

Frequently Asked Questions

Please remember that all guidance included in this document is subject to change based on recommendations from Oregon Department of Education, Oregon Health Authority and the Center for Disease Control. Information contained herein is provided for your information and convenience. If you have further medical questions or concerns, please contact the Oregon Health Authority, your physician or Polk County Public Health.

Last Updated: February 28, 2021

Prevention

Physical Distancing:

What will be done to promote physical distancing?

We will encourage physical distancing throughout the day as feasible and have implemented various measures to promote social distancing including schedules that have staggered start and end times, 35 square feet of space per student in classrooms as mandated by Oregon Department of Education and increased spacing on buses that transport students to and from school. More information can be found in the social distancing section of Dallas School District communicable disease plan.

Why can't we go to school every day?

With the COVID-19 pandemic, the district is unable to have all students in the building every day due to the physical distancing requirements that have been implemented by ODE and OHA. Each student must have 35 square feet of space around them which means our class sizes are reduced in half roughly. We determined that if we placed students in A or B cohorts that go to school on Monday/ Thursday or Tuesday/Friday we could still see our students twice weekly and comply with the state's guidelines for a safe return to school.

Will temperature screens be completed for students each day?

Yes. Temperature screening and visual screening will take place daily as students arrive at school. Students exhibiting symptoms after arrival will be placed in isolation and screened every 30 minutes for fever. Please see isolation protocol and communicable disease guidance that was created based on recommendations from the CDC, Oregon Health Authority and Oregon Department of Education.

What will be the protocol for sanitation and physical distancing on buses?

Students using the bus for transportation to school will be required to wear a mask unless they have a medical exclusion and remain six feet from the bus driver. Siblings will be allowed to sit together, but other seating arrangements are still being analyzed and determined by Midco. All buses will undergo a daily sanitization as well as sanitizing between cohorts of students and windows will be open to maximize ventilation during travel.

Will students need to refrain from physical contact from their teachers and/or peers?

We will be following the most current order from the Oregon Health Authority regarding physical distance as feasible throughout the district. However, we understand the need for social connection and

interaction. Parents should educate their children on the benefits of social distancing during a pandemic, as well as wearing a mask when social distancing is not feasible.

Will there be changes to the arrival/departure procedures?

Arrival and departure will vary from building to building, but parent access to the buildings will look different this fall. While dropping off or picking up students from school by car, we ask that you please remain in your car. All adults entering campus for an in-person pick-up or drop-off must wear a face covering and check-in to the main office.

What will be the policy for visitors or volunteers this year?

Unfortunately, we will not be able to allow any visitors or volunteers this school year. We know this is difficult to hear, but is a requirement by the Oregon Health Authority. Any contractors or other vendors including Fed Ex, USPS, WESD, WOU and others will be required to check in with the main office and will be required to wear a face covering.

If students wear masks, will we still have to maintain the 35 square feet per student?

In the Ready Schools Safe Learners guidance from ODE it is required that we provide 35 square feet per student in the classroom regardless of other protective measures used.

In a hybrid model where students attend school 2 out of 5 days, will siblings be kept in the same cohorts to allow families to manage child care and other family needs?

Yes. If you have students who are siblings or step siblings, they will be placed in the same cohort. We sorted the cohort by family address to ensure that these groups of students are in the same cohort. If you have siblings that live at different addresses, we would need to know that detail to enable them to be placed in the same cohort. Please email our Director of Teaching and Learning at kim.kellison@dsd2.org.

Will lockers be available to use for middle and high school students?

Lockers will not be used this year due to social distancing guidelines. Students are taking fewer classes in the hybrid system and should have fewer textbooks to manage. Please see your building principal if special arrangements need to be made for your student.

Hygiene Measures

Will face coverings be required this year?

For the health and safety of our students, staff and community we are requiring that face coverings be worn by staff and students from kindergarten on up. We understand that we may have students that this may be difficult for, and we recognize that significant training and accommodations for students with medical or other exclusions may occur but requiring masks district-wide will ensure our teachers and students the safety that they deserve.

Can I wear a face shield instead?

Face shields are only allowed if you have a documented medical condition. Students or staff who need to wear a face shield instead of cloth face covering will need to get approval from the building principal. Face shields must cover the entire face, not just your chin.

Will schools review hygiene with students and staff?

During the first two weeks of school we will have a transition period where students and staff can begin to learn about increased hygiene protocol, building sanitation procedures, and protecting yourself from the virus. Staff will also receive training on Safe Schools regarding new building protocols related to COVID 19, sanitation of classrooms, and personal protective equipment. We are also adding hand sanitizing stations throughout high traffic areas of the district and have implemented isolation rooms to contain the virus should an outbreak occur.

Cleaning and Maintenance

What measures on campus will be implemented to ensure the safety of staff and students?

Dallas School District will take every measure necessary to promote the health and wellness of our staff and students. We have increased our high touch surface cleaning, as well as daily disinfectant of community areas. We have increased air flow in our buildings to ensure that there is improved ventilation and are working to increase sanitation protocols and procedures that comply with what the Oregon Health Authority recommends. We also set aside Wednesday as an all-district distance learning day to allow our custodial staff the opportunity to thoroughly clean and disinfect between our A and B cohort groups.

What will the daily screening process look like for my student?

