

## 2020-2021 STUDENT HANDBOOK: COVID SUPPLEMENT

The following rules and expectations will be effective during the 2020-2021 school year. These rules and expectations are intended to ensure the health and safety of all students, staff members, and the overall community. Because of the fluid nature of the current COVID-19 pandemic and the District's continued collaboration with health officials, these rules and expectations are subject to change at any time. The District will send parents and students written notification of any such changes. It is each family's responsibility to monitor for, understand, and adhere to any such changes, including those changes implemented on short notice. If a parent or student ever has any questions about the interpretation or implementation of these rules and expectations, the parent or student should promptly contact their building administrator.

**1. Masks.** Unless otherwise directed by the Superintendent, every student must wear an appropriate mask on school grounds and while in school vehicles. An appropriate mask is a double cloth mask that does not interfere with or disrupt the operation of the school or the learning environment. Masks must be worn in a manner that covers the student's nose and mouth. A student may remove their mask only when a staff member gives the student permission, such as during mask "breaks" or during lunchtime. If a staff member provides specific mask directives to a student, the student shall comply with those directives. Students who do not comply with the mask requirement or directives may face discipline, up to and including exclusion or expulsion from school.

Students are highly encouraged to follow health and safety best practices outside of the school setting, including frequent hand washing and social distancing.

**2. COVID-19 Symptoms.** A student who experiences, or has experienced within 24 hours, any of the following symptoms must notify their administrator prior to coming to school or prior to entering a school vehicle:

1. Fever or chills
2. Cough
3. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
4. Muscle or body aches
5. New loss of taste or smell
6. Sore throat
7. Nausea or vomiting
8. Diarrhea

The administrator will then evaluate the student's symptoms to determine if the student may report to school or will be given academic work to complete at home. Students who miss school due to potential COVID-19 exposure or symptoms will generally not be counted as an unexcused absence. However, if the administration determines that the student has violated other rules or has not been honest about his or her symptoms, the student's absence may be deemed unexcused and the student may face other consequences. A student's arrival on school grounds or in a school vehicle after the student or parent fails to promptly notify a building administrator of potential

symptoms could result in student discipline, up to and including exclusion or expulsion from school.

A student who fails to report COVID-19 symptoms because the student wants to participate or compete in activities may face additional activity consequences.

**3. Potential Exposure.** Parents and students who have reason to suspect that the student may have been exposed to COVID-19 must promptly inform a building administrator. Potential exposure includes, but is not limited to, coming into close contact with a person who tested positive or is awaiting test results, a family member in the household who has tested positive or is awaiting test results, traveling to a “hot spot,” or receiving notification from a health official or medical professional of a potential exposure. Students who plan to travel outside of the community are encouraged to consult with a building administrator in advance to determine the potential consequences (such as mandatory quarantine) of such travel. Any student who has potentially been exposed to COVID-19 will not be allowed on school grounds or in a school vehicle until the District, in its sole and absolute discretion, determines that the student may safely return to school. A student’s arrival on school grounds or in a school vehicle after the student or parent fails to promptly notify a building administrator of a potential exposure could result in student discipline, up to and including exclusion or expulsion from school.

**4. Academic Work at Home.** A student who has potentially been exposed to COVID-19 and is not allowed on school grounds will not face an academic penalty unless the administration determines that the student has otherwise violated school rules. Any COVID-19 related student absence will not be counted as an unexcused absence. During a student’s COVID-19 related absence, the student is expected (to the extent that he or she is able) to work with his or her teachers to obtain and complete coursework and assignments. A teacher retains the discretion to grade student work during a student’s COVID-19 related absence.

**5. Activities.** A student will not be permitted to participate in activities if the student has possible COVID-19 symptoms, has potentially been exposed to COVID-19 or would otherwise jeopardize the health and safety of other students or staff. The District, in its sole and absolute discretion, will determine when a student may return or participate in an activity. Any student who fails to promptly report COVID-19 symptoms, potential exposure, or otherwise takes action or inaction that could jeopardize the health and safety of other students or staff will be subject to discipline, including the removal from the activity for the remainder of the year.

**6. Failure to be Honest.** These rules and expectations are designed and will be implemented to ensure, to the extent practicable, the health and safety of all students and staff. The District will endeavor to balance the need to ensure the health and safety of school premises, while not intruding on a family’s confidential medical information. With that in mind, students and families are expected to be honest with the District regarding a student’s potential COVID-19 exposure or symptoms. If a parent is uncomfortable or unwilling to provide specific information to the District about a student’s potential exposure or symptoms, the family need only inform a building administrator of the fact that there may have been a potential exposure or potential symptoms. A parent may, but will not be required to, divulge any specific information about the potential exposure or symptoms, such as medical information. In any circumstance, if the District

determines that a parent or student has not been honest or forthright with information or facts provided (or not provided) to the District about a potential exposure or potential symptoms, the District may exclude a student for a longer period of time (for health and safety reasons) or may impose disciplinary consequences, up to and including exclusion or expulsion from school.

**7. Other Health and Safety Rules.** At any time, a staff member may impose or require a student to undertake other health and safety requirements (such as frequent hand washing, maintaining social distancing, and the like). A student must follow such health and safety requirements or face discipline.

**8. Assumption of the Risks.** In the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, the District has endeavored to reopen schools for the benefit of student learning and development. However, there is no guarantee that the school environment will be completely safe and free from COVID-19 or other related risks and hazards. Any parent who is uncomfortable with the risks associated with sending their student to school must promptly contact a building administrator to discuss alternative educational options. A parent who elects to send their student back to school does so understanding, assuming, and accepting the associated health and safety risks, including the possibility that the student may be exposed to and/or contract COVID-19.