

22-23 COVID Response: Health, Safety, and Operational Guidance for Schools related to COVID-19

Please note that this guidance is *subject to change and will continue to be updated as additional information is available*. For questions, please contact your Operational Superintendent and/or Julie Wilken, Director of Nursing and Student Health

Resources:

- What does it mean to transition from pandemic to endemic? Find out [here](#).
- [CDPHE COVID-19 School Guidance and Operations](#)
- Employment Practice Manual located [here](#). Please refer to Addendum on Policies Related to COVID-19.
- ECE specific guidance can be found [here](#).
- COVID-19 Testing Decision Tree can be found [here](#).
- Up-To-Date with COVID-19 vaccines information found [here](#).
- Reporting a Positive COVID-19 Test Result can be found [here](#). ANY STAFF can now report positive student cases. Employees report themselves.

2022 Summer Changes:

- **New COVID positive case reporting form, located [here](#).** This links directly to Denver Department of Public Health & Environment (DDPHE) and meets their requirement for case reporting.
 - ANY staff can report a student positive case, not just a nurse. A principal, secretary, counselor, etc. A DPS employee should report themselves.
- **NO DPS COVID Dashboard.** Values and trends for Denver County can be found:
 - [Age related COVID-19 cases](#)
 - [Hospital Census COVID-19 Cases](#)
- **COVID-19 Testing**
 - All-City Stadium
 - Operates 7 days a week from 8am-6pm.
 - Nasal anterior PCR tests. Results within 12-36 hours.
 - Registration link: <https://mako.exchange/scheduler/registration/?location=7306>
 - George Washington
 - Hours of operation are M-F 10am-4pm.

- Nasal Anterior PCR tests. Results with 12-36 hours.
- Registration link: <https://www.affinityecarecolorado.com/co/>
- Any other pcr testing sites can be found [here](#).
- At-Home rapid antigen tests are acceptable forms of COVID testing and sites for test pick-up are located [here](#) at the blue pins. Reporting At-Home rapid tests are located [here](#).

Health Protocols - All have remained the same since May - there are no mandates or restrictions in place.

	Elementary	Secondary
Indoor Masking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Effective February 26, 2022, masks are strongly encouraged in DPS facilities but no longer required for any individual regardless of vaccination status with the exception of those actively using DPS transportation and those who are in a School-Based Health Center area. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DPS's masking policy is universal across district managed schools; individual schools, classrooms or offices may not issue a separate masking policy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Charter schools should work with their POAST partner regarding school specific policies. ○ Individuals returning to a DPS facility after being COVID positive should follow CDC and CDPHE guidelines to properly wear a mask for Days 6-10 after an infection. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Individuals may remove their mask when actively eating but should maximize distance as possible. ● There are spaces within DPS facilities, including Denver Health School-Based Health Centers, that will require mask wearing because of industry protocols that are in place. ● In the instance that an individual in a DPS facility becomes sick with COVID like symptoms, a school nurse or manager may ask the individual to wear a mask until the individual exits the DPS facility. 	
Outdoor Masking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Since the risk of COVID transmission outdoors is significantly lower outdoors, students and staff will still not be required to wear masks outside. 	

COVID Vaccine & Boosters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DPS strongly encourages individuals to become fully vaccinated and stay current with booster shots. Effective March 5, 2022, COVID vaccines are no longer mandated for DPS employees. All staff can access COVID vaccines and boosters at Denver Health School-Based Health Centers in schools across the district. Call 303-602-8958 to make an appointment.
Hand Hygiene	Students and staff should continue to maintain good hand hygiene protocols as these are effective in mitigating the spread of illnesses. Washing hands is still the best prevention for any and all communicable disease spread.
Student Health Screens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal student health screens are not required for students to enter a building Parents/Guardians must monitor their children for illness symptoms but will not be required to complete a daily health screen unless there is an illness outbreak Students and staff who are sick and/or exhibiting infectious disease symptoms should stay home using these guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When to Keep Sick Children Home (English) When to Keep Sick Children Home (Español) COVID-19 Screening and COVID-19 Testing Decision Tree For ECE specific information, please see this document.
Adult Daily Health Screens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff must self-monitor for illness symptoms but will not be required to complete a daily health screen. Staff members who are sick and/or exhibiting illness symptoms must stay home.
Quarantine and Cases of COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Per CDPHE guidance, contact tracing and school dictated quarantines are no longer required by DPS unless directed by the local health department. In the event of an outbreak, the local health department may implement strategies such as: universal masking indoors, distancing, testing and contact tracing, and quarantine for close contacts.
COVID Reporting Protocols + COVID Coordinators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports for confirmed cases of COVID-19 for students and staff continue to be required by the state health department for surveillance and tracking ANYstaff can now report a student positive COVID-19 test. Employees should report their own positive case. This includes all pcr tests and at-home rapid tests.

