



# *SY20-21 Proposed Plan Reopening Models*

*September 23, 2020*

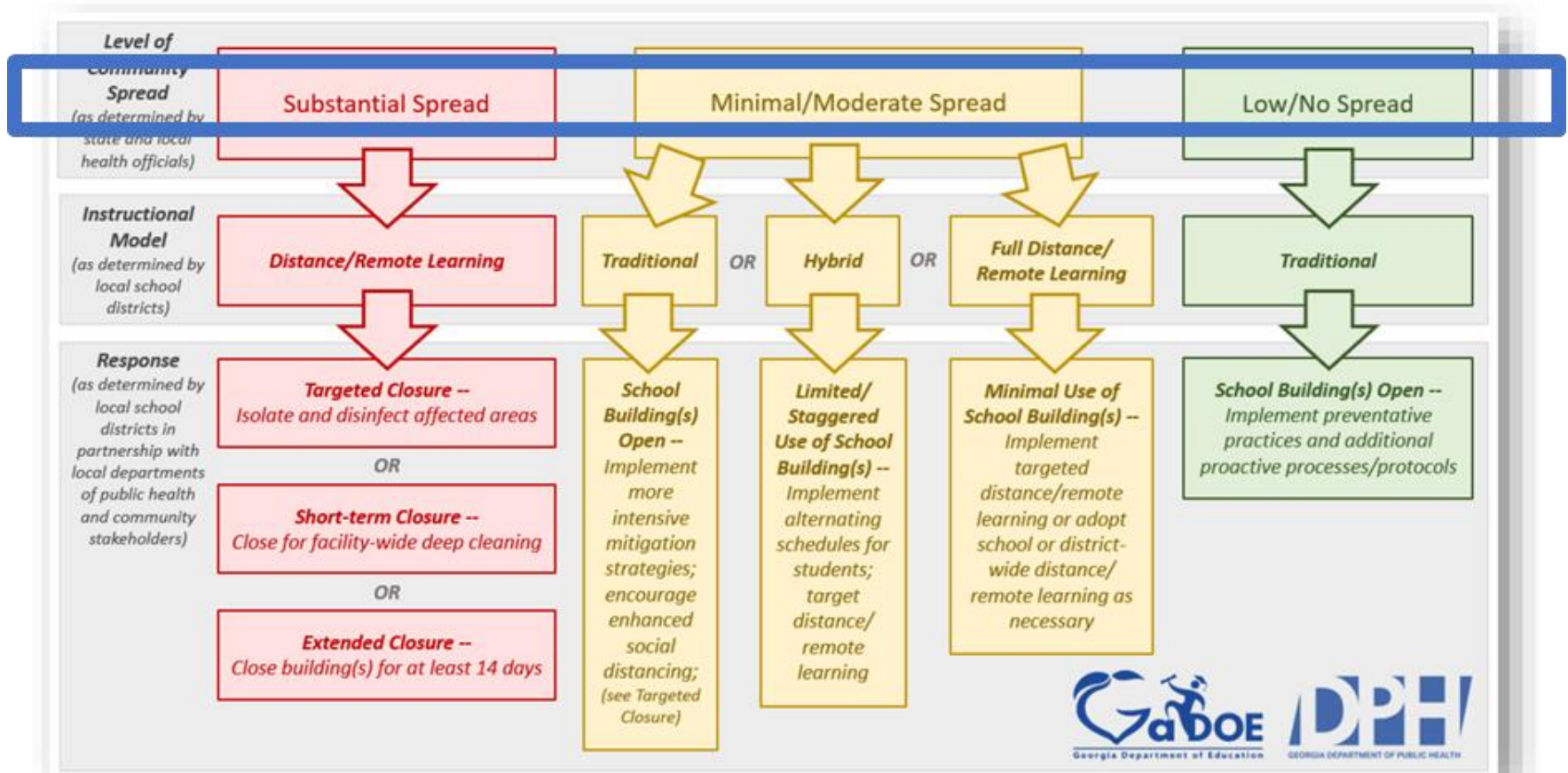
*Dr. Lisa Herring, Superintendent*

# Agenda For Today's Update

- Purpose
  - To provide an update on the APS Reopening Model--Return + Learn
- Roadmap
  - To review the current COVID-19 health data for our community
  - To describe and present **a proposed plan\*** for how APS will provide choice for students in a phased-in approach for in-person learning given the current health data
  - To provide an update regarding the safety procedures for a safe return to in-person learning
- Takeaway
  - APS is providing parents choice to participate in in-person learning beginning October 26, 2020 for the following student groups:
    - **Special Education Low Incidence programs** which includes students attending regional, self-contained classes in Grades Pre-K-12
    - **Pre-K- Second Grade** students in traditional APS schools.
    - Proposed discussion and review for other students groups to return to in-person learning

