



Fort Payne City Schools

2022-2023 Path to Reopening

Latest CDC Guidance

August 11, 2022

You are not required to **Quarantine after COVID exposure**- Vaccine status is no longer a consideration.

Quarantine is no longer recommended for people who are exposed to COVID-19 except in certain high-risk congregate settings such as correctional facilities, homeless shelters, and nursing homes. In schools, which are generally not considered high-risk congregate settings, people who were exposed to COVID-19 should follow [recommendations](#) to wear a well-fitting mask and get tested. K-12 school can decide how to manage exposures based on the local context and benefits of preserving access to in-person learning.

Full school guidance can be found at:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-childcare-guidance.html#anchor_1648820793946

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Summary of Recent Changes:

Updates as of August 11, 2022

- **Removed the recommendation to cohort**
- **Changed recommendation to conduct screening testing to focus on high-risk activities during high COVID-19 Community Level or in response to an outbreak**
- **Removed the recommendation to quarantine, except in high-risk congregate settings**
- **Removed information about Test to Stay**
- **Added detailed information on when to wear a mask, managing cases and exposures, and responding to outbreaks**

Latest CDC Guidance

August 11, 2022

Management of Cases and Exposures

Students or staff who come to school with symptoms or develop symptoms while at school should be asked to wear a well-fitting mask or respirator while in the building and be sent home and encouraged to get tested. Symptomatic people who cannot wear a mask should be separated from others as much as possible; children should be supervised by a designated caregiver who is wearing a well-fitting mask or respirator until they leave school grounds.

Schools should develop mechanisms to ensure that people with COVID-19 isolate away from others and do not attend school until they have completed isolation.

Once isolation has ended, people should wear a well-fitting mask or respirator around others through day 10.

Testing is not required to determine the end of isolation or mask use following COVID-19 infection; however people can use the test-based strategy outlined in the isolation guidance to potentially shorten the duration of post-isolation mask use.

People who are not able to wear a well-fitting mask or respirator should either isolate for 10 full days or follow the test-based strategy to determine when they can safely return to the school setting without a mask, continuing to isolate until testing criteria have been met.

If a person with COVID-19 has been inside a school within last 24 hours, the space should be cleaned and disinfected.

Latest CDC Guidance

August 11, 2022

- Quarantine is no longer recommended for people who are exposed to COVID-19 except in certain high-risk congregate settings such as correctional facilities, homeless shelters, and nursing homes.
- In schools which are generally not considered high-risk congregate settings, people who were exposed to COVID-19 should follow recommendations to wear a well-fitting mask and get tested.

Latest CDC Guidance

August 11, 2022

FPCS will continue with personal preference: Individuals who choose to wear a mask as a matter of personal preference or comfort are encouraged to continue to do so at all FPCS facilities.

We will continue to maintain a safe and clean environment for our students and staff, facilities will be cleaned and disinfected frequently to minimize the spread of germs.

COVID-19 ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE FLOWCHART FOR GENERAL POPULATION

ALABAMA
PUBLIC
HEALTH

WHAT TO DO IF YOU TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 REGARDLESS OF SYMPTOMS OR VACCINATION STATUS



Do you have a fever or other symptoms that haven't started to improve on day six?²

YES



Stay home until your fever is gone and other symptoms are improving.



Wear a mask for the next five days.

NO



Resume activities with a mask. Wear a mask for the next five days.

If you are having symptoms of COVID-19 and waiting for your test results, stay home until you get your results.

January 3, 2022
UPDATED CDC GUIDANCE
ISOLATION REQUIREMENTS

Positive COVID-19 Test

If you test positive for COVID-19 (ISOLATE)

What Must I do:

Stay	Stay at home for 5 days
Leave	If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you can leave your house
Continue	Continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days



Face Mask Guidance FPCS

Personal Preference: Individuals who choose to wear a mask as a matter of personal preference or comfort are encouraged to continue to do so at all FPCS facilities. We will continue to maintain a safe and clean environment for our students and staff, but at this time mask will not be required for students and staff.

