



Thomasville
CITY SCHOOLS
Academic Excellence with
Caring for all Students

July 30, 2021

Dear Thomasville City Schools Stakeholders,

I am writing this communication to provide an update on our ***Thomasville City Schools Back to School Reopening Plan*** for the 2021-2022 school year. In consultation with a multitude of external resources to include but not limited to the GA Department of Health, (DPH) Centers for Disease Control (CDC) American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and others our current data in Thomas County will require an amendment to our Back to School Reopening plan.

For all K-12 Institutions the CDC recommends 3 factors that should be considered when making determinations regarding *Prevention Strategies for COVID- 19*. The 3 factors the CDC recommends include:

1. Community Transmission Rate
2. Vaccination Coverage in your respective community
3. Testing completed in your respective community

CDC Prevention Strategies:

- Promoting Vaccination
- Consistent and correct mask use
- Physical distancing
- Screening testing to promptly identify cases, clusters and outbreaks
- Ventilation
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- Staying home when sick and getting tested
- Contact tracing, in combination with isolation and quarantine
- Cleaning and disinfection

Rationale:

1. Thomas County is currently identified as of July 30, 2021 in the **High Transmission Rate Category**. (There are 4 categories identified Low, Moderate, Substantial, and High) The CDC identifies High Transmission as >100 new cases per 100,000 population in the past 7 days.
2. Our current vaccination rate for Thomas County is 36% of residents fully vaccinated and 40% of residents with 1 vaccination.



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3. The CDC's current guidance for all K-12 institutions is *Universal Masking* for all individuals (children and adults) whether vaccinated or not indoors.

Recommendation:

Hence, for all of these reasons and for the safety, health, and well-being of all of our students, faculty, and staff I am amending our Back to School Plan to make masks mandatory for all children and adults while indoors in any of the Thomasville City Schools or facilities. We will continue to monitor the data daily from the DPH and APA in conjunction with the most recent guidance for K-12 Institutions from the CDC. Using these resources we will make the best decisions possible on behalf of all students, teachers, faculty, and staff regarding their overall health and well-being. All stakeholders should expect Thomasville City Schools to respond accordingly and make the necessary changes as the data dictates.

Communication:

Please know that we will continue to keep all of our stakeholders apprised of changes and updates to our Thomasville City Schools Reopening Plan. We ask that you look at our district website, official TCS social media platforms and official communications from the Superintendent to ascertain accurate and up to date communications.

Finally, I encourage each of you to get vaccinated and encourage your family and friends to get vaccinated as well if they have not done so already. We want and need to maintain face-to-face instruction in Thomasville City Schools, however it will take a community effort for us to fight back COVID-19.

I thank each of you in advance for your understanding and support in helping us to keep everyone in our Thomasville City Schools family safe and healthy.

Stay safe and take care,

Raymond Bryant, Jr.

Dr. Raymond Bryant, Jr.

Superintendent



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Is your student experiencing any of the following symptoms?



DIFFICULTY
BREATHING



VOMITING



DIARRHEA



100.4° F +
FEVER



SHORTNESS
OF BREATH



NEW LOSS OF
TASTE OR
SMELL



STAY HOME



If your student has bluish lips or face, extreme difficulty breathing, severe dizziness, disorientation, or is unconscious or difficult to wake, contact 911 immediately. These are life threatening symptoms.



All students will have assigned seating and masks will be mandatory. Buses will continue to be disinfected regularly.



Serving lines will be opened in all schools & students will resume eating in the cafeteria. Breakfast will continue to be grab and go.



School visitors will be allowed, masks will be required. Virtual conferencing will continue to be available.



Hand sanitizing stations will be available throughout all facilities and buses in the school district.

Back to School

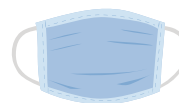
All learning will be face-to-face for the 2021-2022 school year.

Schools will be disinfected on a regular basis.



REMEMBER...

FACE
COVERINGS



REQUIRED

WATER
BOTTLE



RECOMMENDED

COVID
VACCINE



ENCOURAGED