# Health Data Update

# Recap: Tools that Guide Our Decision Making



*Our approach to decision making is based on the guidance and recommendations of local, state and national public health officials. It is intended to prioritize the safety and well-being of our students and staff as we start the 2020-21 school year. These recommendations also provide the opportunity for responsive planning to ensure our preparedness to address the changing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic.*



# Levels of Community Spread

- The level of community spread is the measure of COVID-19 incidence rates reported by local and state public health officials based on the rate of new diagnoses over a 14-day period.
- The levels are defined as follows: **Substantial Spread** (over 100 cases per 100K residents), **Mild/Moderate Spread** (6-100 cases per 100K residents), **Low/No Spread** (1-5 cases per 100K residents).

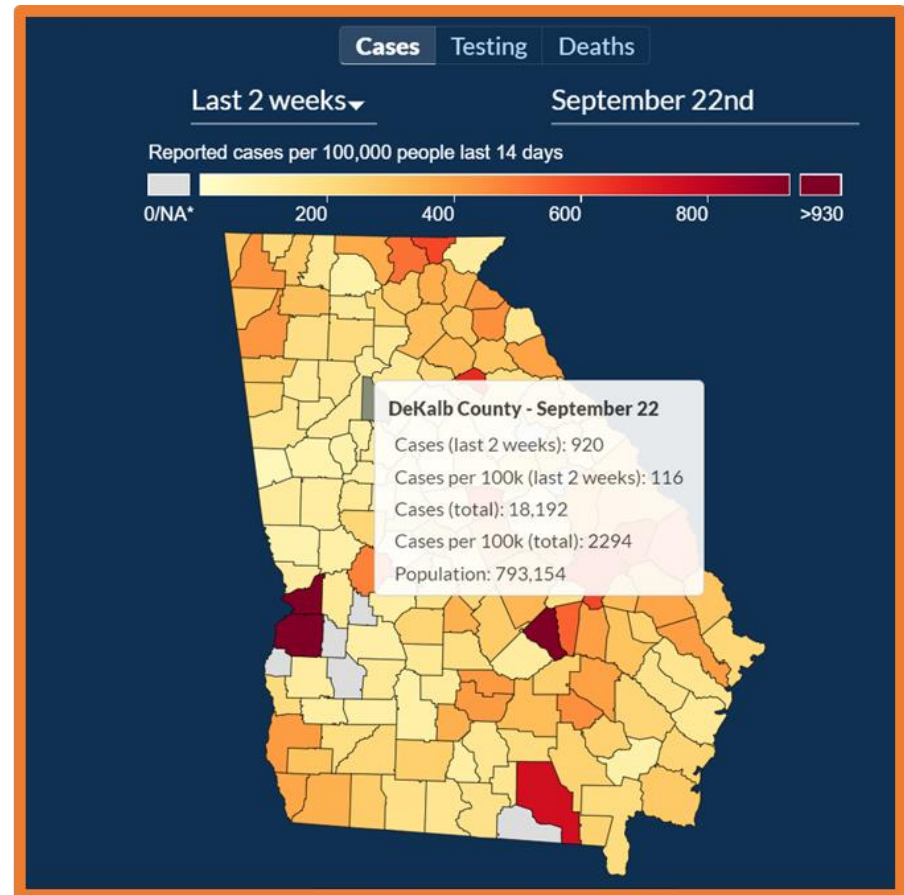
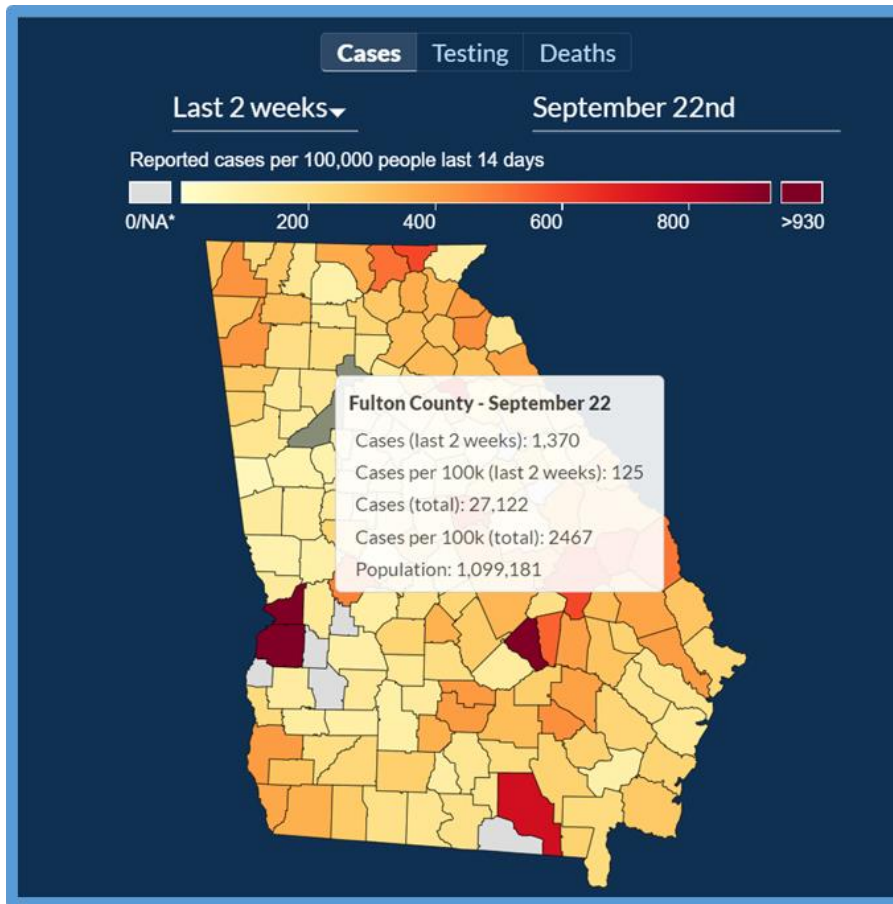


