

Health and Safety Rules and Procedures

For the start of the 2021-22 school year

DPS is prioritizing health and safety and following the guidance of our trusted experts at Denver Health. We are doing everything we can to ensure we have a full year of in-person instruction and support for our students, with minimal disruptions. We will continue to stay in close contact with health experts and will re-evaluate our procedures as new information becomes available.

Mask Requirements

- **Masks will be required for all students, visitors, and staff while indoors** in all DPS schools and buildings, regardless of vaccination status.
- **Masks will not be required outside**, since the risk of COVID transmission is significantly lower outdoors.

Please note: Each charter school will share its own mask guidance with charter students and families

Health Screenings and Hygiene

Formal student health screens are not required for students or staff to enter a building. However, parents/guardians should monitor their children for symptoms of illness and keep them home if they are sick. Students and staff should continue to **practice good hygiene**. This includes washing your hands or using hand sanitizer, covering coughs and sneezes, and avoiding touching your face.

Physical Distancing, Cohorts and Quarantines

At this time, there are no physical-distancing requirements for DPS students and staff. However, as part of our layered approach to health and safety, schools are encouraged to take advantage of additional space to distance students when possible.

- All schools can return to **normal use** of hallways and stairways.
- Schools will **not need to implement cohorts** or altered schedules for the 2021-22 school year.
- **Quarantines for close contacts in the school setting may still occur** but they will be less common due to universal masking, and may vary based on the circumstances of the exposure.
- **People exposed to COVID-19 outside of the school setting**, including at home, must follow the guidance of their medical provider and the health department.

Lunch Procedures

Schools will continue to leverage the outdoors for lunchtime as much as possible, since the risk of COVID transmission is significantly lower outdoors. If students eat indoors, contact-tracing protocols will be in place.

Materials and Shared Supplies

Classroom supplies and materials can be shared between students. Deep cleaning of supplies between uses is no longer required, though schools will periodically clean and sanitize supplies. Students will be encouraged to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer after using any shared supplies.

Field Trips

Day trips and overnight field trips can resume. Students and staff must follow all health and safety protocols for the designated field trip and any additional requirements at their destination. Students must also complete all required waivers and permission slips before a field trip or overnight trip.

School Visitors

All visitors and family members must follow DPS' masking guidance and any health protocols currently in place.

- For the beginning of the school year, visitors and families will **not** be allowed past the front desk unless absolutely necessary, or if there is a scheduled IEP, 504 or other necessary meeting to support student success.
- Students should be dropped off and picked up outside of the building.

Please note: The school visitor policy will be reevaluated after 30-60 days and adjusted as needed.

Please note that these policies are subject to change and will be updated as new information becomes available. We will continue working closely with our health experts to re-evaluate and make any necessary adjustments based on current health conditions in the community.

Visit www.dpsk12.org for updates.