This varies slightly depending on the building, but students will be screened visually and by temperature when they arrive at school and asked about how they are feeling that day. Students are assigned a particular door and there will be a roster there and staff member to check students in. Students are asked to remain six feet from each other while awaiting entry. Start and end times will be staggered to lower student contact with other students.

Lunch, Recess, and Other Extracurricular Activities

What precautions will be used for issuing food services on campus? If we are on a hybrid, will the other cohort who is distance learning be able to pick up lunch?

Students will be placed in smaller cohorts due to the hybrid schedule and will have staggered times for lunch that are dependent upon which building they attend. Students will eat lunch in a classroom or outside and will not eat in large groups in the cafeteria. Students who are distance learning for the day and not required to attend live class in a building will still have an opportunity to pick up lunch at an alternate, approved site.

What will lunch and recess look like?

School schedules will be designed to minimize the number of students in common areas during lunch, recess or breaks. Frequent sanitation of these common areas will occur daily. Students will be spaced

appropriately to maintain social distancing if lines are required for lunch purposes. Most students will eat in classrooms and place masks back on when they are finished eating.

Will sports or extracurricular activities be allowed this year?

Students will have the option to participate in sports and extra-curricular activities this year. High school athletics are governed by the OSAA and we encourage you to follow their website osaa.org/coronavirus for more information.

Will music be provided in person or digitally?

Current guidelines prohibit in-person singing or instrument playing. We will monitor developments and adjust accordingly. Students may have an option to take music virtually.

Response to COVID 19 Cases and Vaccine Information

What if a student comes to school ill?

A child who is ill and exhibiting symptoms of COVID 19 will be given a mask to wear and placed in a separate room, screened for a temperature and monitored until a parent can arrive to pick the student up.

Will they be required to be tested for COVID 19?

Dallas School District will advise staff or students not to return to school until they have met the CDC criteria to discontinue home isolation, including three days with no fever, symptoms have improved, and ten days since first symptoms were noted.

Rapid BinaxNOW testing may be offered in the district if the virus count rises above 200 cases per 100,000 residents. This was a new requirement added by the governor on February 19, 2021. Currently, there is no COVID-19 testing in the Dallas SD.

Will I have to quarantine if I travel out of state?

If you have received both doses of the vaccine and have completed the 14-day waiting period to achieve full effectiveness of the vaccine you are not required to quarantine for out of state travel or if you have been exposed to COVID-19. Those who have not been vaccinated are subject to a ten-day quarantine period, if no symptoms develop, upon their return to Oregon prior to returning to school buildings.

How effective are the vaccines?

The Moderna vaccine is 94% effective two weeks after a person receives the second shot. The Pfizer vaccine is 95% effective one week after the second shot.

The full FAQ from the Oregon Health Authority can be found at this link: [OHA COVID-19 Vaccine FAQ](#)

Do athletes have to quarantine after travel for club or athletic events out of state?

The governor has determined this as essential travel and they are not required to quarantine. If they develop COVID-19 symptoms after returning to Oregon, they would be required to quarantine.

What does it mean to be exposed to COVID-19?

Exposure occurs when you are in an interior space with another person for more than 15 minutes or less than 6 feet apart. Exposure can happen if you are wearing a mask, but the mask does offer protection from contracting the virus. If you are in a classroom with others for over 15 minutes and a person in that group has a positive test result for COVID-19, you have been exposed. Just using the copy machine or restroom does not equal exposure. Students passing briefly in the hallway would not equal exposure.

Communication and Technology

How will I receive updates about planning processes in the district?

Families will receive weekly emails each Friday until plans are solidified for fall. Families can also attend the weekly zoom meetings held on Wednesdays at 5:30. The invite is posted on the district website and Facebook account.

Will there be any chance for additional community input?

There will be a question and answer session on August 6 at 6:00 pm via zoom. Please see dallas.k12.or.us for meeting access. Please submit questions ahead of time to kim.kellison@dsd2.org

How is comprehensive distance learning different from what we did in the spring?

Comprehensive distance learning is much more rigorous than what we did in the spring during an emergency. Comprehensive distance learning or CDL will track attendance for students, assign letter grades, include summative and formative assessment and will use the learning management system Canvas. This online system will include synchronous and asynchronous instruction and shall be more engaging than what was experienced in the spring.

What if I don't have internet connectivity?

Students without internet access can check out a hotspot from the Technology Department. Also, students will be able to download lessons on to a flash drive that would allow them to pull up schoolwork on a chrome book without internet connectivity. This is a feature that Canvas provides and was a major factor in purchasing this learning management system for our students.

Misc. Questions

If there is inclement weather will we learn virtually that day?

Yes. The beauty of developing a comprehensive distance learning program is that we can learn virtually when weather prohibits traveling to school.

When will I know which cohort my student is in?

We have a principals' meeting on July 27 to determine student placement in cohorts. We have to examine a sibling report from eschool to make sure all siblings are on the same days. While this seems like you could just divide is simply by alpha, you can't if you want even student distribution per building and siblings in the same cohorts. This information was recently updated prior to hybrid opening and will be communicated by your student's school in February.

Why did you choose Wednesday for the all-student distance learning day?

Teachers need time to be able to prepare lessons in a way that they haven't previously done. We want teachers to have the necessary time to incorporate what they are teaching in the building in our new online learning management system, Canvas. This will provide much more rigorous instruction for our students. Additionally, we want to be able to sanitize the building on a deeper level on this day when no students are present.