have been exposed to COVID-19 in regards to return to work or school.

- Students or teachers identified with possible COVID-19 symptoms will be isolated and sent home.
- Carroll County Schools, in collaboration with local health officials, may deem it necessary to close parts of schools, specific schools or clusters of schools, to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Closures could be Targeted to isolate and disinfect specific areas, Short-term to close for a facility-wide deep cleaning or Extended to close facilities for a longer period of time as needed.

Student Registration:

- The Student Registration Center will be located at Central Elementary gym through July 24, 2020 to effectively accommodate parents and provide social distancing.
- Parents with registration questions should visit the district website, www.carrollcountyschools.com. By clicking on the Enrollment tab you can complete online registration documents. Those with no access to a computer should attend on-site registration at Central Elementary. After July 24 student registration will be located at the District Office.
- For in-county waiver based registration information use the following link: [In District Waiver Registration Information](#)
- For out-of-county waiver based registration information use the following link: [Out of District Waiver Registration Information](#)
- For virtual learning registration information use the following link: [Carroll County Schools Virtual Learning Application](#)

Social Emotional Wellness:

- Capturing Kids' Hearts and other social emotional wellness strategies will be used to connect with and support students and staff.
- Special attention and support will be given to issues resulting from social or emotional factors or prolonged school closures
- An emphasis will be placed on ensuring equity and inclusive environments.