COVID Outbreaks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">In the instance of an outbreak, a DDPHE disease investigator will contact the school principal to discuss various strategies.	
COVID Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">All-City Stadium<ul style="list-style-type: none">Operates 7 days a week from 8am-6pm.Nasal anterior PCR tests. Results within 12-36 hours.Registration link: https://mako.exchange/scheduler/registration/?location=7306George Washington<ul style="list-style-type: none">Hours of operation are M-F 10am-4pm.Nasal Anterior PCR tests. Results with 12-36 hours.Registration link: https://www.affinityecarecolorado.com/co/Any other pcr testing sites can be found here.Families and students can also contact our School-Based Health Centers (303-602-8958) to be connected to COVID testing.	
Student Health Accommodation Requests	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The only limited category of students who may receive an accommodation related to COVID are those protected by federal disability laws. School staff should work with families of students with disabilities to consider making changes to their student's IEP or 504 plan, where appropriate based on individual student need. Where the school has reason to suspect a disability requiring accommodations related to COVID the school should engage in applicable Child Find/evaluation processes. School teams may reach out for additional support from their school assigned SEIS or the district Section 504 Specialist.	
Isolation Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Schools must continue to have dedicated isolation spaces in compliance with CDPHE requirements around isolation spaces. This requirement preceded the COVID-19 pandemic.<ul style="list-style-type: none">Separate rooms or areas shall be available in every school for emergency use in providing care for persons who are ill, or suspected of having communicable diseases.No additional requirements are in place above and beyond this guidance.	
School Day Protocols		
	Elementary	Secondary
Cohorts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Elementary schools will not need to implement cohorts or altered schedules for the 2022-23school year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Secondary schools will not need to implement cohorts or altered schedules for the 2022-23 school year.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All elementary schools are expected to provide full time in-person learning. • Schools must continue to follow quarantine protocols as outlined by CDPHE. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All secondary schools are expected to provide full time in-person learning. • Schools must continue to follow quarantine protocols as outlined by CDPHE.
Distancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No longer required. • Schools will continue to follow DCTA contract requirements in terms of classroom caps. 	
Seating Arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools can use shared tables and carpets, though the following should be considered when deciding between using desks and shared tables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Academic and social and emotional needs of students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools can use shared tables, though the following should be considered when deciding between using desks and shared tables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Academic and social and emotional needs of students
Lunch Protocols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meal times can resume normal operations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meal times can resume normal operations including open campus policies.
Entry & Exit Protocols	Schools do not need to implement staggered entry and exit protocols.	
Passing Periods	Schools do not need to implement staggered passing periods	
Hallway Traffic	Schools can return to normal hallway/staircase use; one-way traffic patterns are not necessary.	
Bathrooms	Schools can use bathrooms at full capacity.	
Assemblies, Large Gatherings and School Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School events, including school dances and graduation, may resume normal operations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Vaccine verification cannot be requested from attendees, nor can masking be required unless that requirement aligns with district policy. 	
Singing and Wind Instruments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performing arts may resume normal operations. 	
Physical Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical education may resume normal operations. 	
Libraries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Libraries can operate with no restrictions. 	

