

# READY FOR LEARNING

2023-2024

Arkansas School for the Deaf



**Safe. Ready. Engaged.**

*A forward-thinking plan for opening school.*

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## INTRODUCTION

The Ready for Learning Plan at Arkansas School for the Deaf was initially developed with input from parents, students, teachers, administrators and district level staff. Since its inception, this group of stakeholders has continued to modify and refine our plan. The guidelines referenced in this plan are based on guidance from the Arkansas Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and Arkansas Department of Health (ADH). Regular updates to this plan will be based on information provided by the ADH, DESE, and applicable federal, state and local agencies.

While the new school year brings another set of unanticipated challenges, I assure you that we will focus on teaching and learning in the classroom. Our students are our True North, and the traditions and experiences at ASD bring us all together each year.

*Dr. Gretchen Cobb*

*Interim Superintendent*



## KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE

When opening school, we continue to do everything we can to keep our students, staff, and families safe.



We have researched extensively the guidance of the highly respected entities, including:

1. [Arkansas Department of Health](#)
2. [Arkansas Department of Education](#)
3. [Operational Guidance for K-12 Schools and Education Programs to Support Safe In-Person Learning](#)

### OUR 2023-2024 PLAN

While the Federal Government has ended the COVID-19 public health emergency, there are still things you need to know.

- Vaccines will remain available.
- COVID-19 at-home tests may not be covered by insurance.
- Treatments will remain available.
- National reporting of COVID-19 may change.

Our plan is the continual monitoring of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. We will work closely with ADE/ADH and other agencies to seek guidance as needed to make sure we are providing the healthiest environment for our students and staff.



## SCHOOL CALENDAR & SCHEDULE

For the 2023-2024 School Year, we will follow a traditional schedule.

ASD will have classes on campus from Monday – Friday. Students will travel to school on **Sunday**. All students will ride the BUS home on **FRIDAY** afternoon.

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## TEACHING & LEARNING

At ASD, we believe deaf and hard of hearing children learn best in the classroom. Therefore, our 2023-2024 Ready for Learning Plan is based on students receiving on site instruction. However, in a pandemic situation, ASD classes will be accessible to students who are quarantined at home.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we learned how to maximize learning through technology. We also learned the value of giving students access to online learning opportunities. ASD's instructional approach will carry forward the lessons learned during the pandemic. We will continue to use technology to engage and enhance learning for our students.

### IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO PARENTS



#### **1. BEFORE SENDING YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL**

- Look for signs of ILLNESS.
- KEEP them home when they are sick.

#### **2. BE PREPARED TO PICK UP YOUR CHILD- QUICKLY**

- Make sure the school has your BEST CONTACT information.
- If your child becomes ill at school, come IMMEDIATELY to pick up your child.
- Please know that ASD will NOT be able to transport sick students home for you.

## GENERAL INFORMATION



### VACCINATIONS

COVID-19 vaccines are the most effective strategy to protect people from getting sick and to reduce the risk of people spreading COVID-19. Students who are ages 5 and older are now eligible to receive the vaccination. If you need any information regarding COVID-19 vaccines contact health services nursing staff at 501-772-6008.

### FACIAL COVERINGS

Wearing cloth face coverings has been shown to be one of the most effective ways to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. At ASD, students and staff will continue to wear masks in the health center.

### WASHING HANDS

According to the CDC guidelines, regular handwashing is one of the best ways to remove germs, avoid getting sick, and prevent the spread of germs to others. At ASD, all staff, and students will be encouraged to wash their hands at the following times:



- Arrival to the facility and after breaks
- Before and after eating, helping feed children, and preparing food or drinks
- Coming in contact with bodily fluid, using the restroom or helping a student
- After playing outdoors
- After being in a public place and touching surfaces frequently touched by other people
- Before touching eyes, nose, or mouth

### Ventilation/Air Circulation

Evidence suggests that improved air circulation is beneficial in reducing the spread of COVID-19. Whenever possible, windows will be opened to improve air flow by allowing outside air to circulate in the building, and thereby lower the concentration of viral particles. Additionally, every room on campus has been equipped with an air purifier.



SCH  L  
NURSE



## HEALTH SERVICES

### CONTACT INFORMATION

**VICKI CRUMP, RN**

**Director of ASD's Health Services**

**Phone (Text or Voice): 501-658-0971**

Health Services goal for ASD's "Ready for Learning" Plan is to keep students and staff healthy and safe.

ASD Health Services adheres to guideline recommendations set forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Arkansas Department of Health, and the Arkansas Department of Education. Following these basic principles can help keep our students, teachers, and staff safe at school and help stop the spread of these diseases.

### **PPE in Health Services**

- Health Services staff will utilize PPE per CDC and ADH guidelines. When providing direct care, the school nurse will wear the required PPE when performing procedures. (N-95 masks, gloves, gowns, etc)
- Everyone entering Health Services must be wearing a mask and use hand sanitizer.

### **What Happens When A Student Becomes Sick**

1. ASD Staff will notify health services immediately of any students who become ill, or any absences of students due to any suspected illness relating to COVID-19 and/or Flu.
2. The student will be evaluated by our Health Services Team for COVID-19, Flu, and or RSV symptoms.

3. If the student presents with symptoms of COVID-19 or Flu symptoms, the school's nurse will follow the orders from the school health care provider to perform a rapid response COVID-19 or Flu test on campus.
4. Parents will be notified prior to testing and the results.
5. TESTING & CARE

DAY STUDENTS:

- Parents will come to the school for immediate pick-up.
- They will be encouraged to take the student to their primary care physician for evaluation or have test performed at ASD.
- Student must be cleared by a physician before returning to school if not tested at ASD.

DORM STUDENTS:

- Dorm students will have a rapid response COVID-19 and/or Flu test administered at ASD (*Parents will have given permission during the registration process*)
- After testing results, students will return to ASD isolation suite until picked up by parent/guardian.