



## Frequently Asked Questions For Parents August 27, 2021

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### Haywood County Schools Frequently Asked Questions for Parents August 27, 2021

#### **Why are we offering in-person instruction five days a week?**

This past April, the Tennessee State Board of Education passed the Continuous Learning Plans Permanent Rule 0520-01-17, which may be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/utddnmex>.

This means that continuous learning plans are only allowed “in response to a Governor-declared state of emergency.” Shortly thereafter, Governor Lee ended the state of emergency declaration that allowed continuous learning plans. This means that our district must offer in-person instruction for each school day.

#### **Why isn't there a permanent virtual option this year for all students?**

In the 2020-2021 school year, school systems were allowed to operate under a Continuous Learning Plan (CLP). Last year, this gave our school system the option to operate under a 100% virtual model for all interested students. Our CLP gave us the authority to offer a virtual option for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year when we re-opened schools to in-person instruction.

#### **Can students go back to the hybrid model we used last year?**

No. Actions made by the Tennessee State Board of Education and Governor Lee do not allow our district to operate under a continuous learning plan (CLP) for the 2021-2022 school year. This also means that we are not allowed to operate our schools under a hybrid model, such as last year's cohort option. We are also not allowed to offer in-person instruction four days a week or two days a week.

#### **When will we close schools due to COVID-19?**

Districts must use “snow days” (e.g. Stockpile Days) when schools are closed due to COVID-19 since we no longer operate under a continuous learning plan. The Superintendent, with feedback from district and school leaders, will coordinate with the School Board to determine when to use our allotted



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Stockpile days. If we use more than our designated Stockpile Days, then we must make-up these instructional days at the end of the school year. If there is a need to close one school or all schools due to COVID-19, data used to make these decisions may include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) Student absences; (2) Teacher Absences; (3) COVID-19 positive cases; (4) COVID-19 quarantine cases; and (5) community spread data. As we have done for snow day announcements in the past, we will notify parents as early as possible if we close a single school (or all schools) due to COVID-19.

If schools are closed due to COVID-19, no remote or virtual instruction will be provided on those days since we no longer operate under a continuous learning plan.

### **Can you share the district's COVID-19 data?**

Yes. Last year, our district's COVID-19 data was posted every week on a site maintained by the Tennessee Department of Education as well as the HCS website. For the 2021-2022 school year, we will post weekly COVID-19 data on our district web site here: <https://haywoodschoools.com/>.

### **Can my child get a COVID-19 test at school? Where can I go to get free COVID-19 testing?**

HCS does not offer testing for students; however, please reach out to the Haywood County Health Department at 731-772-0463 for up- to-date information regarding free testing services at the Health Department.

### **If my child tests positive for COVID-19, what will happen?**

Please contact your school's nurse or principal as soon as possible.

### **My child is in quarantine or isolation due to COVID-19. What do I need to do?**

Contact your child's school as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please ask to speak to your school's nurse or principal.

### **If someone in my child's class tests positive for COVID-19, what will happen?**

When we learn that a student or staff member has tested positive for COVID-19, our school nurses and school leaders will immediately conduct contact tracing following Health Department protocols.



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Individuals who have been within six feet of the positive case for more than 15 minutes in a 24-hour period will be considered a “close contact” and will be contacted as soon as possible by the school nurse. Please note this exception to the 6 feet rule per CDC guidance: *In the K-12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting mask the entire time.*

Per Tennessee Department of Health guidelines, vaccinated individuals without symptoms will not be quarantined. All other close contacts will be quarantined by the Health Department.

Unfortunately, the HIPAA Privacy Rule prohibits our district from releasing the names of students or staff members who have tested positive for COVID-19. The Privacy Rule, created to implement the requirement of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (“HIPAA”), assures that individuals’ health information is properly protected.

### **If my child’s teacher tests positive for COVID-19, what will happen?**

We will follow the same procedure listed in Question #10.

### **Why aren’t all students in the same classroom quarantined when a teacher or student in their room tests positive?**

Individuals who have been within six feet of the positive case for more than 15 minutes in a 24-hour period will be considered a “close contact” and will be contacted as soon as possible by the school nurse. Please note this exception to the 6 feet rule per CDC guidance: *In the K-12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting mask the entire time.*

Sometimes, all students in a classroom are considered a “close contact.” Sometimes only a few students are considered a “close contact.” School nurses and school leaders coordinate with our local Health Department to use current guidelines to conduct contact tracing. Each situation is different, but an entire classroom is quarantined only when necessary.



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**Where can I get free vaccinations?**

Please reach out to the Haywood County Health Department at 731-772-0463 for up- to-date information regarding free vaccinations at the Health Department. On May 12, 2021, vaccine eligibility expanded to everyone in the United States aged **12 and older**.