



Holmes District Schools

Terry L. Mears, Superintendent

Returning to School What You Need to Know

This informational bulletin is being provided so that all stakeholders know and understand how we, as a school district, plan to conquer and make the 2020-2021 school year a meaningful and positive experience for our students.

Preparing for School

All school district facilities and transportation vehicles will be sanitized prior to school re-opening to ensure a clean and safe return for faculty, staff, and students.

Have you as a parent, your child(ren), or other family members with which your students have had contact been exposed to or tested positive for COVID? If so, please contact your school's principal as soon as possible to discuss your particular circumstances.

With COVID information and guidance changing constantly, many opinions exist on the topic of prevention related to COVID. It is recommended that parents communicate with their child's doctor to make sure that he/she is up to date with recommended vaccinations and vaccinations required for school and overall good health prevention.

This special *Returning to School* bulletin has been produced utilizing information available at the time of publication, July 10, 2020.

Medical advice is not inferred or implied through this publication. Please consult with your physician.

Remember to contact your child's school with your concerns or questions. Keep social media hype and rumor from ruining your positive mental health. Get the facts! Let us know of your concerns.

For information related to all after-school programs, functions, field trips, and extracurricular activities, please download the official HDSB mobile app and allow push notifications. You may also follow your school's Facebook page, website, or call your school's main office for schedules and changes to scheduled events.

Once the School Year Begins: Prevention of Illness

- Regular handwashing upon entering school, and during periods of student transition from one location to the next, will be taught and stressed.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be available in high traffic areas such as classrooms, gymnasiums, cafeterias, auditoriums, and media centers.
- Signage to include reminders for good prevention of illness and overall wellness will be posted and standardized across all departments and schools.

(Continued on Page 2)

Prevention of Illness (continued)

- Students should not share personal items such as hygiene items, school supplies, or food/drink. Parents should consider acquiring back to school supplies early, including personal sanitation items for their child, as supplies before school starts may be limited.
 - School buildings will continue to be cleaned daily. High traffic areas will be cleaned throughout the day as student occupancy dictates.
 - School buses and seats will be cleaned prior to each morning pick-up and before afternoon routes for drop-off.
 - Restrooms, sinks, faucets, door handles, cafeteria lines, railings, and tables will be cleaned at increased frequency.
 - Student seating in all venues will be spaced as space allows.
 - Additional lunch periods will be added to accommodate social distancing.
 - Schools may change arrival and dismissal procedures to prevent crowding of students during these times. Specific information will come from individual schools.
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Once the School Year Begins: Prevention and Response to Illness

Should a child, faculty, or staff member exhibit signs or symptoms of COVID, the individual will be referred to the school nurse immediately for initial evaluation.

If an individual is found to test positive for COVID, the local health department, in conjunction with the Florida Department of Health, will assist the school district in implementing the proper steps to prevent pandemic exposure.

An affected COVID positive individual will not be able to return to work or school until cleared by a physician with a doctor's note reflecting the date of allowed return. For the health, safety, and welfare of all individuals, this requirement cannot be waived. Student absences will be excused for the duration of time reflected only on the doctor's note.

Students with any illness that exhibits a fever must remain at home and will not be allowed to return to school until cleared in accordance with the current CDC guidelines. The student's temperature will be checked by the school health technician prior to re-entry to class.

Faculty, staff, and students may wear a mask that is self-provided. ***At this time, masks are not required.*** The school district is not responsible for ensuring that the student wears the self-provided mask.

Good overall hygiene and illness prevention will continue to be stressed at school. Please stress this importance at home as well.