Revised: August 2022

Message from Superintendent

Fort Payne City Schools is committed to providing high-quality instruction, a safe/clean learning environment, and mental health support for all students and staff. We are looking forward to the start of the 2022-2023 school year and are working diligently to create a plan that supports our reopening. We know that we cannot anticipate every challenge or obstacle that might present itself but be assured that we are making every effort to address a safe start and daily routine for the school setting. We are working in conjunction with health experts, state officials, school leaders, industry specialists, families, and others to be as prepared as possible. We thank you for your continued support as we work together to make this a safe and successful school year!

Brian L. Jett

Plan Highlights

School start date

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graph TD; A[School start date] --> B[Traditional Learning or Virtual Learning options for Parents/Guardians]; B --> C[Traditional School Day]; C --> D[Transportation Guidelines]; D --> E[*School officials in partnership with the Alabama Department of Public Health will monitor health conditions and determine if one or all of our campuses transition to a blended learning model if necessary];
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Traditional Learning or Virtual Learning options for Parents/Guardians

Traditional School Day

Transportation Guidelines

*School officials in partnership with the Alabama Department of Public Health will monitor health conditions and determine if one or all of our campuses transition to a blended learning model if necessary

Parent Communications Regarding COVID-19

All communications related to FPCS will be communications to parents/guardians through the following methods:

FPCS Website: www.fpcsk12.com

Email

Social Media-Facebook:
[www.facebook.com\fortpayneschools](https://www.facebook.com/fortpayneschools)

Voice messaging system

Traditional media outlets

Traditional Face-to-Face Instruction/ Start Date

- School will proceed with normal hours of operation unless otherwise notified by FPCS.
- All new and returning students in grades K-12 will not register onsite. In-District registration forms can be accessed at www.fpcsk12.com Students will return to school on **August 5th**.
- Parents are encouraged to bring students to school and not ride the bus, if possible.
- Additional information regarding individual school returns will be available on school websites.

Virtual School Option and Registration Information

- In response to COVID-19, Fort Payne City Schools will continue to implement a virtual school option for the upcoming 2022-2023 school year. Virtual learning has been an option for FPHS students for several years.
- Virtual options will be available for any student in grades 9-12.

How will the Virtual School Work?


The FPCS Virtual School will work much like our traditional school with the exception that students will work from home. Classes will start in August and follow our traditional school calendar. FPCS Teachers will be working daily with students through assignments that provide a mixture of both interactive and independent assignment. The curriculum utilized will be Edegnuity in grades 9-12 and will focus on Alabama Standards. The FPCS traditional grading system will be utilized, regardless of where the student is taking the class. Virtual learning will include rigorous instruction, high expectations of student performance, and meeting all grade-level standards. Students must participate in all required state testing events.

Information regarding virtual options may be found at:


[Virtual Learning / FPCS Virtual Plan and Application \(fpcsk12.com\)](https://www.fpcsk12.com/virtual-learning/fpcs-virtual-plan-and-application)

Additional Considerations

Extracurricular Activities – Students must meet the same extracurricular activity eligibility requirements as students enrolled in the traditional day program, including, but not limited to, any applicable Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) requirements.



All elective courses may not be offered to full-time virtual program students.



Students can be required to be on campus for certain events such as class meetings, state testing, or other activities designated by the school principal.

How to Sign Up?

Information regarding virtual options may be found at:

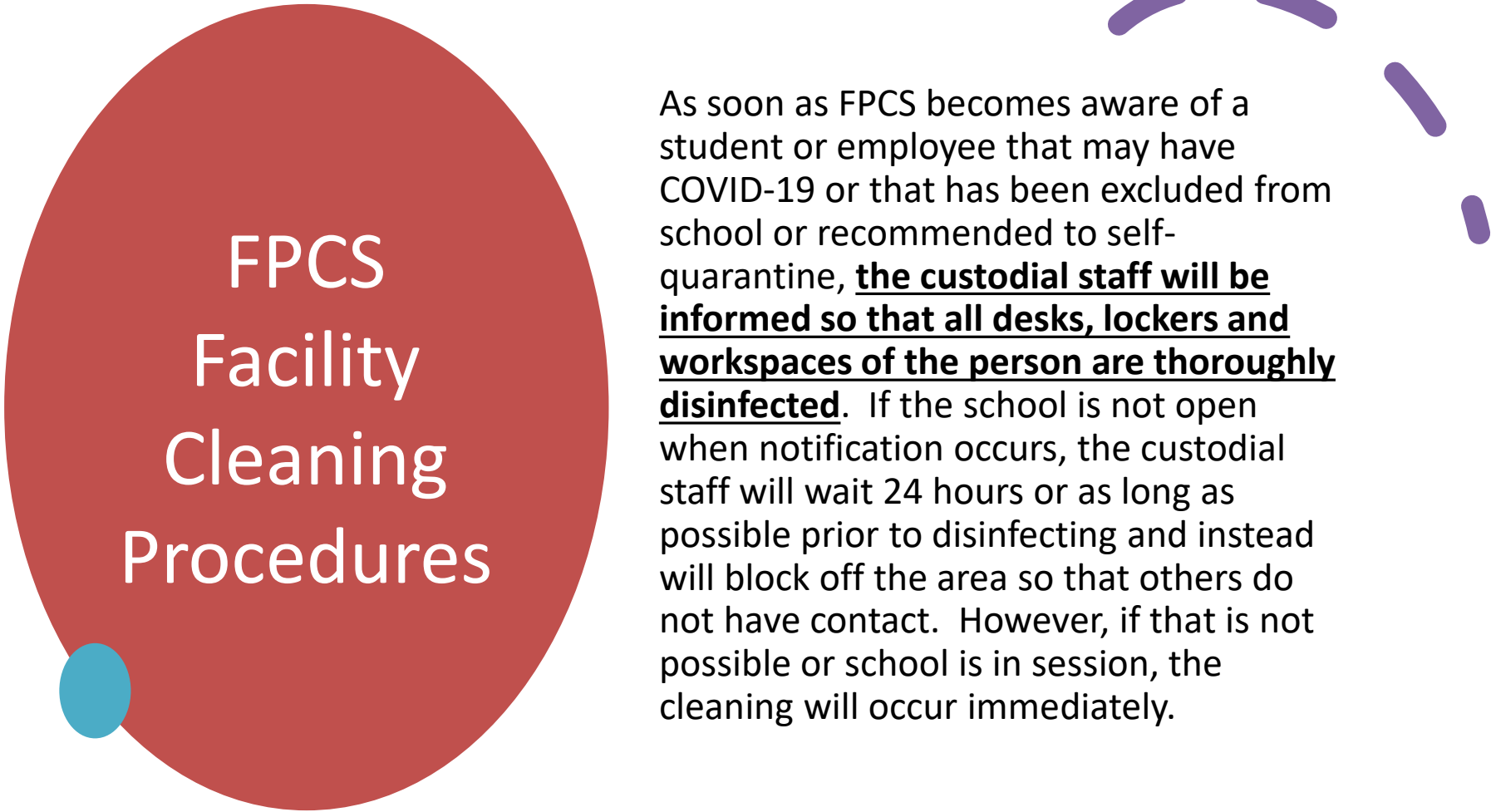
[Virtual Learning / FPCS Virtual Plan and Application \(www.fpcsk12.com\)](http://www.fpcsk12.com)

Parents in grades 9-12 who have declared each student's preference for virtual instruction, or those who are interested in doing so may go to the website to complete the Virtual School Full-Time Registration form for 2022-2023.

Assessments

Formative and State Required Assessments

- All students will participate in all formative assessments. This includes both traditional in-person and FPHS virtual students. Virtual students will be required to come on campus for state assessments.
- Grades K-3 will participate this fall in literacy assessments per state law.



FPCS Facility Cleaning Procedures

As soon as FPCS becomes aware of a student or employee that may have COVID-19 or that has been excluded from school or recommended to self-quarantine, **the custodial staff will be informed so that all desks, lockers and workspaces of the person are thoroughly disinfected.** If the school is not open when notification occurs, the custodial staff will wait 24 hours or as long as possible prior to disinfecting and instead will block off the area so that others do not have contact. However, if that is not possible or school is in session, the cleaning will occur immediately.