# Decision Making Protocol

LEVEL OF COMMUNITY SPREAD (BASED ON COVID-19 DATA)	SPREAD	INSTRUCTIONAL DELIVERY IMPACT
Surge in Covid-19 cases in Fulton and DeKalb County to reach 'Substantial' category	<b>&gt;100 cases per 100K for 14-day period</b>	Distance/Remote learning
Consistent number of Covid-19 cases in Fulton and DeKalb County to reach 'Minimal/Moderate' category	<b>6-100 cases per 100K for 14-day period</b>	<b>Option:</b> Hybrid AA/BB day with transition to traditional learning model if health conditions <b>improve</b>  <b>Option:</b> Hybrid AA/BB day with transition to distance/ remote learning model if health conditions <b>decline</b>
Steady decline in the number of COVID-19 cases in Fulton and DeKalb County to reach 'Low/No Spread' Category	<b>1-5 cases per 100K for 14-day period</b>	Traditional learning



# Levels of Community Spread: Fulton & DeKalb County



# City of Atlanta COVID-19

## Reopening Dashboard

9.17.2020

### COVID-19 Atlanta Reopening Dashboard – September 17, 2020

Current Status: **Phase 2**

Metrics are reported to public weekly. Next update is on 09/24.

#### Guidance Phase 2

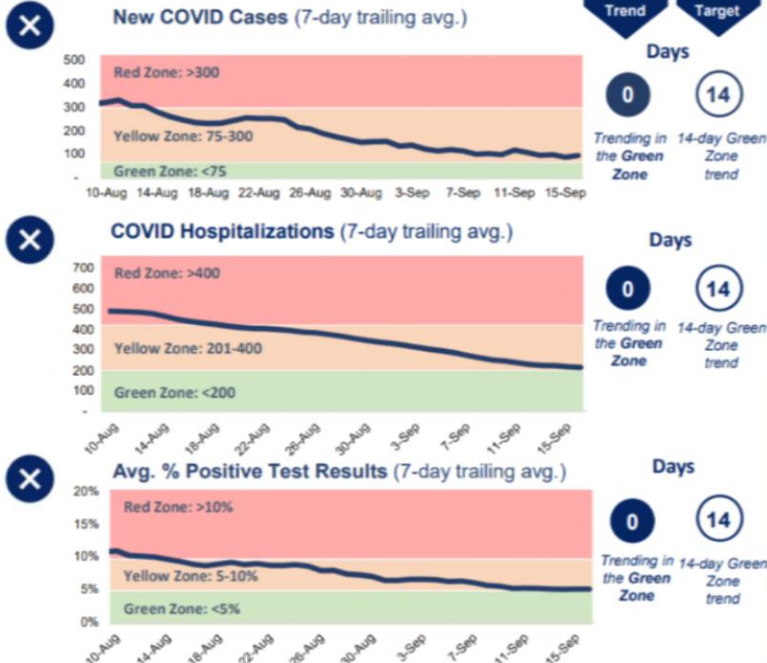
- Social distancing
- To-go and curbside pickups from restaurants and retail establishments
- All persons are required to wear a mask or face covering over their nose and mouth
- Small, private gatherings of no more than 10 people, with social distancing

