



ATLANTA
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS

FY22 Health and Safety Guidelines

July 2021

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Agenda

Purpose

- To review health and safety guidelines for the 2021-2022 school year.

Roadmap

- Mask Wearing Protocol
- APS Protects
- Vaccination Updates
- Quarantine Guidance
- Tracking/Tracing COVID Cases

Takeaway

- APS remains committed to the health and safety of our students and staff by developing guidelines in accordance with recommendations from the Department of Public Health and CDC.

CDC Updated Guidance

- **The Center for Disease Control (CDC) updated guidance as of 7/9/21 recommends schools continue to use the current COVID-19 prevention strategies for the 2021-2022 school year.**
- Evidence suggests that many K-12 schools that have strictly implemented prevention strategies have been able to safely open for in-person instruction and remain open.
- CDC's K-12 operational strategy presents a pathway for schools to provide in-person instruction safely through consistent use of prevention strategies, including universal and correct use of masks and physical distancing.
- All schools should implement and layer prevention strategies and should prioritize universal and correct use of masks and physical distancing.
- Testing to identify individuals with SARS-CoV-2 infection and vaccination for teachers and staff provide additional layers of COVID-19 protection in schools.

Update: Universal Mask Wearing Protocol



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Atlanta Public Schools Implements Universal Mask Wearing Protocol

(As of July 21, 2021)

Atlanta Public Schools (APS) remains committed to ensuring healthy and safe learning environments for the 2021-2022 school year. APS will implement a Universal Mask Wearing protocol in all schools and buildings as we begin the new school year on August 5. In reviewing our data, approximately 18 percent of our eligible students are fully vaccinated. In light of this and in our efforts to mitigate the impact of COVID-19, APS will continue to offer COVID-19 surveillance testing weekly. APS will also offer the COVID-19 vaccine at two upcoming opportunities: 1. Vaccines will be offered at the Back to School Bash on July 31; 2. Starting August 9, APS will offer on-site COVID-19 vaccinations to eligible students in our middle schools and high schools.

Masks Required

Universal Mask Wearing: Masks are **required** for all students and staff in all schools and buildings during the school and workday, as well as all indoor after school activities, clubs, and programs. Clear masks will be used serving students in special populations i.e. Deaf/Hard of Hearing, Pre-K, and ESOL as needed. Exceptions should be made for persons who cannot wear a mask, or cannot safely wear a mask, because of a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.).

School Buses: Consistent with CDC recommendations regarding public transportation, all students and staff must wear masks when riding or operating school buses.

Indoor Athletics: Students and staff are required to wear masks in locker rooms, weight rooms, traveling to/from sporting events, meetings, and other related indoor settings. Schools must follow all guidelines and protocols established by the Georgia High School Association (GHSA).

Band and Chorus: Masks are required for all indoor practices, classes and events.

Masks Optional or Not Required

Outdoor Activities: Masks are optional for outdoor activities. This includes the following:

- Recess
- Physical Education
- Outdoor Activities, Clubs, and Programs
- Outdoor Afterschool Activities

Cafeteria or Eating: Mask wearing is not required when eating; however physical distancing is necessary. Using additional spaces outside of the cafeteria for mealtime seating such as the gymnasium or outdoor seating can help facilitate physical distancing. Schools will utilize best practices for physical distancing in cafeterias and other areas where it would be difficult for students to wear masks.

Outdoor Athletics: Students and staff are not required to wear masks for outdoor athletics such as football, baseball, cross-country, track, etc.

Band and Chorus: Masks are not required for outdoor practices and events, such as marching band.

APS schools and district offices will utilize additional multi-layered mitigation strategies and best practices, which will

