

Changes to HCSD Distance Learning Plan

1. Beginning October 14, parents will no longer be allowed to choose distance learning for their children on a day by day basis. The only students who will be eligible to participate in distance learning are as follows:
 - Students whose parents have previously applied for distance learning and have been approved by the district through October 26 (**Long Term Distance Learning**)
 - Students who are placed on quarantine by the school for a short time (**Short Term Distance Learning**)
 - Students with an IEP that have a homebound placement
2. All other students must be physically present in class or they will be counted absent.
3. Beginning October 26, there will be no more **Long Term Distance Learning**. All students are expected to be physically present in class or be counted absent. The only exceptions are as follows:
 - A student with an extreme underlying health condition
 - A student who has a full time resident of his or her home experiencing an extreme underlying health condition that prevents them from safely attending school.
4. Parents of students with one of the conditions above must apply for **Medical Long Term Distance Learning** using the process listed below. **The deadline to apply for this medical exception and submit all required documentation is October 20.** Parents of students who are approved for **Medical Long Term Distance Learning** will be notified before October 26. Students who have not been approved for **Medical Long Term Distance Learning** and who are not physically present in class will be counted absent. As always, students with 5 or more unexcused absences will be reported to the State Attendance Truancy Officer for further intervention.
5. Students who participate in Medical Long Term Distance Learning may be required to report to the school for assessments. Parents should contact the school principal for more information regarding assessments.
6. Parents of current Long Term Distance Learners who will be returning to in person classes on or before October 26, and who need transportation, should complete a bus emergency form located at the following link:

bit.ly/hcsdbusform. Please complete a separate form for each student by 2:00 p.m. daily in order to ride the bus the following day. Once this form is submitted, the transportation department will contact you via email or phone with confirmation of the bus number, bus stop, and AM/PM arrival time of the bus. If you are unable to complete a bus emergency form online, you may obtain a written form from any of our schools, bus drivers, or the department of transportation. The written form must be approved by transportation prior to the student riding the bus. If you need approval of a written form or have any questions, please call transportation at 228-255-6256.

7. All students in HCS D currently receive free lunch and breakfast. Students returning to in person classes must complete the Free and Reduced Lunch Application found on the district website

(<https://nlappscloud.com/Welcome.aspx?apply=1&api=90347869abe7ddd07f3786e936c07d7b&op=b765d0c95bce65d0951afc9d34322b1b#loaded>).

Medical Long Term Distance Learning Application Process

1. Complete and submit the **Medical Long Term Distance Learning Application** located on the district website by October 20.
2. Print the **Medical Long Term Distance Learning Physician's Documentation Form** located on the district website.
3. Have the **Medical Long Term Distance Learning Physician's Documentation Form** completed and signed by the licensed physician most familiar with the extreme medical condition that prevents the student from safely attending school in person. The extreme medical condition must be documented, by the student's physician, on the form. Forms completed and signed by nurse practitioners will not be accepted.
4. Email the **Medical Long Term Distance Learning Physician's Documentation Form** to Liz Vernaci (lvernaci@hancockschools.net) by October 20.
5. The district committee, which includes district health professionals, will meet to approve **Medical Long Term Distance Learning Applications**.
6. Parents will be notified by email regarding the status of the student's application.

7. Students who are approved for **Medical Long Term Distance Learning** will continue distance learning. Students who are not approved will report to school on or before October 26.