

Reaching All Minds Academy Return to School Plan

Reaching All Minds Academy followed the guidance of the [StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit](#) as our primary tool for reopening. This is a living document and is updated regularly by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

The following requirements were followed in reopening our school:

Social Distancing Specifics:

- Mark 3 feet of spacing to remind students and staff to always stay 6 feet apart in lines and at other times when they may congregate.
- Limit nonessential visitors and activities involving external groups or organizations.
- Have staff monitor arrival and dismissal to discourage congregating and ensure students go straight from a vehicle to their classrooms and vice-versa.
- Deliver meals to classrooms and eat all meals in classrooms or outdoor spaces.

Cloth Face Coverings:

- Require students and staff to wear masks while in the school building, on school transportation, and in any outdoor area where social distancing is not possible.
 - Updated policy to discontinue eating on the bus to enforce proper masking while riding school transportation.
- Share guidance and information with staff, students, and families on the proper use, wearing, removal, and cleaning of cloth face coverings through Student & Parent Handbook ([English](#) & [Spanish](#)).

Protecting Vulnerable Populations:

- Systematically review all current plans for accommodating students with special healthcare needs and update their care plans as needed to decrease their risk for exposure to COVID-19.
- Create a process for students/families and staff to self-identify as high risk for severe illness due to COVID-19 and have a plan in place to address requests for alternative learning arrangements or work re-assignments.

Cleaning and Hygiene:

- Provide adequate supply to support healthy hygiene behaviors (e.g. soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol for safe use by staff and older children, paper towels, and tissues).
- Teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and/or the safe use of hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol by staff and older children.
- Increase monitoring to ensure adherence among students and staff.
 - Supervise use of hand sanitizer by students.

- o Ensure that children with skin reactions and contraindications to hand sanitizer use soap and water.
- o Reinforce handwashing during key times such as:
 - Before, during, and after preparing food
 - Before eating food
 - After using the toilet
 - After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
 - After touching objects with bare hands which have been handled by other individuals
- Provide hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol) at every building entrance and exit, in the cafeteria, and in every classroom, for safe use by staff and older students.
- Systematically and frequently check and refill hand sanitizers.
- Encourage staff and students to cough and sneeze into their elbows, or to cover with a tissue. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Incorporate frequent handwashing and sanitation breaks into classroom activity.
- Allow time between activities for proper cleaning and disinfection of high-touch surfaces.
- Establish a schedule for and perform ongoing and routine environmental cleaning and disinfection of high-touch areas (e.g. door handles, stair rails, faucet handles, toilet handles, playground equipment, drinking fountains, light switches, desks, tables, chairs, kitchen countertops, cafeteria and service tables, carts, and trays) with an EPA approved disinfectant for SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19), and increase frequency of disinfection during high-density times and disinfect all shared objects (e.g. gym and physical education equipment, art supplies, toys, games) between use.
- Ensure safe and correct use and storage of cleaning and disinfection products, including securely storing and using products away from children, and allowing for adequate ventilation when staff use such products.
- Keep students' personal items separate and in individually labeled cubbies, containers, or lockers. Limit sharing of personal items and supplies such as writing utensils.
- Limit use of classroom materials to small groups and disinfect between uses or provide adequate supplies to assign for individual student use.
- Ensure that all non-disposable food service items are minimally handled and washed with hot water and soap or in a dishwasher, or use disposable food service items such as plates and utensils.

Monitoring for Symptoms:

- Enforce at staff and students stay home if:
 - o They have tested positive for or are showing COVID-19 symptoms, until they meet criteria for return found in [StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit](#) or as provided by the Durham Health Department.
 - o They have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19, until they meet criteria for return found in [StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit](#) or as provided by the Durham Health Department.