Mask Wearing Protocol

Masks Required	Masks Optional or Not Required
<p>Universal Mask Wearing: Masks are required for all students and staff in all schools and buildings during the school and workday, as well as all indoor afterschool activities, clubs, and programs. <i>Clear masks will be used serving students in special populations i.e., Deaf/Hard of Hearing, pre-kindergarten, and ESOL as needed.</i></p> <p><i>Exceptions should be made for persons who cannot wear a mask, or cannot safely wear a mask, because of a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.).</i></p> <p>School Buses: aligned with federal order and consistent with CDC recommendations regarding public transportation, all students and staff must wear masks when riding or operating school buses.</p> <p>Indoor Athletics: Students and staff are required to wear masks in locker rooms, weight rooms, traveling to/from sporting events, meetings, and other related indoor settings. Schools must follow all guidelines and protocols established by the Georgia High School Association (GHSAA).</p> <p>Band and Chorus: Masks are required for all indoor practices, classes and events.</p>	<p>Outdoor Activities: Masks are optional for outdoor afterschool activities, clubs and programs. This includes outdoor play, recess, and physical education activities.</p> <p>Cafeteria or Eating: Mask wearing is not required when eating; however physical distancing is necessary. Using additional spaces outside of the cafeteria for mealtime seating such as the gymnasium or outdoor seating can help facilitate distancing.</p> <p>Schools will utilize best practices for physical distancing in cafeterias and other areas where it would be difficult for students to wear masks.</p> <p>Outdoor Athletics: Students and staff are not required to wear masks for outdoor athletics such as football, baseball, cross-country, track, etc.</p> <p>Band and Chorus: Masks are not required for outdoor practices and events, such as marching band.</p>
<p>APS schools and district offices will utilize additional multi-layered mitigation strategies and best practices, which will include but are not limited to: surveillance testing, physical distancing and health screenings via staff/parent attestation.</p>	

APSprotects

FY21

Student, Staff + Facility Safety

Atlanta Public Schools (APS) is constantly working proactively to keep our students and staff healthy and safe, especially in our COVID-19 environment. Here are just a few of our ongoing health and safety efforts:

AIR



- Invested \$68 million to upgrade our heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems
- Serviced and monitored over 20,000 pieces of HVAC equipment in schools and buildings
- Upgrading HVAC system filters to most efficient version the system can handle
- Increasing pre-occupancy and post-occupancy HVAC run times from two hours to three hours

WATER



- Continuous flushing and disinfecting of water sources in buildings (water fountains, sinks, showers, etc.)
- Proactive testing for Legionella pneumophila
- Use of bottled water and bottle filling stations in schools

BUILDINGS + BUSES



- Use of fogging machines for commercial-grade cleaning/sanitizing of schools and buses
- Twice daily wipe downs and overnight cleaning of high touch common areas
- Use of hand sanitizing stations in common areas and classrooms
- Set building capacity levels at 60% for in-person learning to implement social distancing to the greatest extent possible
- Limited use of APS facilities by outside organizations

PEOPLE



- Developed a comprehensive COVID-19 testing strategy
- Providing personal protective equipment (PPE) for students and staff and requiring the use of PPE in schools and buildings
- Additional screening measures and temperature checks upon entry into buildings
- Practicing social distancing and other protocols per CDC guidance
- Limiting class sizes and the number of people in buildings

FY22 Air and Water Safety Guidelines

AIR



- Invested \$68 million to upgrade our heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems
- Serviced and monitored over 20,000 pieces of HVAC equipment in schools and buildings
- Upgrading HVAC system filters to most efficient version the system can handle
- Increasing pre-occupancy and post-occupancy HVAC run times from two hours to three hours

WATER



- Continuous flushing and disinfecting of water sources in buildings (water fountains, sinks, showers, etc.)
- Proactive testing for Legionella pneumophila
- Use of bottled water and bottle filling stations in schools

Invested \$5.9 million into continued HVAC system improvements

+

Replacing water fountains and adding bottle filler in all schools and district offices



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FY22 Guidelines for “Buildings and Buses” Safety

BUILDINGS + BUSES




- Use of fogging machines for commercial-grade cleaning/sanitizing of schools and buses
- Twice daily wipe downs and overnight cleaning of high touch common areas
- Use of hand sanitizing stations in common areas and classrooms
- Set building capacity levels at 60% for in-person learning to implement social distancing to the greatest extent possible
- Limited use of APS facilities by outside organizations

- Fogging machines will remain in place for bus cleaning and sanitation.
- Standard nightly cleaning will resume for all schools and district offices. 1x per day wipe downs and daily overnight cleaning of high touch common areas will continue.
- Deep cleaning with the use of CDC recommended disinfectants and fogging machines will take place in designated areas/classrooms/offices where there is a positive case of COVID.
- Normal building capacity and usage (including the use of cafeterias) will be resumed while physical distancing is followed to the greatest extent possible.
- Usage of APS facilities by outside organizations following our standard approval process and adhering to our health and safety guidelines.
- Hand sanitizing stations will remain in place and stocked in common areas and classrooms.