### #ATLSTRONG

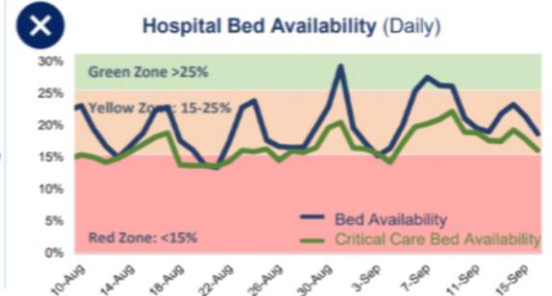
#### Focus areas for next seven days

- Monitoring current Yellow Zone trends in percent positive tests, new cases, hospital capacity, hospitalizations, and testing capacity.

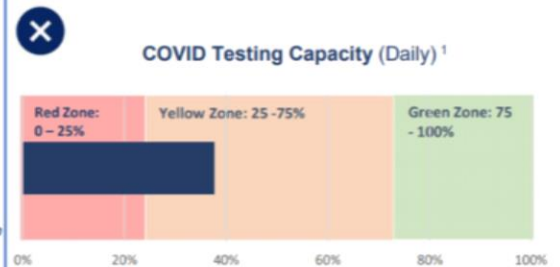
#### Disease Spread Indicators



#### Hospital Capacity Indicators



#### Testing Indicators



<sup>1</sup> Note: Current COVID Testing Capacity metric reflects demand. Metric will be updated once further information becomes available from Fulton County.

**Disclaimer:** All data used herein is not owned or maintained by the City of Atlanta. Data has been sourced from Fulton County Board of Public Health (FCBOH) & Atlanta-Fulton County Emergency Management Agency (AFCEMA). Fulton County-wide data is used as a proxy for severity in the City of Atlanta jurisdiction. Data will be updated based on changes made by FCBOH and AFCEMA. The City of Atlanta does not claim responsibility for the accuracy of the source data.



# Updated Guidance from DPH and GADOE

8.12.2020

## COVID-19

### Guidance for Georgia K-12 Schools and School-Based Programs

INTERIM GUIDANCE AS OF AUGUST 12, 2020



In order to secure the health, safety, and protection of children and their families across the state of Georgia, the Governor's Office worked closely with the GA Department of Public Health (DPH) and Department of Education to develop guidance for Georgia's schools and school-based programs. The toolkit includes required and recommended health related guidance for:

***Families and Students***  
***School Districts***  
***Healthcare Providers***

# Proposed Plan for In-Person Learning

*The following presentation serves as a proposal based on data secured to date. It is important to note that the hybrid model can change pending additional data from APS stakeholders (employees and families).*

# Return + Learn: Phase Two Proposal

## *Targeted Return Date of October 26, 2020*



We propose to offer parents choice to return to in-person learning at district schools for the following students:

- Special Education Low Incidence which includes students attending regional, self-contained classes as follows:
  - -Preschool Special Education
  - -Autism (K-12)
  - -Moderate Intellectual Disabilities (all grades)
  - -Severe/Profound Disabilities (all grades), Deaf/Hard of Hearing (all grades)
  - -GNETS (Georgia Network Educational Therapeutic Services – Oglethorpe Campus)
- Early Learning students in the following grades Pre-K, Kindergarten, First Grade, and Second Grade
- Parents in traditional schools will be sent survey on September 28, 2020 to express their interest in this proposed plan for in-person learning

# Return + Learn: Phase Two Proposal

## *Targeted Return Date of October 26, 2020*



- Please note: the district's charter and partner schools must implement district-approved reopening plans that follow COVID-19 safety protocols which are the same or similar to the district's. Therefore, once a district decision about the transition to Phase II is announced, families of students in charter and partner schools should expect soon thereafter to hear directly from their schools as to the exact plans their schools may adopt.

