



## Safety

The Arkansas Department of Education, in partnership with the Arkansas Department of Health and the Governor's Office, released 2021-2022 COVID-19 Guidance for Schools (DESE, July 27, 2020) [Click Here](#).

**Students PK - 12 years of age-** Students under the age of 12 are now eligible for vaccination at this time. Because the vaccine is optional, it is important to emphasize implementing prevention strategies to protect people who are not fully vaccinated, including students, teachers, staff, and other members of their households, especially in areas where community transmission is elevated.

Hope Academy will continue practicing preventative measures in the event of a COVID outbreak amongst our students and or staff, such as encouraging masking, physical distancing, screening, testing, handwashing, and respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick and getting tested.

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## Vaccinations

Students who are ages 12 and older are now eligible to receive the Pfizer vaccination. Most local pharmacies have vaccines readily available.

Fully-vaccinated students or staff do not need to quarantine if deemed close contacts unless they have/develop symptoms.

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## Masks/Face Coverings

Face coverings are optional for all students, staff, and visitors.

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## Physical Distancing

To facilitate in-person learning five days a week for Arkansas students, Hope Academy will, if necessary, implement practices that promote physical distancing between individuals and groups of individuals but will do so in a way that does not impede student engagement.

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## Learning Models

On-site	Virtual
<p data-bbox="418 342 786 405">Students attend class onsite 5 days a week.</p> <p data-bbox="418 474 797 741">On-site Instruction: Hope Academy will have 178 seven-hour instructional days of Teacher-Student Interaction. The first day of school with students will be Monday, August 22, 2022.</p>	<p data-bbox="824 342 1192 569">Students will utilize SeeSaw learning management, Reflex math, and Lexia language software system to engage with their teachers and school work remotely from home.</p>



## **Alternate Method of Instruction (AMI)**

In the event Hope Academy of Northwest Arkansas must modify on-site instruction and pivot to remote learning, the school will follow the approved Alternate Method of Instruction (AMI) plan. If positive cases have evolved to the point that an AMI day is necessary, the superintendent shall take the following steps:

- Notify the designated DESE Point of Contact (POC)
- Report the AMI day in the LEA Insights portal. The AMI day for the school or district will also be reported in eSchool; and,
- Participate in consultations with the DESE and ADH.

Teachers and staff will have the option to facilitate instruction on site if the school pivots to AMI due to COVID.

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## **Attendance Policy**

For onsite days, students will be marked absent or present in accordance with Hope Academy's attendance policies.

For remote learning days, parents are responsible for making sure students engage with the assigned work. If parents are unable to engage with students, they will be responsible for reaching out to the classroom teacher to seek assistance.

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## **Transportation**

Masking and physical distancing are optional on school buses. If a student is feeling ill or is displaying COVID symptoms they will be asked to stay home.

## **School Visitors**

**Visitors are welcome at Hope Academy. Any individual or group that plans to visit the school must check in at the front desk. Any visitor that is displaying COVID symptoms or is feeling ill will not be admitted to the school.**

### **Parents - Checking Students In and Out**

Parent access to the building will be restricted to the front office/foyer area unless otherwise approved by the building principal.

### **Parents - Eating Lunch With Children**

At this time, guests will not be allowed to eat lunch with students in school buildings.

### **Parents - Meeting With Teachers**

Parents are encouraged to meet with teachers via phone, video conferences, or in person if desired when they have any questions or concerns.



## **Parents - Special Conferences (Sped, 504, ESL, Ozark Guidance, Burrell)**

Parents have the option to meet virtually or in person for special conferences.

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### **Hand Washing/Cleaning**

Students, teachers, staff, and campus visitors should be encouraged to sanitize and/or wash hands frequently.

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### **Ventilation/Air Circulation**

Hope Academy is equipped to provide fresh air to occupied spaces.

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### **Nursing Preparations**

**The safety of the students and staff is a priority.**

- Nursing stations will be disinfected regularly
- Masks will be available

### **Nursing Preparations Con't**

#### **Parent information**

- If a student is not feeling well, he/she should stay home
  - Students need to be fever-free for 24 hours without medication before returning to school
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### **Custodial Preparations**

Hope Academy will follow these strategies in the custodial department:

- Breakfast & Lunch - Day personnel will be staggered to help with opening, clean-up from breakfast and lunch.
  - The school building will be cleaned and sanitized on a weekly basis.
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### **Food Service and School Meals**

Hope Academy is implementing the following strategies in the food services department

- Breakfast and Lunch meals are free to all students
- Staff will continue to practice proper handwashing procedures and use single-use gloves while preparing and serving food.
- Employees with a fever are required to stay home from work.
- Disposable face masks are available for staff that chose to wear face coverings.



- Kitchens, serving areas, and tables are sanitized at the end of the day and between each meal period.

### **Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)**

#### **How will the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) needs of our students be addressed?**

1. Ozark Guidance Center (OGC) will help teachers address specific SEL needs of their students due to COVID-19.
2. School counselor and family advocate will be available to support students, families, and teachers.

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### **School-Related Activities**

Hope Academy of Northwest Arkansas is mindful of activities associated with regular school operations that could create a higher risk for COVID-19 transmission. The district will review ADH guidance for specific activities and event protocols.

