



Duncanville ISD

Safe Return to School & Continuity of Services Plan for 2021-2022

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Rationale

This plan is written to outline Duncanville ISD's plan for reopening schools for the 2021-22 school year in accordance with state and federal safety guidelines. The processes and protocols outlined are intended to maintain a safe and healthy environment for all staff and students while taking into consideration the decrease in COVID-19 cases, increase in vaccinations, and access to personal protective equipment and resources.

Confidentiality

Campus and district staff members are expected to comply with district policy and state/federal laws regarding the protection and privacy of student health information.

- GBA (LEGAL) - Protected Health Information: An individual's protected health information as defined by Health and Safety Code 181.006 is not public information and is not subject to disclosure under the PIA. Gov't Code 552.002(d)

Instructional Arrangements

For grades PreK through 12th grade, students will learn in person. Synchronous/asynchronous options and days will not be available due to the following:

- The district safety protocols have been implemented with fidelity and have resulted in rare transmission of the virus as a result of these efforts.
- The learning and social and emotional needs of students are best served in-person.
- Many students lack the technical capabilities (devices and connectivity) to effectively learn at home. The district does not have the capacity to provide devices long-term to all students.
- Teachers will not be required to maintain both in-person and remote classrooms due to the undue burden required to maintain such an arrangement.

Student Attendance

Students will be expected to be in attendance 90% of instructional days as required by state law. In the event a student is quarantined due to confirmed exposure or a confirmed case of COVID-19, absences will be excused. However the student will be required to make-up all missed assignments in accordance with the district grading guidelines.

Protective Equipment and Practices

Facilities are expected to maintain high expectations for adherence to the health and safety precautions outlined by the district. Facilities have some flexibility to add protective practices based on operational capacity and need. The district guidelines are in accordance with current CDC and Dallas County Health advisement.

- It is recommended that students and staff members wear protective face coverings at school and on the bus. This is not a requirement but will be encouraged.
- Temperatures will be checked routinely based on campus/facility protocols.
- Desks should be spaced out 3 feet when possible to allow for social distancing or desk/face shields made available.
- Campuses will provide an isolation room for students experiencing COVID-like symptoms.
- Efforts must be made by campuses and student organizations to socially distant large groups of students and stakeholders in assemblies, common areas, practices, etc.

Cleaning and Sanitation Protocols

- Facilities will be e-misted nightly with sanitizing spray.
- Classrooms will be equipped with handheld e-misters and sanitizing spray for during the day sanitation.
- Students will be required to routinely use hand sanitizer and wash hands throughout the school day.
- Materials and equipment that require disinfecting should be left out (not in cabinets or carts) to be sanitized nightly.
- Laptops and other devices will be sanitized regularly.
- School buses will be cleaned and sanitized daily and equipped with hand sanitizer.

Vaccinations

The district will not require that any staff or student receive a COVID-19 vaccine as an expectation for employment or enrollment unless otherwise mandated by county, state, and federal CDC guidelines. The district may seek opportunities to offer vaccination clinics but participation will be optional.

Social, Emotional Supports

Students will continue to be provided social, emotional supports consistent with what was provided during the prior year. K-8 students will be supported during their homeroom through SEL Time utilizing a research-based SEL curriculum. Support counselors will be provided at every campus to provide individualized and small group support to address trauma-related needs. Campus counselors will provide guidance lessons as well as individualized counseling support. SEL resources will be accessible by students and families through the district website. Every K-6 campus will have calming corners established as spaces for cool down and to help students regain emotional composure and calmness.

Monitoring Symptoms and Exposure

Campuses will continue to monitor for COVID-19 symptoms through the campus clinics and school nurses. Students will not be required to complete the daily screener however, students with symptoms should not attend school. All students with symptoms or exposure will be tracked and followed up with by the campus nurse. Nurses will be required to maintain a daily health log to track symptoms.

Students that are demonstrating symptoms or have been exposed through close contact, and have not been fully vaccinated, may be quarantined for a minimum of 7 school days as applicable. To return, a student must be fever free for at least 24 hours with improved symptoms and have a negative COVID test after day 5. A medical diagnosis can also be provided confirming symptoms are associated with a non-communicable condition.

Parents will receive notification if their child was in close contact. These guidelines are subject to change based on updates from the CDC and/or state or local health authorities.

Responding to Positive COVID Cases

Student positive COVID-19 cases will follow the same processes as implemented in 2020-2021. When students test positive, they will submit a notification through the district website. The student will be quarantined for a minimum of 10 school days. Contact tracing will be conducted by the campus to determine if any other students or staff members were in close contact. Campuses will notify the district and custodial services upon confirmation of a positive student case, at which time, additional campus and classroom sanitation will take place.

Notifications of Exposures and Positive Cases

Notifications will be sent by the campuses to individual students if exposed to a positive on-campus case. A general all campus notification will be sent out by the school in the event of an on-campus case.

Rapid Testing for District Employees

Rapid testing for COVID-19 will continue to be available at all campuses for district employees during the 2021-22 school year.