# Proposed Hybrid Model

## \*AA/BB Days (PK-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade)

Weekly Design	Instructional Delivery	Group AA**	Group BB**
	Face-to-Face Instruction	Mon, Tues	Thurs, Fri
	Site-Based Virtual Instruction (Asynchronous) in addition to Intervention/Support	Wed	Wed
	Site-Based Virtual Instruction (Synchronous)	Thurs, Fri	Mon, Tues

In essence, all students will receive direct instruction 4 days per week and one day for additional independent practice and intervention/support as needed.

Roughly “half” of the PreK-2 students receive face-to-face instruction on Monday/Tuesday or Thursday/Friday while the other “half” participates in virtual learning; Wednesday – site-based (asynchronous) virtual learning for all.

\*\*Groups will be divided based on last name (Alpha order).

\* *Given public health data, a return to a full virtual model may be warranted at any time.*



# Proposed Hybrid Model

\*Spec. Ed. Low Incidence K-12

Weekly Design	Instructional Delivery	Days
	Face-to-Face Instruction	Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri
	Site-Based Virtual Instruction (Asynchronous) in addition to Intervention/Support	Wed

All students will receive direct instruction 4 days per week and one day for additional independent practice and intervention/support as needed.

*\* Given public health data, a return to a full virtual model may be warranted at any time.*

# Proposed Site-Based Virtual Model for Families Opting to Remain Virtual

(PreK – 2, K – 12 SWD Low Incidence, K – 12)

Weekly Design	Instructional Delivery	Days
	Site-Based Virtual Instruction (Synchronous)	Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri
	Site-Based Virtual Instruction (Asynchronous) in addition to Intervention/Support	Wed

All students will receive direct instruction 4 days per week and one day for additional independent practice and intervention/support as needed.

# Proposed Site-Based Virtual Model

Grades 3 – 12

Weekly Design	Instructional Delivery	Days
	Site-Based Virtual Instruction (Synchronous)	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri

All students will receive direct instruction 4 days per week and one day for additional independent practice and intervention/support as needed.

# Virtual Instruction Via AVA/AVA Jr.

## Grades PreK – 12

Weekly Design	Instructional Delivery	Days
	AVA Jr. (PreK-5)	Mon, Tues, Weds, Thurs, Fri
	AVA (6-12)	Mon, Tues, Weds, Thurs, Fri

All students currently enrolled in AVA/AVA Jr. will continue to receive daily virtual instruction through those programs.

# Under Consideration and Discussion: Return Dates for Other Students



# Draft Under Consideration and Discussion: Return Dates for Hybrid Instruction

Grades 3 – 12

Possible Return Date	Return Date is TBD at this time, as health conditions permit	Return Date is TBD, as health conditions permit
Future Phases for Other Grades	3 <sup>rd</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>

- ***APS is committed to welcoming students for hybrid instruction as public health conditions allow. Any final timetable will be guided by public health data.***
- *Given public health data, a return to a full virtual model may be warranted at any time.*
- *A model for other grades will be determined a later date based on the health data.*

# Other Updates Regarding Reopening

# Health Services & Facilities



Masks Required

Signage

Hand Washing &  
Sanitizing

Regular  
Screening

Temperature  
Checks

Screening

## Safety Protocols

- The district will **require the use of masks** and other personal protective equipment for students and employees when in school buildings.
- The district **procured personal protective equipment** for students and employees to use when in buildings. This includes a mask, hand sanitizer, non-contact thermometers, and disposable gloves.
- **Public Health signage** will be used throughout facilities for reminders on health practices, protocols and hygiene
- **Regular screening** for symptoms and ongoing self monitoring
- **Temperature checks** will also be used as a screening process when entering buildings as well as additional safety measures include the use of self-assessments

# Facilities Services Return to School

- **Signage**

- Provided COVID-19 and Social Distance Packages for schools and administrative buildings
- School leaders determine placement for their respective buildings
- Copies can be made as needed from supplemental packet provided to each school



# Health Services & Classroom Safety Protocols



Masks Required

Signage

Hand Washing &  
Sanitizing

Regular  
Screening

Cleaning &  
Disinfecting

Response  
Protocols

## Classroom Safety Protocols for Social Distancing

- Students and staff will wear masks while in the classroom.
- Markings and signage will be posted on floors and walls to ensure that students and employees remain six feet apart when waiting to enter the building, standing in line for elevators, walking in hallways, etc.
- Adjustments will be made to seating and desks, when necessary, to allow for employees to maintain a six-foot distance when completing work.
- In-person class size will be reduced and adjustments to seating/desks will be made in support of social distancing practices when feasible.
- During transitions from classroom to classroom, building administration will control the dismissal of classes using a staggered release.
- Public health guidelines will be followed for the assembly of students in common areas (e.g. gymnasium, cafeteria, library, labs and playgrounds).



