

## Frequently Asked Questions - DPS Staff & Parents

### Safety & Covid Related Questions

**Question - What happens if a student, parent, or teacher in our schools tests positive for Covid-19?**

**Answer** - When a teacher or student is confirmed to have Covid-19, the Principal will notify the Pandemic Coordinator. Contact tracing will begin immediately to identify any exposures. The staff and parents of that school will be notified of a positive case. If a student has been exposed, the student's parents will be notified. If a staff member has been exposed, he/she will be notified.

If we are confident we have identified and contained any exposures, we will continue classes as normal. If we are not confident we have identified all of the exposures, we may have to close a class for 14 days, or even the school for 14 days. This is determined on a case-by-case basis.

If someone in the student's or staff member's home tests positive, then that student or staff member is exposed, and will be quarantined for 14 days.

**Question - As a teacher, what do I do if a student reports a Covid-19 case in the home?**

**Answer** - Report the incident to the Principal.

**Question - Will DPS require Covid-19 tests for students and/or staff before students return to face-to-face instruction in the classroom?**

**Answer** - No, mass testing would only tell us if a person is negative, or positive **at the time of the test**. You can be negative today, and positive tomorrow. The best method is to conduct daily screenings (temperatures) and monitor symptoms while continuing all mitigation efforts.

**Question - What happens when a student is found to have a fever at school?**

**Answer** - First, and foremost, parents should check their children before sending them to school. If a student is found to have a temperature, he/she will be sent to the wellness room and isolated from others. A staff member will supervise the student until

the parent picks up their child. Students must be fever free for 72 hours before returning to school.

**Question - Why aren't we checking student temperatures at the bus stop when they are picked up in the morning?**

**Answer** - A fever does not mean a student has Covid-19. For safety reasons, DPS cannot leave a child behind at a bus stop if he/she has a fever and is not allowed on the bus. Each bus will have a staff member to monitor students and everyone will be required to wear a mask and socially distance on the bus.

**Question - How can we differentiate between Covid and the flu or other illnesses with flu season approaching?**

**Answer** - There is no way to differentiate between Covid or another illness without medical testing. Anyone with a fever will be sent home.

**Question - What Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other materials will be provided to teachers for added protection when students return to face-to-face instruction in the classroom?**

**Answer** - Face masks will be provided to students and staff who do not have their own. Teachers may request face shields. Anyone wearing a face shield, must still wear a face mask. Hand sanitizer, sanitizing wipes, gloves, and goggles will be provided in each classroom. All classrooms will be sanitized with Hygienica equipment daily. Desks will be kept 6ft. apart or more.

**Question - What preparations have been made to classrooms to ensure proper ventilation?**

**Answer** - Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems are being serviced and all filters are changed regularly. All classroom doors will remain open to increase ventilation.

**Question - How will we keep teachers and students safe during meal times in the classrooms?**

**Answer** - Students will remain seated 6ft. apart throughout the duration of meal times when their masks are removed. As students finish eating, they may put on their masks and talk with others who have finished eating.

### **Academic and Instruction Questions**

**Question - What do I do with my child's chromebook when they return to face-to-face instruction?**

**Answer** - Students receiving face-to-face and virtual instruction will keep their chromebooks for the remainder of the school year.

**Question - Will my child have the same teacher when face-to-face instruction begins?**

**Answer** - Yes, classrooms were set up to match face-to-face students with teachers who were going to provide face-to-face instruction.

**Question - What resources are available for parents who are struggling with virtual learning environments?**

**Answer** - The first resource is the students' teachers. Parents are encouraged to contact teachers as soon as they encounter any difficulty. School counselors are another resource available for parents. Each elementary school has a parent liaison and they are available to assist parents.

**Question - I selected face-to-face, but now I want my child to stay virtual. Is that an option?**

**Answer** - Changes will not be made until the change of semester on January 19, 2021. Parents will receive a survey in November where they can opt to stay the same or make changes to their child's instruction and transportation preferences. The only exception is for a child who has become high-risk or now has a high-risk member in the household. Documentation will be required to allow this change.

**Question - I selected virtual, but now I want my child to return to face-to-face instruction. Is that an option?**

**Answer** - Parents will be able to make instruction and transportation selections for the new semester in the survey that will go out in November. Students who selected virtual must remain virtual until the new semester begins on January 19, 2021.

**Question - Do Wednesdays stay the same regarding home assignments?**

**Answer** - Yes

**Question - Will there be an open house before the start of face-to-face instruction?**

**Answer** - No, there will not be an open house. For safety reasons, we are trying to limit the number of people in our buildings. We will not be utilizing volunteers in our

classroom preparations or to help with face-to-face students. Once classroom preparations are complete, schools can take pictures of some of the classrooms and post them with their plans so that parents can see what the learning environment looks like. There will also be an opening face-to-face video that will show classrooms.

### **Superintendent Questions**

**Question - What will be required of students returning to face-to-face instruction?**

**Answer** - All students who return to face-to-face instruction in the classroom will be required to: (1) have their temperatures checked daily, (2) wear a mask properly, (3) socially distance, (4) wash their hands, and (5) follow the Code of Student Conduct and school safety guidelines. Students who cannot adhere to these five requirements may be required to return to remote learning.

**Question - Can students change their selection of virtual or face-to-face instruction?**

**Answer** - Students are locked into their choice of virtual or face-to-face instruction for the duration of the semester. A survey for the second semester will be conducted in November at which time parents can change their selection of learning program and transportation or continue with their original selection from the beginning of the school year. The change will take place January 19, 2021.

**Question - What is DPS doing to address the social and emotional stress on children?**

**Answer** - Each school is preparing activities to address the needs of students. School counselors will also be providing support to students through large and small group counseling sessions as well as individual counseling sessions.

**Question - Will students have to wear their masks all day?**

**Answer** - Students have to wear masks while on the bus and in the school building. Our quality of instruction will be most important as we will extra time to board and unboard buses, transition around the building, and take breaks to take a break from masks during the school day. With teacher supervision, if students are outside and social distancing they may remove their masks. Teachers have been encouraged to take the class outside or in pre-designated areas of the building where students can safely spread out and remove their masks for a break. Students who do not wear masks will return to remote learning.

**Question - When will Athletic activities begin?**

**Answer** - Athletics will return when approved by the School Board; however, conditioning activities with coaches have been approved by the School Board.

**Question - What are the plans for the week of the election?**

**Answer** - Virtual and face-to-face students will begin their new class schedules Monday, November 2, meaning all students will be on the face-to-face schedule. Tuesday, November 3rd is a teacher workday and student holiday. Wednesday, November 4th, will be as usual with teachers assigning at home school work with office hours. Thursday and Friday are instruction days as normal.

To ensure safety, teachers will be allowed to work virtually from home that entire week. Teachers whose schools are NOT polling sites have the option to work from the classroom if they choose. Teachers whose schools are polling sites must work from home Monday through Wednesday and have the option to work from the classroom Thursday-Friday only if they choose. All schools that are used as polling sites will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized before opening on November 9th for face-to-face students.

**Question - Are there exceptions for special education students regarding reopening requirements?**

**Answer** - Parents and staff should request a meeting with the IEP team to address any barriers on accessing instruction.