

# **Hazlehurst City School District**

## **Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service Plan**

### **May 2021**

The Mission of The Hazlehurst City School District is to inspire each student to become a problem solver, lifelong learner, and productive member of society.

#### **GOALS**

- 1.** Sustain safe and healthy communities
- 2.** Position our school district for a return to normal activities for the 2021-2022 school year
- 3.** Continue safely holding school for our students and school personnel
- 4.** Sustain the district's rigorous curriculum to ensure student achievement at the maximum levels of success

#### **PLAN PRINCIPLES**

- Prioritize student and school personnel care
- Ensure effective community communication
- Provide consistent symptom assessments
- Enact standard record keeping (documented by school nurses)
- Ensure safe student/school personnel management
- Ensure effective facility management
- Ensure safe equipment management
- Maintain flexibility

#### **Academics**

The Hazlehurst City School District will continue to provide rigorous academic standards that respond to the uniqueness of our learners. These standards will be based on the Hazlehurst City School District's curriculum and pacing guides. Our teaching staff in physical and virtual learning environments will present the curriculum while striving to meet the learning styles of the District's students.

Modeling the work of the Hazlehurst City School District Summer Academy that was inaugurated during the summer of 2020, the Hazlehurst City School District will hold a 2021 Summer Academy to continue the process of accelerating students that may have fallen behind during the 2020-2021 school term. (See attached schedule)

The Hazlehurst City School District will begin school on July 23, 2021, running a flexible schedule that provides nine weeks of instruction followed by a two-week intersession model. This model allows students that have defined achievement gaps a period of time for instruction in a smaller educational setting.

The Hazlehurst City School District will continue to offer tutoring through the Boost Program and after school tutoring programs for students.

The Hazlehurst City School District will continue to use District Common Assessments to measure student achievement and provide teachers identification of skill sets that may need to be retaught to ensure students have mastered skills needed for academic success.

### **Athletics and Activities**

The Hazlehurst City School District will continue normal extracurricular activities beginning on June 1, 2021. Each program area will sustain a safe and healthy environment.

### **Attendance**

The Hazlehurst City School District will follow Mississippi Department of Education attendance reporting requirements for face-to-face and virtual learners.

### **Child Nutrition**

The Hazlehurst City School District Child Nutrition Department will provide breakfast and lunch based on each school site's academic schedules.

The Hazlehurst City School District will adhere to CDC considerations when establishing child nutrition protocols within each site. The district will promote behaviors that reduce the spread of infectious diseases by educating staff in the following areas:

- Hand Hygiene
- Respiratory Etiquette
- Cloth Face Coverings (Encouraged - Not Required)
- Use of sanitizing supplies for cleaning

### **Class Size and Operations**

The Hazlehurst City School District will adhere to CDC considerations when establishing class size parameters within each site. The district will promote behaviors that reduce the spread of infectious diseases by educating staff in the following areas:

- Hand Hygiene
- Respiratory Etiquette
- Cloth Face Coverings (Encouraged - Not Required)
- Use of sanitizing supplies for cleaning

### **Communication**

The Hazlehurst City School District provides communication to stakeholders through weekly parent newsletters and School Status - a program that allows for individual and group notifications.

## **Faculty, Staff, and Community**

Hazlehurst City School District faculty, staff, and community provide feedback and participates in operational planning meetings at both the site level and district level to ensure operational continuity. The Hazlehurst City School District has operated through a Strategic Planning process since 1992 to set priorities, focus energy, strengthen operations, and sustain momentum as a school district. The Hazlehurst City School District Design Team provides avenues for operational factors by serving as a "think tank" for the Hazlehurst City School District to provide solutions for curriculum, operations, and personnel opportunities across the district .

Through these avenues adjustments to academic programming, operations, support, communication, technology, health, and safety are made to benefit the Hazlehurst City School District.

## **Flexibility**

Administrators, school personnel, and health officials will continue to meet, plan, and discuss future changes to the current plan as conditions dictate.

## **Health and Safety**

The Hazlehurst City School District will use CDC considerations to promote the health and safety needs of the District's students and personnel. The foundation will be as follows:

- Social Distancing - Three Feet
- Hand Sanitizing
- Mask - Encouraged, but not required

## **Masks**

Hazlehurst City School District Personnel will be encouraged to wear a mask when directly involved with students and during parent conferences. The Hazlehurst City School District will follow Executive Orders issued by the State of Mississippi concerning masks. Students will be encouraged to wear a mask while being transported and during the school day. All outside visitors will be encouraged to wear a mask upon entry into any facility in the Hazlehurst City School District.

Masks may be required if an outbreak of an infectious disease occurs at a school site.

## **Sanitizing Protocols**

### **1. ENHANCED CLEANING FOR PREVENTION**

#### **A. General guidance:**

- i. Increase the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting, focusing on high-touch surfaces, such as communal rooms, public restrooms, exercise rooms, library tables, buttons, handrails, tables, faucets, doorknobs, shared toys, and shared keyboards. Increased frequency of cleaning and disinfecting with attention to these areas helps remove bacteria and viruses, including COV ID-19.
- ii. Wash hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds.

iii. If soap and warm water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

B. Safety guidelines during cleaning and disinfection:

- i. Wear disposable gloves when cleaning and disinfecting. Gloves should be discarded after each use. Clean hands immediately after gloves are removed.
- ii. Wear eye protection when there is a potential for splash or splatter to the face.
- iii. Gowns or aprons are recommended to protect personal clothing.
- iv. Store chemicals in labeled, closed containers. Keep them in a secure area away from children.