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### **Point of Contact and Reporting of Positive Cases**

If an individual has been in school and has tested positive for COVID-19, the district will continue to follow the established ADH reporting processes.. There are some conditions that could exempt an exposed individual / close contact to the quarantine/isolation requirements that are discussed below. School nurses can help verify the status of a potential close contact to help POCs and school officials determine responses.

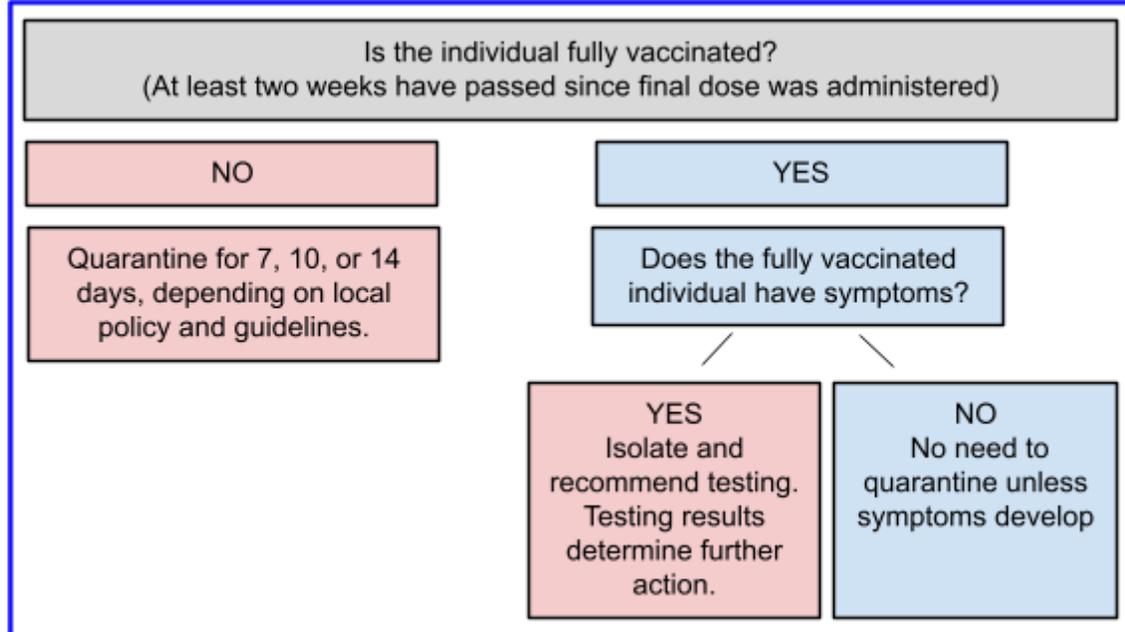
#### **Close Contact Determination and Responses**

The CDC defines a close contact as an individual confirmed to have been within six feet for 15 cumulative minutes or longer within a 24-hour period during the infectious period of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19.

1. Individuals who have previously tested positive for COVID-19 and recovered and who are subsequently exposed to someone with COVID-19 within three months of their original diagnosis do not have to stay at home or get tested again, as long as they do not develop new symptoms. Individuals who develop symptoms again within three months of their first instance of COVID-19 should see their physician as they may need to be tested again if there is no other cause identified for their symptoms.
2. Individuals exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19 will not need to be quarantined if they have no symptoms. Individuals who are fully vaccinated may not have to quarantine.

To help determine whether a fully vaccinated individual should quarantine, refer to the following chart

## Point of Contact and Reporting of Positive Cases Con't



School officials should review with POCs the local process for identifying close contacts and the process for communicating with parents, staff, and students whether an individual will need to stay home and/or be tested.

### Quarantine of those exposed to someone with COVID-19

As of December 2, 2020, the CDC amended its guidance to allow two shorter options for the quarantine period. Based on current CDC guidance, the quarantine period can end for individuals experiencing no symptoms according to the following guidelines:

1. After 5 full 24-hour periods since close contact exposure without testing, or
2. After seven full 24-hour periods since close contact exposure and after receiving a negative test result (sample taken no earlier than five 24-hour periods after exposure).

If individuals return to school from these shorter quarantine windows, they should regularly monitor themselves for symptoms to ensure they remain symptom-free and take appropriate precautions for the duration of the 14-day incubation period.

### Isolation of those with COVID-19

The person who tests positive for COVID-19 is still required to isolate at home for 5 days from the onset of symptoms. A person who is immunosuppressed or was hospitalized may need a longer isolation period.



## **Public Health Considerations**

### **Educational Options**

Hope Academy will remain prepared in the event of a COVID related school closing and plan for contingencies. DESE and ADH will work closely with districts to monitor local situations and to assist if prolonged school closures or prolonged remote learning becomes necessary.

Guidance will be updated as needed if additional or new guidance is made available by the CDC. DESE and the ADH will continue to monitor conditions and work with districts to respond accordingly. School officials, parents, and community members are encouraged to work together to plan and implement as many strategies as possible to make the return to school and continued in-person learning opportunities successful again this year.