# Facilities Services Return to School Prep

- **Classroom Set Up**

- Classrooms will be set up for small classes sizes to allow for social distancing as much as possible.



# Operations and Facilities



Cleaning &  
Disinfecting

Response  
Protocols

Building Use

Visitor Protocols

Transportation

Meals

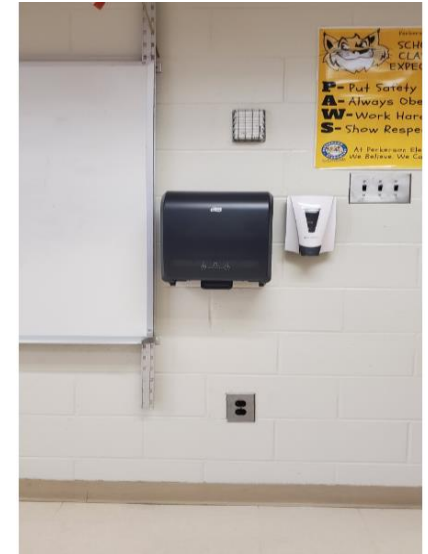
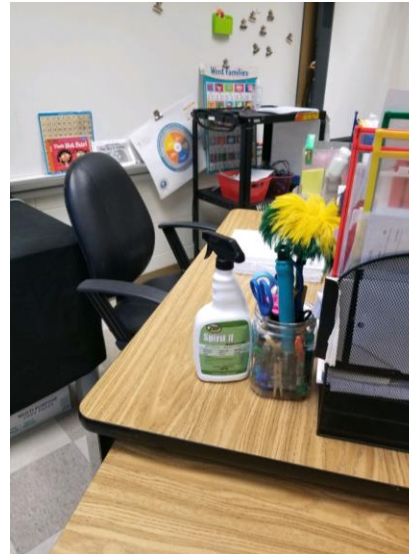
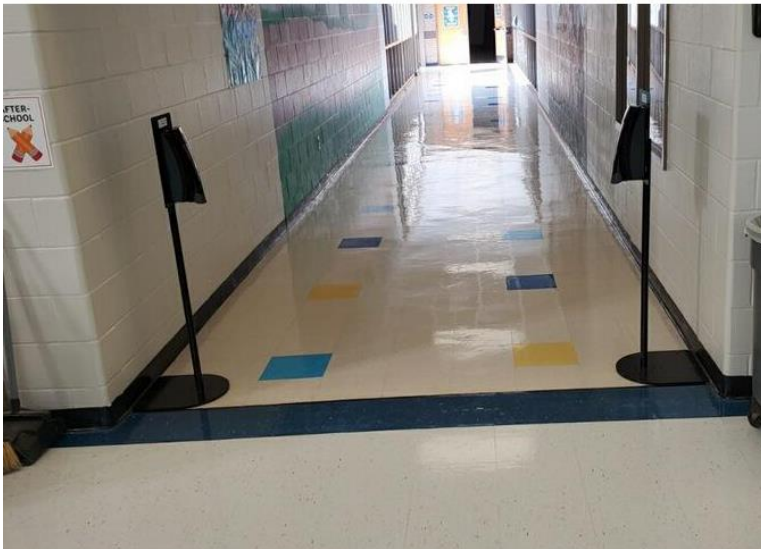
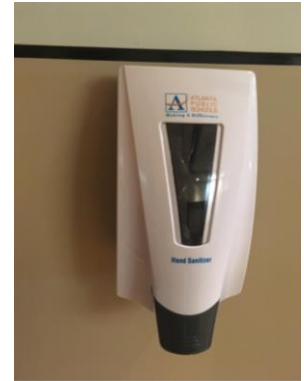
## Facilities & Cleaning Protocols

- Improved **routine cleaning** and disinfecting of facilities
- Utilizing deep cleaning of facilities when students and staff are not present in buildings (Tuesday night, Wednesday, Friday-Sunday)
- Installing hand sanitizer stations throughout buildings
- **Response protocols** in place for facilities impacted by COVID-19
- Implementing visitor protocols to APS facilities
- Continue to limit outside use of APS facilities by outside organizations