Cleaning, Shared Supplies, and Operations		
	Elementary	Secondary
Materials and Shared Supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supplies can be shared between students.• Deep cleaning of supplies between uses is not required though schools should continue to ensure periodic cleaning and sanitizing of supplies.• In the event of norovirus and other outbreaks, policies to limit sharing of supplies may be instituted - contact Nursing dept at 720-423-1416.• Students should be encouraged to disinfect their hands with sanitizer or soap and water after using any shared supplies.	
Lockers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students can use lockers.	
Cleaning Protocols	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Touch surface cleaning protocols can be scaled back to normal cleaning procedures.	
Heat Mitigation Devices	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facilities will be working with schools to set up safe heat mitigation protocols in schools. Heat mitigation devices such as evaporative coolers, box fans, and ceiling fans may be used but should be set up to maximize the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Bringing outside air in and/or◦ Bringing inside air out and/or◦ Filtering the air• School teams should work with their facilities manager before adjusting any heat mitigation devices because these have been set up intentionally to maximize the above criteria.	
Water Fountains	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Water fountains may be used though schools should maintain standard cleaning and hygiene protocols (i.e. regular cleaning and sanitizing, ensuring students do not touch their mouth to the water fountain, encouraging good hand hygiene).	
PPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The district will continue to fund PPE ordered via the PPE order form through spring semester 2022.	
Beyond the School Day		
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transportation retains a supply of disposable masks.	
Athletics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Athletics may resume normal operations and are not subject to additional capacity restrictions	

	beyond what is permitted by the size of the venue.
Extracurriculars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extracurriculars can resume. School day health protocols must be applied to extracurricular settings.
Before- and After-School Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before-and after-school care can resume at full capacity. School day health protocols must be applied to extracurricular settings.
School-Sponsored Overnight, Out-of-State and International Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Out-of-state and international travel can resume. Since out-of-state and international travel brings added risk and is optional, staff and students participating in travel will be asked to sign a waiver. Schools should monitor COVID health conditions and protocols at their designation to ensure all entry requirements are met. Students and staff must follow all DPS health and safety protocols for the designated field trip and destination (i.e. additional health and safety protocols may be mandated by the destination). All overnight trips, with the exception of Balarat, must be approved by the school's RAIS/RIS. For more information on the approval process and COVID addendum, see here.
Field Trips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Day-Time and Overnight field trips can resume. Students and staff must follow all DPS health and safety protocols for the designated field trip and destination (i.e. additional health and safety protocols may be mandated by the destination). Students must also complete all required waivers and permission slips. All overnight trips, with the exception of Balarat, must be approved by the school's RAIS/RIS. For more information on the approval process and COVID addendum, see here.
Family Conferences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family conferences can resume without restriction. Regardless of future guidance around COVID, schools should continue to leverage virtual engagement strategies as appropriate (in addition to or in place of, depending on the event) given greater accessibility for some families.
School Choice Season Activities/Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School choice activities can resume without restriction. Regardless of future guidance around COVID, schools should continue to leverage virtual engagement strategies as appropriate (in addition to or in place of, depending on the event) given greater accessibility for some families.
Student Performances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performing arts may resume normal operations and are not subject to additional capacity

	<p>restrictions beyond what is permitted by the size of the venue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live streaming of performances is still encouraged where feasible and when parent permission is granted.
Staff and Adult Protocols	
Staff Meal Time Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meal times can resume normal operations.
In Person Meetings, Professional Development & Trainings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All in-person meetings can resume normal operations at full capacity, and virtual platforms can continue to be leveraged for meetings as appropriate.
District-Sponsored Out-of-State and International Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Out-of-state and international travel can resume. • Since out-of-state and international travel brings added risk and is optional, staff and students participating in travel will be asked to sign a waiver. • Schools should monitor COVID health conditions and protocols at their designation to ensure all entry requirements are met. • Students and staff must follow all health and safety protocols for the designated field trip and destination (i.e. additional health and safety protocols may be mandated by the destination).
Visitors + Families (non-DPS Staff)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors and families are permitted at schools.
Volunteers (non-DPS staff, including older students)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers who are non-DPS staff and have undergone volunteer approval via the Family and Community Engagement department are permitted to volunteer without restriction regardless of vaccination status. • Volunteers are strongly encouraged to wear a mask while in DPS facilities.
Understanding Vaccine Status	<p>A leader may discreetly and directly ask about vaccination status for safety in scheduling purposes. Leaders must not engage in conversations about why an employee has not been vaccinated.</p> <p>Under all the new federal guidance, records of employee vaccinations must be kept in protected files, separate from employee personnel files. The ADA requires an employer to maintain the confidentiality of employee medical information, and this now includes documentation or other confirmation of</p>

	COVID-19 vaccination. Managers can ask an employee to show their vaccination card to confirm that they are vaccinated. However, managers shouldn't keep a record of that vaccination card or a google doc with who is vaccinated.
HR Processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• COVID vaccines are not mandated in DPS.• For questions related to leave because of being sick with COVID, having a dependent sick with COVID, or for information on requesting an ADA accommodation, see more information on The Commons.