FPCS Ventilation Systems and Roofing

September 26, 2022

Improving ventilation is an important COVID-19 prevention strategy that can reduce the number of virus particles in the air. Along with other preventive strategies, including wearing a well-fitting, multi-layered mask, bringing fresh outdoor air into a building helps keep virus particles from concentrating inside.

All HVAC systems at FPCS have been updated to include air filtration systems that continuously brings fresh air into our classrooms. All FPCS buses are equipped with air filtration systems.

AC units are also being replaced at schools. Improvements are also being made to the quality of the roofs in our facilities. Revised Sept 26, 2022.

Stay at Home When Sick and Get Tested

Students, teachers, and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as influenza (flu) or COVID-19, should stay home and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care. Staying home when sick with COVID-19 is essential to keep COVID-19 infections out of schools and prevent spread to others. It also is essential for people who are not fully vaccinated to quarantine after a recent exposure to someone with COVID-19.

FPCS Signage

Providing Guidance on COVID-19

- Post signs at all entrances informing all who enter that they must: a) Not enter if they have a cough or fever; b) maintain a minimum of six-foot distance from one another; c) not shake hands or engage in any unnecessary physical contact.
- Post signs in bathrooms with directions on how to effectively wash hands.
- Materials provided to employees and students should include information on how to recognize the signs of infection and directives not to come to school if sick.

FPCS Persons with COVID-19

All Staff and Parents should be familiar with the symptoms of COVID-19 based on CDC Guidance:

- A fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Asymptomatic return to School per CDC Guidance:

If you continue to have no symptoms, you can be with others after:
10 days have passed since test



FPCS additional hygiene, cleaning & disinfecting measure for the building

- All persons are encouraged to wash hands frequently.
- Place hand sanitizer hygiene stations at the entrances of the building. **All persons entering the building should sanitize their hands.**
- Encourage students and employees to sanitize their backpacks and personal items at the beginning and end of the day and separate personal items into cubbies or baskets that are not shared with other students. Do not allow students to share lockers.
- Require all persons to wash hands after blowing noses, coughing or sneezing or when in contact with bodily fluids.
- Discourage shaking hands, hugging or giving high-fives, etc.,
- Disinfect door handles, light switches, stair railings and other frequently touched surfaces every hour.
- Disinfect bathrooms and other common areas frequently with posted schedules where workers sign off the time when the work has been completed.
- Make sure that disinfectant and related supplies are available to all employees close to their workstations.
- Ensure that there are adequate sinks, soap and paper products for all classes or other sanitizing stations.
- Effective hand sanitizer is made available to all persons working or learning in the building. **Parents should notify the school if their child is allergic to any form or common ingredients of hand sanitizer.**
- Remove items from the classroom or hallways that are frequently touched but are not easily cleaned such as fabric.
- Install physical barriers in reception areas and workspaces where the environment does not accommodate social distancing.

Areas of Special Consideration

Water Fountains

- Water fountains will be cleaned throughout each day. FPCS will purchase disposable cups for students and staff to use at water fountain.

Restroom Use

- Students will be assigned a restroom and use the restroom closest to their classroom.
- Grades 6-12 restrooms will be allowed to be utilized during class changes.

Lockers

- Academic lockers will be issued this year.

FPCS Code of Conduct



The FPCS Code of Conduct is in effect.



Physical altercations are not an allowable behavior. Given the current situation, such poses an even greater danger to others health and the discipline thereof will be reflected of the severity.

Open House



All Open House activities will be face to face this year. Schools will contact you regarding information and times for accessing Open House.



Additional Information such as obtaining student schedules, homeroom assignments, etc., will be posted on individual school websites.

Future Information

This document is considered a working document and may be updated based on additional information regarding COVID-19 when it is released. This document was developed around current policies, practices, and strategies that the FPCS district and schools must implement in order to ensure the healthiest and safest environment while mitigating risk throughout the 2022-2023 school year.