# Facilities Services Return to School Prep

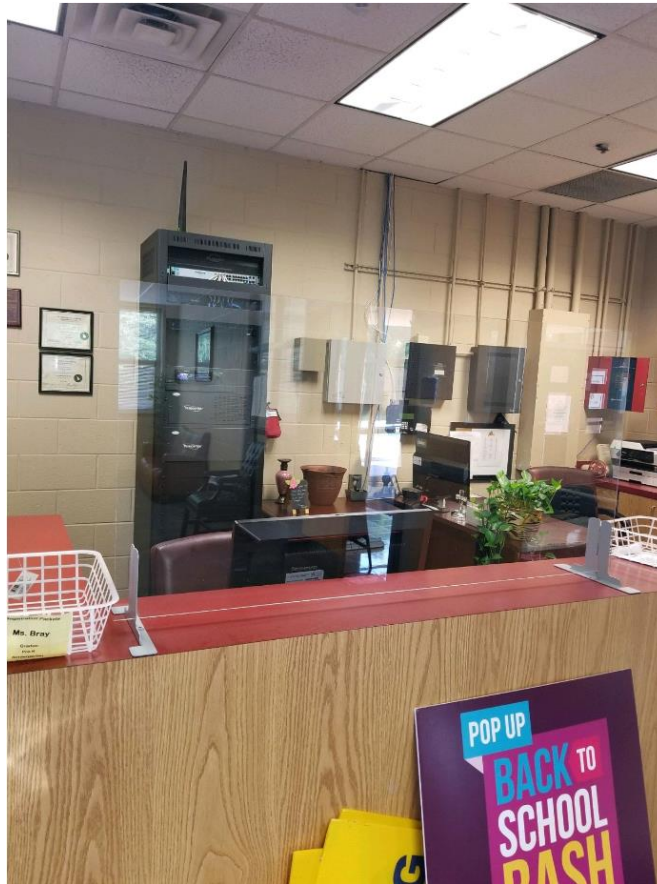
- **Hand Sanitizer + Disinfectant**

- Installed hand sanitizer stations in common areas and by time clocks
- Installing hand sanitizer stations in core classrooms (timeline 09.30.20)
- Provided EPA approved disinfectant (spray) in each core classroom
- Installing paper towel dispenser in each core classroom



# Facilities Services Return to School Prep

- **Plexiglass**
  - Installed for one front office public facing team member



# Facilities Services Return to School Prep

- **Water Fountains**
  - Taken offline and locks ordered
  - Installation of water bottle fillers
- **HVAC**
  - Increased pre-occupancy and post-occupancy run times from 2 hours to 3 hours
- **Plumbing**
  - Initiated weekly water flushing plan during building low occupancy periods
- **Cleaning**
  - Day Custodians
    - Conduct high touch common area wipe downs for at least two cycles daily
    - Monitor hand soap and paper towel stocks throughout the day
  - Night Custodians
    - Conduct facility wipe downs
  - Restorative
    - Conducted post COVID-19 exposure





# Operations and Human Resources



## Meal Distribution

### Meal Services

- School (breakfast and lunch) will **continue to be distributed to students meals weekly**. Meal distribution details are forthcoming.
- Meals for students who opt to return to in-person learning will be **provided in the classrooms**. Schools will not use cafeterias during this phase.



## Transportation

### Transportation

- The **district will provide transportation for Pre-K-2 and Special Education students** who decide to return to in-person learning in Phase 2 to the extent possible.
- APS will **implement appropriate safety measures on school buses** by encouraging all bus riders to wear masks and maintain physical distance while on the bus. However, given current realities, it is likely not possible to consistently maintain the recommended 6 feet social distancing on school buses.
- **Families may elect to pursue other transportation options**. APS encourages families to make transportation decisions that they believe are best for their children.

