

March 30, 2020

Superintendents,

Please see attached a letter from Dr. Scott Harris, State Health Officer, giving you additional guidance regarding the return of teachers and staff to campuses. As you are designing staff schedules, please be mindful of these processes. And, as I mentioned last week, please use common sense and limit both the number and time that teachers and staff will spend together.

*Eric S. Mackey*

State Superintendent of Education



Scott Harris, M.D., M.P.H.  
STATE HEALTH OFFICER

March 30, 2020

Dear Local Superintendents,

On March 26, 2020 Governor Ivey issued a supplemental order instructing K-12 schools to initiate alternate methods of instruction as directed by the State Superintendent. Therefore, as local school districts begin implementing plans to continue educating students through digital and distance learning, district leaders should also implement strategies to ensure the resumption of having teachers and staff at schools does not negatively affect ongoing mitigation efforts in local areas or the country as a whole. As directed by the State Superintendent, “if you have not already completed enhanced cleaning and sanitizing procedures in your buildings during the current closure period, this should be completed no later than April 6, 2020. Some limited access to buildings to some buildings is already underway in some schools; however, this enhanced cleaning should be completed before teachers and staff begin to re-enter the buildings in greater numbers, which may be necessary to implement your school closure plans.”

Even though more teachers and staff may be returning to buildings, strict adherence to all social distancing guidelines is necessary, including limitations on congregating in groups. Local school districts should continue to monitor and follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) latest guidelines, and at all times,

1. Encourage your staff or community members to [protect their personal health](#).
2. Post the signs and [symptoms of COVID-19](#): fever, cough, shortness of breath.
3. Encourage people to stay home when sick.
4. Clean surfaces that are frequently touched – things such as shared desks, countertops, copiers, computers, touchscreens, kitchen areas, electronics, and doorknobs.
5. Limit events and meetings that require close contact. It would be best to have teachers return to their classrooms only within limited periods of time, and only in rotating shifts.
6. Stay up to date on developments in your community and be willing and able to amend your plan rapidly as it may become necessary.
7. Create an emergency plan for possible outbreak.
8. Assess if faculty or staff members are at higher risk and plan accordingly. Higher risk individuals may need to more restrictive guidelines as you work to protect your communities. High-risk conditions could include: people age 65 years of age and older, people with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma, people who have serious heart conditions, people who are immunocompromised including cancer treatment, people of any age with severe obesity or certain [underlying medical conditions](#).

We wish you the best in implementing your continuity of education plans and appreciate your collective commitment to protect the health and safety of Alabama’s students, educators, and families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott Harris".

Scott Harris, M.D., M.P.H.  
State Health Officer