

**Marion County Schools
Return to Instruction Plan
Revised November 2023**



This plan is based on the current State Health Order and recommendations from the Alabama State Department of Education and is subject to change.

A Message From The Marion County Schools' Superintendent

There have been many changes since our initial return to instruction plan in 2020. Our employees have worked to ensure the safety of our students since our reopening after the pandemic. One positive take-away that COVID taught us is we could follow the practices we are currently using to prevent illnesses that we often see in our schools, including many viruses. I am happy to say that this guide is much shorter than our 2020 edition due to the continued efforts from our employees, students, and all families in our communities.

Ann West

Superintendent of Marion County Schools

Guiding Principles

Five principles should guide all planning, decision making, and execution of plans going forward in 2023:

1. We will be transparent. We will share what we know and what we don't know and be clear about what we can control and what is outside of our control.
2. We will be equitable. We will center decisions on what is best for all students, families, and educators.
3. We will listen. We will bring together diverse stakeholders and experts to understand realities on the ground and to surface creative solutions.
4. We will put safety first. We will leverage science, data, and public health leadership to inform the choices we make.
5. We will be decisive. Given the size and scope of the challenge, we must move deliberately and make tough choices. We may make mistakes but will adapt quickly as variables change.

Disclaimer

The information in this document does not, and is not intended to, constitute legal advice. Instead, all information, content, and materials available in this document are for general informational purposes only. Information in this document may not constitute to most recent legal regulations. This document contains links to other third party websites. These sites are only for the convenience of the user. Marion County Schools does not recommend or endorse the contents of the third party sites. All liability with respect to action taken or not taken based on the contents of this document are hereby expressly disclaimed. The content in this document is provided “as is.” No representations are made that the content is error-free. The document is not an exhaustive list of every action that Marion County Schools will need to return to school or to remain at school. Guidance by the ALSDE is not mandated. Marion County Schools has the authority and flexibility to meet their students’ individual needs and be responsive to the community.

Wellness

In order to maintain a clean, safe, and healthy environment, Marion County Schools will utilize the following continuum:



HOME is our first line of defense. We encourage you to help us by reminding children to wash hands regularly using soap and water. Please see the attendance information in the 2023/2024 Student Handbook that can be found on our website www.mcbe.net.



TRANSPORTATION is the second line of defense. Please encourage students to sit facing the front and cover coughs.



SCHOOL is the final point on our line of defense. School staff will continue to clean and sanitize facilities. Students are encouraged to wash hands regularly, use hand sanitizer that can be provided, and respect personal space of others. If a student becomes ill at school, they should ask to visit the nurse. Nurses are available at each campus.

Current CDC Guidelines

Current CDC Guidelines may be found at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

Hand Sanitizer

- Hand sanitizer should contain at least 60% alcohol and only used with staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer (CDC Hand Hygiene).
- Hand sanitizer will be provided. Students or parents may make a request to teachers or administrators for additional hand sanitizer for school use.

Clean and Disinfect

- Ensure safe and correct application of disinfectants and keep out of reach of children (Disinfecting Facilities).
- Six Clorox 360 machines have been purchased for our system.
- Six Surface Sanitizing Misting Machines have been purchased.
- Five backpack sanitizing sprayers have been purchased.
- Antimicrobial No Rinse Spray has been purchased that has been confirmed by laboratory tests to kill COVID-19.

Marion County Schools will:

- Provide school-level guidance for cleaning and disinfecting all core assets, including buildings.
- Have custodial and staff review and make actionable guidance regarding cleaning and disinfection.
- Maintain facilities for normal school operations.
- Clean frequently touched surfaces including doors, benches, bathrooms, etc. with either an EPA-approved disinfectant or other diluted disinfectants.
- Change air filters regularly.
- Inventory necessary materials and supply chains for cleaning and disinfection supplies.
- Keep restrooms supplied with soap and hand sanitizer.

Guests

Marion County Schools welcomes guests. Parents/guardians are encouraged to make appointment times with teachers and principals.

Traditional

- We are pleased that all Marion County Schools are offering traditional in-person instruction. If this should change at any time, you will be contacted immediately.