



Jasper County Charter System
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The Jasper County Charter School System will provide superior and innovative learning experiences to prepare every student for life beyond school.

Jasper County Charter System

Opening of School Update

7/28/2021

With the reopening of schools this year, the Jasper County Charter System is facing many questions due to the resurgence of COVID-19 in many parts of our state and nation. The Jasper County Charter System is taking the approach of following local data provided by the Georgia Department of Health, Jasper County Memorial Hospital and schools to develop, communicate, and implement plans for opening this year.

During the 2020-2021 school year, the Jasper County Charter System implemented a COVID-19 plan of action in order to maintain in person instruction for many students. With the exception of four days in November 2020, the system was able to remain open throughout the entire year. For the entire 2020-2021 school year, there were 151 total cases of COVID-19 reported with students and staff. In breaking down the data, 77 students (3.26%) enrolled in the system and 74 employees (19.63%) working in the system were documented as having a confirmed case of COVID-19.

In a letter released to families on May 13, 2021, it was stated the 7 day moving average for rate of infection for COVID-19 cases in Jasper County was .4. On July 28, 2021, the 7 day moving rate is .7. Also, in the same letter, it was stated the number of cases per 100K was 56. On July 28, 2021, the number of cases per 100K is 63. The state average for the date is 166. All of this information demonstrates Jasper County is still considered to be a minimal to moderate spread area.

During the months of March and April 2021, approximately 135 employees received a COVID-19 vaccination. This number represents approximately 36% of the total faculty and staff receiving the vaccination. The percentage demonstrates our employee vaccination rate exceeds the current county average of 29%. While the system does not mandate vaccination, we have offered assistance for employees in scheduling with our local department of health and hospital opportunities to receive the vaccination. Our system will continue this practice until further notice.

Throughout the summer of 2021, the system has operated without the implementation of many COVID-19 protocols. Many academic enrichment and athletic camps have been held throughout the months of June and July. From these events, the system has received ZERO reports of COVID-19 cases. Also, during the same time span, the system received information from one year-round employee (not involved with camps) as testing positive for COVID-19.

From the past year, Jasper County Charter System has monitored and developed various procedures and protocols to ensure overall student safety. While this has been a result of the pandemic, the system has noted the changes have been positive in the overall operations of our system. Therefore, you will find some procedures implemented during the past year will remain intact as we start the upcoming school's year.

As of today (7/28/2021), our school system will be returning to many pre-pandemic school operations for the 2021-22 school year, which begins August.3, 2021 for staff and August 11, 2021 for students. **More back-to-school information and any updates to our COVID-19 protocols will be shared with our families in the upcoming editions of The Monticello News, JCCS Facebook Page, Remind Callout System and through our school & district websites.**

- JCCS WILL issue mandated precautionary quarantines to students or staff for close contact at school with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. When principals are informed of a positive case among students or staff, they will notify central office staff of any affected staff. Central office staff will provide notification to the parents of students in the affected classes of a positive case.
- Students or staff who test positive for COVID-19 will continue to follow Department of Public Health guidelines, which require you to stay home for 10 days since symptoms first appeared and be fever-free, without use of fever-reducing medications, for 24 hours before returning to school.
- JCCS WILL NOT issue mandated precautionary quarantines to students or staff for close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 if they have been fully vaccinated for COVID-19.
- JCCS WILL NOT issue mandated precautionary quarantines to students or staff for close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 if they have received a positive antibodies test within less than 90 days from exposure.
- JCCS WILL NOT issue mandated precautionary quarantines to students or staff for close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 if they have received a positive COVID-19 test within less than 90 days from exposure and are asymptomatic.
- Anyone deemed as a close contact to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 may receive a COVID-19 test (PCR or Rapid) on the seventh (7th) day from exposure. If the test produces a negative result for COVID-19 and if they are free of symptoms, then the person is eligible to return to school/work on the eight (8th) day after exposure.
- Anyone deemed as a close contact to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 and choose not to receive a COVID-19 test (PCR or Rapid) on the seventh (7th) day from exposure will be considered quarantined for fourteen (14) days from the date of exposure. School administration will investigate COVID-19 cases and use guidance of six (6) feet or less for fifteen (15) minutes cumulative during a 24-hour period to determine close contact.
- JCCS transportation shall utilize seating charts for operational purposes as this has been a standard practice for many years.
- JCCS will promote social distancing as feasible in order to promote adequate space to minimize close contact with students and staff.
- **Students and Staff ARE NOT REQUIRED to wear facial coverings in JCCS schools, buses or offices at any time, but can choose to wear them.** JCCS will continue to provide disposable masks to individuals who might request them.
 - **COVID-19 vaccinations are not required for employees or students, but are encouraged and recommended. The Jasper County Health Department and many local healthcare providers have COVID-19 vaccines readily available, so there are no plans to host COVID-19 vaccination events at JCCS schools or offices.**

- Schools will hold open house events August 9, 2021. Individual times are posted at www.jccs.k12.ga.us or the JCCS Facebook Page. The administration asks stakeholders to adhere to the scheduled developed by each school and rotate stations as requested. This is to limit the number of individuals congregating at each station.
- Schools will return to their normal operating procedures for lunchtime and class instruction. Assemblies and field trips will resume. During the first twenty days of school, JCCS will operate with a policy of limited visitors inside schools. This will be monitored and enforced by building level administration. Communication with any changes to this protocol shall be delivered in a letter to stakeholders through the various communication venues noted earlier in the document.
- JCCS will continue to invest in increased cleaning and sanitizing at all school locations and will continue to provide surface and hand sanitizer spray to classrooms.

The school system will continue to monitor daily COVID-19 cases in our community and area and will adjust mitigation protocols as needed.

As part of our communication utilized the past school year, JCCS will provide a COVID-19 update noting the number of positive cases among students or staff along with the number of quarantines for students and staff every Friday PM. These will be reported on the JCCS Facebook Page, JCCS Website and JCCS staff email.