- Conduct symptom screening of any person entering the building, including students, staff, family members, and other visitors. Screening may be provided at the school entrance, prior to arrival at school, or upon boarding school transportation.
 - Symptom Screening Checklist and temperature screening administered to all staff, parents, and guests entering the building using a touchless thermometer.
 - Deny access to the building for any individuals with a fever and/or not successfully passing the screening.
- Conduct daily temperature screenings for all students entering the school facility using a touchless thermometer.
- Individuals waiting to be screened must stand six feet apart from each other.
- Staff person must wash hands or use hand sanitizer before touching the thermometer.
- Staff person must clean and sanitize the thermometer using manufacturer's instructions between each use.

Handling Suspected, Presumptive or Confirmed Positive Cases of COVID-19:

- Post signage at the main entrance requesting that people who have been symptomatic with fever and/or cough not enter.
 - Know Your Ws/Stop if You Have Symptoms flyers posted at entrances.
 - Flyers with Main Office phone number posted at entrances for those who cannot enter.
- Educate staff, students, and their families about the signs and symptoms of COVID-19, when they should stay home and when they can return to school.
- Establish a dedicated space for symptomatic individuals that will not be used for other purposes.
 - Created a Nursing Station for accessing and holding students who are symptomatic until they are able to be picked up by parents.
- Immediately isolate symptomatic individuals to the designated area at the school, and send them home to isolate.
- Ensure symptomatic student remains under visual supervision of a staff member who is at least 6 feet away. The supervising adult should wear cloth face covering or a surgical mask.
- Require the symptomatic person to wear a cloth face covering or a surgical mask while waiting to leave the facility.
- Require school nurses or delegated school staff who need to provide direct patient care to wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and perform hand hygiene after removing PPE.
- Implement cleaning and disinfecting procedure following CDC guidelines.
- Have a plan for how to transport an ill student or staff member home or to medical care.
- Adhere to the [StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit](#) guidance for return to school for staff and students who test positive for COVID-19 or have close contact with a positive case.
- Notify local health authorities of confirmed COVID-19 cases among children and staff.
 - Ensure that if a person with COVID-19 was in the school setting while infectious, school administrators coordinate with local health officials to notify staff and

families immediately while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with FERPA, NCGS 130A-143, and all other state and federal laws.

- Promote learning options for students unable to be at school due to illness or exposure.

Communication and Combating Misinformation:

- Disseminate COVID-19 information and combat misinformation through multiple channels to staff, students and families. Ensure that families are able to access communication channels to appropriate staff at the student with questions and concerns.
- Put up signs, posters, and flyers at main entrances and in key areas throughout school building and facilities such as those found on the [Social Media Toolkit for COVID-19](#) to remind students and staff to use face coverings, wash hands, and stay six feet apart whenever possible (wear, wait, wash).
 - Teach students who cannot yet read what the signs; language and symbols mean.

Transportation:

- Clean and disinfect transportation vehicles regularly. Children must not be present when a vehicle is being cleaned.
- Ensure safe and correct use and storage of cleaning and disinfection products, including storing products securely away from children and adequate ventilation when staff use such products.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces in the vehicle (e.g. surfaces in the driver's cockpit, hard seats, arm rests, door handles, seat belt buckles, light and air controls, doors and windows, and grab handles) prior to morning routes and prior to afternoon routes.
- Keep doors and windows open when cleaning the vehicle and between trips to let the vehicles thoroughly air out.
- Clean, sanitize, and disinfect equipment including items such as car seats and seat belts, wheelchairs, walkers, and adaptive equipment being transported to schools.
- Enforce that if an individual becomes sick during the day, they must not use group transportation to return home and must follow protocols outlined above.
- If a driver becomes sick during the day, they must follow protocols outlined above and must not return to drive students.
- Provide hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol) to support healthy hygiene behaviors on all school transportation vehicles for safe use by staff and older children.
 - Hand sanitizer should only remain on school transportation while the vehicles are in use.
 - Systematically and frequently check and refill hand sanitizers.

Coping and Resilience:

- Provide staff, families, and students (if age-appropriate) with information on how to access resources for mental health and wellness (e.g. 211 and Hope4NC Helpline 1-855-587-3463)