

Hamburg School District COVID-19 Guidelines for 2021–2022

Updated August 6, 2021

Hamburg School District will follow the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) guidelines, guidance issued by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, recommendations from CDC, and the laws of Arkansas in planning for the opening of school in the fall. Our goal is to offer equitable, high-quality education for EVERY student, despite their circumstances. We will provide a safe experience that includes a rich educational experience, with opportunities for social interaction and extracurricular activities while adhering to guidelines provided by the Arkansas Department of Health.

The following information is provided to help answer many of the questions you may have about reopening schools.

1. What is the first day for students?

- School will begin on August 16, 2021, unless otherwise determined by the Governor of Arkansas or the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

2. Will Hamburg School District offer a virtual option?

- Yes, for 7th-12th grade. The deadline for applying has ended. All students not already accepted into the virtual program will attend school every day. Face to face instruction is vital in the education of our students.

3. Who will be required to wear face coverings?

- Indoors: Mask use is strongly recommended for all people.
- Outdoors: People are not required to wear masks when outdoors. However, particularly in areas of substantial to high transmission, the CDC recommends that people wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated.
- HSD will have masks available for anyone who wishes to wear one.

4. Will bus transportation be provided?

- Yes, the district will provide bus transportation for Kindergarten through twelfth grade. Social distancing is expected when possible. Masks are strongly recommended due to the close nature of a bus environment.
- As recommended by the ADH, bus windows will be open a few inches, when possible, to improve air circulation.

5. Will the District continue Physical Distancing?

- We will make every effort to provide distance but not limit a student's ability to interact and communicate with others in their classroom.

6. Visitors

- The Hamburg School District will limit visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations. Visitors will be allowed by appointment only and must be screened upon entering the building. Parents will NOT be allowed to eat with their children at school.

7. Under what criteria will individuals **NOT** have to be quarantined if they become a close contact?

- Any individuals that meet one or more of the criteria below **do not** have to quarantine:
 - those who are within 90 days of having tested positive,
 - those who are considered fully vaccinated (post 2 weeks of vaccination for a single dose vaccine and post 2 weeks of the second dose for a two-dose vaccine); and/or
 - If both the positive case and the close contact were wearing their mask appropriately, the close contact will not have to quarantine.
 - As part of the early quarantine release (after seven 24-hour periods of quarantine with a negative test result no sooner than five 24-hour periods since exposure), individuals falling into this category should continue to wear a mask until fourteen 24 hour periods since exposure has passed. The lifting of the mask mandate is for the general public, not those who have been identified as a close contact. General public would be those we assume to not be exposed and to not be positive in this type scenario.
 - Quarantine guidance will be at the discretion of the Point of Contact under the direction of the CDC and the ADH.

8. How will the District Respond to Confirmed Positive Cases?

- Hamburg School District is still responsible for responding to confirmed cases within the school district and for identifying close contacts/quarantines.
- When a positive case has been identified in the Hamburg School district, contact tracing will occur. Any individuals determined to have been a close contact will be notified. The district Point of Contact will determine whether the close contact has to quarantine based upon CDC and ADH guidelines.

9. If an individual tests positive for COVID-19, what will happen?

- We will follow the latest guidance from the Arkansas Department of Health.

10. If a student comes to school sick, what will happen?

- If a student comes to school sick, the school nurse will screen the student and check their temperature. If the temperature is over the ADH guidance, the student will stay with the nurse but be isolated from others until a parent/guardian arrives to sign them out. The student will be sent home and will need to be fever-free for 48 hours **without medication** before returning to school.
- Parents/guardians **are expected to comply by the guidelines and NOT send their child to school with any of the following:**
 - 1.) A Fever of 100.4°F or greater in the last 2 days
 - 2.) Cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell
 - 3.) Have been in contact with a person known to be infected with COVID-19 within the previous 14 days

11. Will students be allowed to use the water fountains?

- Parents are encouraged to send a water bottle with their student since water fountains will NOT be available. Touchless water filling stations have been installed in all buildings.

12. What special precautions will be implemented in regard to cleaning and sanitizing?

- All facilities in the district are having a treatment for germs done before school starts and then three other times throughout the year.
- We will provide hand sanitizer and time for handwashing throughout our campuses.
- Custodial staff will continue to clean and sanitize all areas of the school throughout the school day.
- Students will be asked to sanitize their hands each time they leave and enter a new space.
- Signage about frequent handwashing, coughing etiquette, and nose blowing will be widely posted and encouraged.

13. Will we have an open house?

- We will have open houses. Times will be staggered to reduce the number of people in close proximity to one another and the events will be held outside.

14. Will students participate in extracurricular activities and sports in the fall?

- Yes, all extracurricular activities will remain under Arkansas Department of Health Guidelines. Additionally, athletic teams will follow all AAA guidance. AAA is encouraging all student athletes to get vaccinated to reduce the possibility of having to quarantine.

15. How will you help fill any educational gaps my student has from the previous year?

- Curriculum teams have worked to revise the curriculum so that missed essential standards will be addressed when students return.
- Students will be assessed to determine individual strengths and deficits. These assessments will determine if students need additional support.
- Remediation will take place weekly for all students.

16. What happens if we have school closures again?

- In the event that an entire school or the entire district must close, the school or district will follow the district's approved Alternate Method of Instruction (AMI) plan.

17. What advice do you have for students with special needs (autism, asthma, panic attacks, anxiety, etc.) or students with weakened immune systems and pre-existing conditions?

- The district is prepared to accommodate students through both onsite and offsite instruction with special needs.

18. In the event of a temporary school closure, how will the district serve students who have special needs (Special Education, 504, Dyslexia, G/T, and related services).

- In the event of a school closure, students will participate in AMI that aligns with the student's individual plan under the supervision of the appropriate personnel.

19. How normal will the day be for a student?

- Our goal is for your student(s) to have as normal of a day as possible while we also provide as much safety as possible.
- Students will not remain in the same classroom all day but will be able to transition from one class to another.
- Students will continue to participate in activity classes such as PE, art, music, library, etc...
- Elementary students will continue to have outdoor physical activity.

20. Will my child eat lunch in their classroom?

- No, all K-12th students will eat in their assigned areas which may include the cafeteria, the Lair, the gym, or other different locations on site at each child's campus.
- Parents/guardians, etc. will be able to bring lunches to school for students, but due to the restrictions COVID-19 parents will not be able to eat with their child.
- Parents are strongly encouraged to open an online payment account, so no cash is exchanged. Parents are encouraged to send a water bottle with their students since water fountains will not be available.

21. Will our students have the same arrival and dismissal times?

- Yes, students will have the same arrival and dismissal times as they had when school ended in May.

22. Will the district provide a device and internet?

- Each student will be assigned a device. Each building will have their own guidelines for students taking home devices.
- There will be outdoor access points located throughout the 750 square miles that our district covers. These will be made available to all students. This will make online connectivity easier for students at no cost to families.