C. Cleaning and disinfection of surfaces:

- i. Clean surfaces and objects that are visibly soiled first. If surfaces are dirty to sight or touch, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
- ii. Clean and disinfect surfaces as soon as possible in areas where a person with respiratory symptoms (e.g., coughing, sneezing) was present.
- iii. Use District-provided disinfectant for use against COVID-19.
- iv. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for safe and effective use of all cleaning and disinfecting products (e.g., dilution concentration, application method and contact time, required ventilation, and use of personal protective equipment).
- v. Consult manufacturer recommendations on cleaning products appropriate for electronics.
- vi. Use District-provided products for disinfection of hard, non-porous surfaces.
- vii. For soft (porous) surfaces such as carpeted floor, rugs, and drapes:
  - Remove visible contamination (if present) and clean with appropriate cleaners indicated for use on these surfaces.
  - After cleaning, launder items (as appropriate) in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- viii. If a COVID-19 case is confirmed at the site level, the District will follow Mississippi Department of Health guidelines.

2. ENHANCED CLEANING AND DISINFECTION AFTER NOTIFICATION OF A CONFIRMED CASE OF COVID-19

This protocol is for cleaning and disinfection of areas where a person with COVID-19 spent time in site-level spaces.

A. Positive Test Protocol

Buildings and/or specific rooms and areas where a COVID-19 positive person spent time will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. The cleaning scope will be implemented based on the risk of potential contamination as determined by the GSD School Site Health Decision Team composed of the Chief Operations Officer, the site-level school nurse, and the site-level principal.

- i. Identify areas that require restricted access during and immediately following enhanced cleaning.
- ii. Communicate the impacted area or situation to parent(s) and school personnel.

- iii. Coordinate with building administration to provide proper personal protective requirements, cleaning guidelines, personnel usage, specific training for situation, and disinfecting schedule.

### **Spectators**

The Hazlehurst City School District will follow Executive Orders issued by the State of Mississippi at all events.

### **Student Code of Conduct**

The Hazlehurst City School District will follow the disciplinary guidelines as defined in HCSD Board Policy and outlined in student handbooks. Disciplinary consequences that require in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, and expulsion may require students to participate in the educational process through the use of the HCSD School-to-Home system. The School-to-Home system will ensure that students do not miss instructional time while handling their personal consequences for violations of the HCSD Student Code of Conduct.

Student dress code requirements will be enforced in virtual classrooms with identical expectations as those in classroom environments.

### **School Nurses**

The Hazlehurst City School District's school nurses will sustain their normal operations during the school day on each school campus. Students must have a consent form on file. School nurses will be the frontline solution for helping provide strategies for controlling the spread of infectious diseases, providing professional development and training on the use of thermometers, and proper hygiene procedures. Please note that school nurses must sustain confidentiality in accordance with HCSD Board Policy and the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act. Parents are welcome to visit the school nurse with their children.

### **COVID-19 EXPOSURE PROTOCOL**

Protocol if student/school personnel is known to have been in contact with someone who has or has had COVID-19.

- Symptom based strategy
- Respond to the following questions before isolation:
  - o Was personnel/student within 3 feet of infected individual?
  - o Was personnel/student wearing a mask?
  - o Has personnel/student been following proper hand-sanitizing protocols?
  - o Has personnel/student been vaccinated?
- The student/personnel will be isolated from activities for up to 10 days after last contact with an infected individual.

- The student/school personnel may provide a negative PCR test on the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> day which allows student/personnel to return to school/work on the 3<sup>th</sup> day of isolation.
- If the student/school personnel develops symptoms, then the individual will follow the guidelines for student/school personnel that has been infected.

### **COVID-19 INFECTION W/ SYMPTOMS**

Protocol if a student/school personnel has been diagnosed with COVID-19.

- Symptom-based strategy
- The student/school personnel will be isolated from activities for up to 10 days.
- The student/school personnel may provide a negative PCR test on the 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> day, which allows student/school personnel to return to school on the 3<sup>th</sup> day of isolation.

### **COVID-19 ASYMPTOMATIC INFECTION**

Protocol if a student/school personnel has been diagnosed with COVID-19 but was asymptomatic:

- The student/school personnel will be isolated from activities for up to 10 days after the last contact with the affected individual.
- The student/school personnel may provide a negative test on the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> day, which allows student/personnel to return to work on the 3<sup>th</sup> day of isolation.
- If the student/school personnel develops symptoms, then the individual will follow the guidelines for student/school personnel that has been infected.

### **Staff Development**

The Hazlehurst City School District uses the district's Essential Pieces professional development process for meeting the professional growth needs of faculty and staff. This process allows faculty and staff to complete needs assessment to provide areas of need for teachers. This conference-style approach allows faculty and staff to meet their individual needs and the district to provide training for concepts across the district.

### **Technology**

The Hazlehurst City School District has used Google Workspace for Education within the classrooms of the district on a daily basis for the past ten years. This platform combined with asynchronous and synchronous teaching will be used to provide instruction to students that are unable to attend face-to-face instruction with the district. ( See attached calendar)

### **Transportation**

Buses will be cleaned based on CDC considerations. Protocols listed above for an asymptomatic infection, exposure and/or positive case will be enforced.

### **Virtual Education**

The Hazlehurst City School District will sponsor a Virtual Academy. Registration is required and students who have struggled academically during the 2020-2021 school term may not be eligible.

Virtual Education using asynchronous and synchronous experiences will be initiated if the Hazlehurst City School District or individual school is forced to close due medical-related outbreaks or natural disasters.

### **Visitors**

The Hazlehurst City School District will allow visitors on campus. All visitors are highly encouraged to wear a mask and will be required to check in through District temperature stations before having access to classrooms and meeting spaces.

Any area not addressed in this action plan will continue under normal operating procedures as defined by Hazlehurst City School District School Board Policies and Student Handbooks.

