

Children affected by latest COVID-19 surge, raising concerns over back-to-school plans

Mississippi Today
By Will Stribling

The latest surge of COVID-19 cases in Mississippi, caused by the Delta variant, is also hitting the state's younger population, increasing concerns over the return to schools next month.

State Health Officer Dr. Thomas Dobbs tweeted Tuesday that 7 minors have been hospitalized due to Delta infections in Mississippi, and 2 of them are now on ventilators. The earlier strains of COVID-19 were much less transmissible and did not infect children to the extent seen with the Delta variant.

recommendation if it would prevent them from reopening fully and instead rely on other prevention strategies.

State Epidemiologist Dr. Paul Byers said on July 9 that MSDH will release Mississippi-specific components to back to school guidance, which will include recommended mask wearing for unvaccinated teachers and students.



Over the past three weeks, the number of confirmed Delta cases in Mississippi has increased nearly sevenfold, up from 29 to 231. Those 231 cases only represent a small surveillance sample though, so it is undoubtedly only a small fraction of the Delta infections in the state.

During an interview on SuperTalk Radio's Gallo Show on Monday, Dobbs predicted that infections in younger people will cause a large wave of infections and negatively impact school district plans to reopen fully with in-person instruction.

"It's going to be disruptive," Dobbs said. "I think Delta's going to take its toll on having a successful, vibrant school year because kids are going to have to be quarantined, they're going to have to be isolated. We're going to have outbreaks and all that kind of stuff."

What those outbreaks look like will be dependent on virus circulation in a school district's surrounding community and individual districts' policies on mask wearing and social distancing, since no requirements will be coming at the state level.

"Governor Reeves has no intention of requiring students or staff to wear masks when they're in school this Fall," Reeves' press secretary, Bailey Martin, said in an email to WLBT this week.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released new guidance on Friday, urging schools to fully reopen in the fall, naming safe in-person instruction as a priority. The agency said all people who are not fully vaccinated should wear masks while inside school buildings, and classrooms should maintain a physical distance between students of at least three feet. However, they also said that schools should forgo the distance

CLASSIFIED ADS

**City of Durant
Employment Announcement**

OPEN DATE: July 12, 2021
POSITION: City Barn Clerk
CLOSING DATE: July 30, 2021

The City of Durant is accepting applications for a Full-Time City Barn Clerk.

The qualifications are knowledge of Excel, Microsoft Word, Word Processing, office management experience and ability to work with the public. Applicant must have a high school diploma, two-year college degree in Accounting or Business and Office Technology is preferred but not required.

Applications can be picked up at Durant City Hall, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Deadline for accepting applications will be July 30, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. at the Durant City Hall.

The City of Durant is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**City of Durant
EMPLOYMENT ANNOUNCEMENT**

OPEN DATE: July 12, 2021
POSITION: Part-time City Worker
CLOSING DATE: July 30, 2021
EXPERIENCE/EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS:

Education:
Graduation from a standard four-year high school or equivalent.

Requirements:
Applicant must possess a Valid Mississippi Driver's License.
Certified lineman preferred but not required.
Applications may be obtained from City Hall and should be submitted directly to the City Hall for processing, before the closing date.
Citizen of Durant preferred.

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- Other duties Assigned by Justice Court Clerk

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vtruss@holmescountymys.org or
hand delivered to
408 Court Square, Lexington, MS 39095

**City of Durant
Employment Announcement**

OPEN DATE: July 12, 2021
POSITION: Accounts Payable/
Payroll Clerk
CLOSING DATE: July 30, 2021

The City of Durant is accepting applications for a Full-Time Accounts Payable/Payroll Clerk.


The qualifications are knowledge of Excel, Microsoft Word, QuickBooks, BBI, and Word Processing, office management experience and ability to work with the public. Applicant must have a high school diploma, two-year college degree in Accounting or Business and Office Technology is preferred and **must be able to be bonded**.

Applications can be picked up at Durant City Hall, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Deadline for accepting applications will be July 30, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. at the Durant City Hall.

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