# Staffing and Human Resources



Maintain Staffing Levels

Return to Work

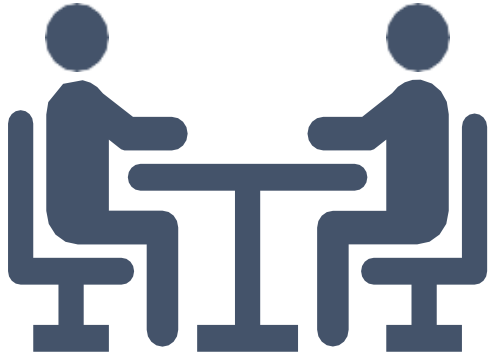
Staggered Work Schedules

Teleworking

## Staffing and Scheduling for District Schools and Central Offices

- School teaching staff and paraprofessionals for Special Education Low Incidence (K-12), Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> grade, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will return to work on October 19 to prepare for in-person teaching as denoted by the proposed schedule
- Non-teaching staff in all schools will return to staggered work schedules on October 19
- Teaching staff in all other grades will continue to have the option to teach from their classroom
- Employees unable to return to work may request telework or leave
- District office will return to work on staggered work schedules on October 12
- Provided guidance to employees regarding leave eligibility options
- Implemented checklists for school and district office staffing for reopening
- Outlined COVID-19 exposure reporting procedures
- Implemented workplace safety procedures

# Staffing and Support to Return to School



## Staff return-to-work questionnaire

Will provide data about which employees are available to work in person and if not, the reasons why

Should be used to inform master scheduling and instructional planning

Set to be **released September 21<sup>st</sup>** and **returned September 27<sup>th</sup>**



## Date of staff return-to-work

Tentatively planned for **October 19<sup>th</sup> for school staff** and **October 12<sup>th</sup> for district office staff**

Teacher work schedules will be aligned to the academic/instructional plan for reopening



# Communications



Town Halls  
Updates  
Surveys  
Information

- Provide information to stakeholders regarding the next phases of reopening for Atlanta Public Schools
- Engage parents and stakeholders in the survey process to provide their intent to return for face to face instruction
- Encourage staff to complete the employee survey to outline their capacity to return to work
- Implementing town halls as a method to share information with students, staff and families
- Developing communication plans and strategies to share information regarding the reopen of schools
- Updating the district website with information regarding the district reopening proposal and plans for reopening

# Reopening Communication for Return to School



Town Halls  
Updates  
Surveys  
Information

- September 18 Letter to Parents Regarding Reopening Next Phase
- September 21-22 Employee Questionnaire Released
- September 23 Special Called Board Meeting @5:30 pm
- September 24 Central Administration Town Hall @ 12:00 pm
- September 24 All Staff Town Hall @ 4:00 pm
- September 24th Parent Town Hall @ 6:00 pm
- September 28 Parent Declaration Survey Schedule for Release for families who have students in traditional APS schools
- October 5th Board Meeting Reopening Update
- October 12th Central Administration Staff Return
- October 19th Teachers Returning
- October 26th Select Students Return

**VIRTUAL  
REOPENING**

# **TOWN HALL**

**Thursday, September 24  
6:00 PM on Facebook**

APS is preparing for a return to in-person instruction as soon as the public health data indicates it's safe. Join our Virtual Town Hall where APS Superintendent Dr. Lisa Herring and other school administrators will discuss our phased approach, facilities preparations, instructional plans, and which students would return first if COVID-19 numbers trend down. We're here to answer your questions and hear your feedback.



Learn more

**BE PART OF THE DISCUSSION AT**  
**<https://www.facebook.com/AtlantaPublicSchools>**

# WE NEED YOU! Parent Survey For Intent to Return to In-Person Learning

All district families should submit a declaration survey by the requested date.

- All families should be complete for each student
- Communication and the link for the parent survey will be sent out electronically via email and text and will be available on the district website
- Surveys will need to be submitted electronically

The data is critically important because it drives decision for capacity and planning for in-person learning.

- Staffing
- Class and School Planning
- District Planning for Operations

# Closing, Next Steps, and Discussion

- Next update is scheduled for October 5, 2020 at the Atlanta Board of Education October Meeting
- The Superintendent retains sole authority over the implementation of school reopening plans, as granted by the Board of Education, and reserves the right to modify this proposed plan based on guidance and information provided by public health authorities.



# Appendix and FAQs



# How will the district track and trace COVID-19 Cases?

COVID-19 is a reportable disease and confirmed cases are reported by the laboratory or health care provider. Atlanta Public Schools (APS) will maintain communication with local boards of health for surveillance and tracking of self-reported cases to the school district as applicable.

APS Comprehensive Health Services department will monitor and maintain self-reported COVID-19 cases. All surveillance and case investigation efforts will be in collaboration with local and state public health officials to ensure the safety of students and staff. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH), Georgia Department of Education (GADOE), local Board of Health (BOH- Fulton and DeKalb) will serve as resources to develop and revise school health guidance.

*Contact tracing will be implemented based on Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) and local Boards of Health (Fulton and DeKalb) Guidelines for reportable diseases.*