



COVID-19 Protocol 2021-2022

Monday, August 16, 2021
(prepared in response to Governor Lee's EO #84)

Haywood County Schools COVID-19 Protocol Effective Tuesday, August 17, 2021

Personal

Masking

- Based on Governor Lee's Executive Order #84, when Haywood County Schools opens for school on Tuesday, August 17, 2021, **masks are STRONGLY recommended**. Masks, along with proper use instructions, will be made available through our school nurse clinics as needed.

Social Distancing

- Haywood County Schools will encourage social distancing of 3 feet or more when possible.
 - **Note: In the K-12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting mask the entire time.**

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

- Students and staff will be reminded of the importance of hand washing and/or the use of hand sanitizer, as well as properly covering coughs and sneezes, through regularly scheduled emails, PSAs, signage, social media posts, and callouts.

Temperature Checks

- Temperature checks upon arrival to school will not be required at this time. We ask that parents/guardians monitor their children's health and do not send them to school if they are exhibiting signs of illness. Students or staff who may need their temperature checked during the school day should see the school nurse.

Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine

- Contact tracing will be completed through the Tennessee Department of Health with assistance from Haywood County Schools. Students and staff who are considered exposed and in need of quarantine will be notified by the Department of Health or HCS designee (Julie Taylor). We will cooperate with the Department of Health as requested.

Diagnostic and Screening Testing

- Haywood County Schools will begin testing employees only on a volunteer basis at the beginning of the school year. There will be daily testing available for employees who may have been exposed or who may be exhibiting symptoms of Covid-19.



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Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible

- Haywood County Schools will continue to partner with the local health department to provide ongoing information to staff, students, and parents regarding vaccination information and scheduling. At this time, close to 60 percent of our teachers and staff have chosen to be vaccinated.

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies

- Haywood County Schools will continue to support children with disabilities and provide services to them that are appropriate for their individual needs and are neither detrimental to the health and safety of them nor other students and/or staff.

Students who are sick or exposed to Covid-19

- Haywood County School students should stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness and see their healthcare provider for testing and care. Proper documentation from their healthcare provider will be necessary in order to excuse their absence. If a student has a positive Covid-19 test, the parent should notify the school nurse or administrator who will then notify the Covid-19 contact designee (Julie Taylor). The TN Dept. of Health will be notified, and we will follow their direction regarding contact tracing and which students should quarantine.

Facilities

Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities

- Haywood County Schools will be cleaned to the highest level possible through our janitorial service. Extra cleaning will be done throughout each building, especially on frequently touched surfaces (light switches, doorknobs, bathrooms, etc.).

Playgrounds/PE Equipment

- Playgrounds and PE equipment may be used unless we are informed differently by state or local government.
- Students and staff must wash their hands thoroughly before and after use of any shared PE equipment or playground apparatus.

Water Fountains

- We will continue to use the water fountain bottle fillers at this time in lieu of direct contact with the fountain.
- It is recommended that students bring their own water to school or a bottle that can be filled.

Transportation

- Buses will be equipped with cleaning and disinfecting supplies. **Masks are STRONGLY recommended.**



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Athletics

- Haywood County Schools will follow the recommendations and guidelines from TSSAA.

Services

Meal Services

- Breakfast and lunch will be served in the cafeterias for all students. Breakfast and lunch are FREE for all students. Until further notice, visitors will not be allowed in the cafeteria.
- Meals will be free to all HCS students for the 21-22 school year. Community and school "drive thru" meals will be available for our Haywood County Virtual Academy students as well as other eligible families in our community.

Visitors/Parents

- Due to possible ailments of which we may not be aware, we will limit the addition of extra people in our buildings. All visitors will be kept at a minimum, including parents/guardians. Visitors, other than those representing outside agencies who have regular business in a HCS building, will be asked to make an appointment.
- Parents/guardians of Preschool, PreK, and Kindergarten students will be allowed to walk their students to the entrance of the school.
- Parents/visitors will not be allowed to eat lunch with students at this time.

Extended School Day

- All extended school day programs will be open with the same guidelines as the regular school day. Extended school day will begin the week after Labor Day (September 13).

NOTE: These guidelines and procedures will be reviewed continually as we monitor the impact COVID-19 has on our schools. We will rely on information from the CDC and the TN Dept of Health. We will also follow executive orders issued by the governor and local authorities, if applicable.