FY22 Guidelines for “People” Safety

PEOPLE



- Developed a comprehensive COVID-19 testing strategy
- Providing personal protective equipment (PPE) for students and staff and requiring the use of PPE in schools and buildings
- Additional screening measures and temperature checks upon entry into buildings
- Practicing social distancing and other protocols per CDC guidance
- Limiting class sizes and the number of people in buildings

- Continue the COVID-19 testing strategy including testing site at Douglass HS and Surveillance Testing at all schools and district offices.
- Practice physical distancing guidelines and other protocols per CDC recommendations. CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms and 6 feet while eating. 6 feet is also recommended for adults.
- Replace nurse screenings and temp checks with employee health attestation via Kronos and parent attestation of students via Healthchek (required).
- Continue to stock schools with PPE and medical supplies and designate personnel to staff CARE (isolation) rooms in all school buildings.
- Resume operation of Kronos time clocks (with daily wipedowns by custodial staff), mobile app, or timestamp.
- Practice contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine as applicable.

Vaccination Updates



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**Protected
Together**

- Effective May 11, 2021; Georgia made COVID-19 vaccinations available for children ages 12-17 years old. The following vaccines are approved for usage: Pfizer (ages 12 and older), Moderna (ages 18 and older), and Johnson and Johnson (ages 18 and older).
- APS has collaborated with local public health boards to vaccinate staff who expressed interest in Phase 1A, Phase 1A Plus and Phase 1B.
- APS continues to actively promote COVID-19 vaccinations through our Protected Together campaign. Events are being planned for student vaccinations (ages 12+) for the months of June and July 2021. More information is forthcoming.



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FY22 Vaccination Events

- **Viral Solutions**
 - Expand scope of services to offer COVID-19 vaccines to students and staff within the Douglas cluster
- **Walgreens**
 - One time event at Back to School Bash for eligible persons (July 31, 2021)
- **Walmart**
 - Single pop up events for eligible students and staff
- **Fulton County Board of Health**
 - Provide COVID-19 vaccines to eligible students and other eligible persons
 - Offer at 38 middle and high schools (traditional, non-traditional, charter, and partner school locations)
 - Tentatively scheduled to start week of August 9, 2021

Quarantine or Isolation: *What's the difference?*

- ❑ **Quarantine** keeps someone who might have been exposed to the virus away from others.
- ❑ **Isolation** keeps someone who is infected with the virus away from others, even in their home.

Quarantine Guidelines

Who Needs to Quarantine After Exposure to a Positive Case?

- People who are not vaccinated and have been in [close contact](#) with someone who has COVID-19.
- People who develop symptoms again within 3 months of their first bout of COVID-19.

Who Doesn't Need to Quarantine After Exposure?

- People who have had COVID-19 within the past 3 months or [who are fully vaccinated and not experiencing any symptoms](#).
- People who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 3 months and recovered do not have to quarantine or get tested again as long as they do not develop new symptoms.
- **Note: Persons exposed to other persons who have been exposed do not need to quarantine.**

What Counts as Close Contact?

- You were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more
- You provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19
- You had direct physical contact with the person (hugged or kissed them)
- You shared eating or drinking utensils
- They sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you

How Long does the *Quarantine* Last?

- In collaboration with Fulton County Board of Health, Health Services will advise on how long quarantines should last, based on local conditions and needs.
- School Nurses will address individual student and staff exposure cases. Whole class and Whole School exposures will be addressed by the Health Services Director.
- ***Students/Staff may return from quarantine:***
 - After day 10 without testing
 - After day 7 after receiving a negative test result (test must occur on day 5 or later)
 - After stopping quarantine, individuals should continue to watch for symptoms until 14 days after exposure.

Tracking/Tracing COVID Cases

- How will new COVID exposure cases be tracked? We will continue to track COVID exposures through our self-report the following links:

- ✓ Student self-report form: <http://tinyAPS.com/?CovidStudentForm>

- ✓ Staff self-report form: <http://tinyAPS.com/?CovidStaffForm>

- Who will be responsible for tracking/tracing COVID cases?

COVID Cases are tracked through collaborative efforts with School Nurses, Health Services, and Data Information Group to collect and report data

- How will contact tracing be handled?

Contact investigation and case management will be conducted by the assigned nurse in collaboration with Health Services and Fulton County Board of Health who conduct actual contact tracing

Important Links

- CDC Operational Strategy <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html#fully-vacc>
- CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention K-12 Schools (Updated July 9, 2021) <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>
- DPH COVID-19 Guidance for K-12 Schools and School Based Programs (Updated June 2, 2021) <https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-schools-childcare-facilities>
- GA DPH Vaccination Distribution Dashboard <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/3d8eea39f5c1443db1743a4cb8948a9c>
- Vax Up Fulton <https://fultoncountyga.gov/covidvaccine>

