



PELHAM CITY SCHOOLS

August 27, 2021

Pelham Family,

As we finish the second week of the school year, we are continuing to closely monitor our numbers related to COVID-19 cases in our schools, and we have identified some adjustments to our Operations & Instruction Plans.

The information outlined below will be presented and discussed in more detail at the Board of Education meetings on Monday, August 30. The 7:30 AM meeting will take place at the Pelham City Schools Central Office. Seating is limited due to social distancing so the meeting will be live streamed, and the recording will be posted on our website. The information will be reviewed again at the 6:30 PM meeting which will be held at the Pelham Park Middle School gym for those who would like to attend in person.

Mitigation Efforts Level 4

We understand that there are families with circumstances that create concern for in-person learning when community transmission of the virus and positive cases in our schools reaches higher levels. We are currently trending higher in the number of reported student and staff COVID-19 cases, so [our current metrics](#) support a transition into Mitigation Efforts Level 4.

As a result, parents/guardians who have concerns regarding in-person learning may submit a request for a short-term remote learning option. We will begin taking requests on Monday, August 30. The short term remote learning period will end on Friday, September 24.

Please note -

- Families must understand that remote learning will not be a replication of the student experience for in-person learning.
- Teachers will provide assignments via Google classroom or other appropriate learning management systems. There will not be dedicated remote teachers. Teachers will provide remote assignments to the best of their abilities as this is an added responsibility to their normal duties.
- Blended learning will not be an option. Families should strongly consider that the short term remote learning option is for those with health concerns who do not want their students interacting with others in the school or extracurricular settings.
- It is not the system's desire to maintain remote learning. This is only being offered as a short term solution when our metrics indicate that remote learning should become an option for students.

Parents/guardians who want to request a short term remote learning option for their student(s) MUST FOLLOW SPECIFIC STEPS as outlined below -

- The schools will begin taking remote learning requests on Monday, August 30. You may request to enter the remote learning period at any time, but the end date for the short term remote learning period is Friday, September 24. (Requests for additional time on remote learning may be submitted if the schools remain at Mitigation Efforts Level 4 beyond September 24.)
- The student's parent/guardian must email a request for remote learning to the school personnel listed below. You must send a separate email for each student. The Subject Line of the email should include Remote Learning Request.

Pelham High School - vsley@pelhamcityschools.org and kkiel@pelhamcityschools.org

Pelham Park Middle School - afordham@pelhamcityschools.org and amelton@pelhamcityschools.org

Pelham Oaks Elementary School - your student's homeroom teacher and cholden@pelhamcityschools.org

Pelham Ridge Elementary School - your student's homeroom teacher and lbaxter@pelhamcityschools.org

- Requests will be reviewed by school personnel. You will receive a confirmation email from the school with further instructions and acknowledgement of the transition to short term remote learning. If you do not receive a confirmation email within one business day, please follow up with the school.

Contact Tracing Updates

Since we are requiring universal masking and physical distancing where possible, our numbers of close contact exposures at school have been reduced. Given our data, mitigation efforts, and number of cases, school nurses are transitioning to contact tracing on a limited basis. Contact tracing is the responsibility of the Alabama Department of Public Health, and nurses are reporting positive cases to the ADPH as required. We will continue to work on providing adequate spacing during times when masking is not required (for example at lunch or PE). We are currently evaluating our notification procedures and will discuss in more detail at Monday's Board meeting.

Please remember -

- Students and staff members who have a positive COVID-19 diagnosis or are required by doctor's orders to quarantine due to close contact should continue to complete the [COVID-19 Reporting Form](#) on the system website.
- Students and staff members must comply with the [Isolation & Quarantine Timeframes](#) established by the Alabama Department of Public Health.

- We strongly encourage students, staff, and parents to continuously self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19, and we ask that you do not attend school or board a school bus if any symptoms are exhibited.

In closing, thank you for your continued patience and flexibility. The live stream of the Board of Education meeting on Monday, August 30 at 7:30 AM can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6EWHwYqxWlg>. You can also direct any feedback about our school operations and instruction plans to communications@pelhamcityschools.org.

Be safe and stay well,

Dr. Scott Coefield
Superintendent
Pelham City Schools