



2021-2022

Return to School Plan

**COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies,
In-Person Learning, Continuity of
Services**

Douglas Unified School District No. 27

1132 12th Street

Douglas, Arizona 85607

DUSD COVID-19 Point of Contact

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Mrs. Denise Cox	Director, Human Resources Point of Contact
Mrs. Katie Walker	Director, Exceptional Student Services Point of Contact
Mrs. Alma Valenzuela	District Communication Point of Contact
Ms. Anais Lopez	District Point of Contact – Human Resources
Mrs. Cori Moen	Clawson Elementary Principal
Ms. Anna Barroso	Point of Contact
Mr. Fernando Morales	Faras Elementary Principal
Mr. Mark Moen	Point of Contact
Ms. Claudia Leon	Joe Carlson Elementary Principal
Ms. Rossana Leon	Point of Contact
Mr. Henry Jones-	Sarah Marley Elementary Principal
Ms. Eileen Hidalgo	Point of Contact
Mr. Enrique Duron	Stevenson Elementary Principal
Ms. Esperanza Romero	Point of Contact
Ms. Deb Herrera	Huber Middle School Principal
Mrs. Sydney Fimbres	Point of Contact
Mrs. Rodna LaMadrid	Ray Borane Middle School Principal
Dr. Rodney Egan	Point of Contact
Mrs. Melissa Rodriguez	Douglas High School Principal
Ms. Yolanda Caruso	Point of Contact
Mr. Angel Ortega	DHS Athletic Director – Point

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UPDATED COVID-19 MITIGATION STRATEGIES

School Year 2021-2022

Douglas Unified plans to enter the 2021-22 school year as normal as possible, while maintaining a few health procedures as part of our ongoing process to keep students and staff safe.

July 7, 2021 Update: This legislative session, a bill was passed that prohibits Arizona school districts from requiring students or staff wear masks during school hours and on district property. Schools are also prohibited from requiring vaccines or masks to participate in in person instruction.

Vaccinations: Students, staff and community members are not required to be vaccinated in order to be on campus.

Quarantine: DUSD will follow requirements and recommendations from Cochise County Health Department, Arizona Department of Public Health, CDC, and Governing Board regarding quarantine protocols related to students who are exposed to COVID-19.

Face Coverings/Masks: Optional, but **highly recommended** for staff, students, and visitors, inside and outside.

PPE and Hygiene: PPE will continue to be available to students and staff who request them. Hand sanitizer will continue to be available on all campuses and district sites.

School Operations: (e.g. classrooms, cafeteria, library, computer lab, small group interventions) Returning to as close to normal as possible, with 3 ft. distancing when feasible. Hand sanitizer will be available where lines form.

Additional updates may be made in accordance with Arizona Department of Public Health (ADHS), Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Executive Orders issued by Governor Doug Ducey and the decisions made by the district's Governing Board and Leadership Team. Some procedures and protocols may vary by school based on enrollment or layout of school campus and will be shared with parents by school principals.

IN PERSON INSTRUCTION

Health & Well-Being

The heart of our decisions remains the safety of our students and staff while operating school as normally as possible. Additional updates to this plan may be made in accordance with Arizona Department of Public Health (ADHS), Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Executive Orders issued by Governor Ducey and the decisions made by the district's Governing Board and Leadership Team. Some procedures and protocols may vary by school based on enrollment or layout of school campus and will be shared with parents by school principals.

- ALL STUDENTS WHOSE IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE IS AFFECTED BY COVID WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE THEIR LEARNING VIA GOOGLE CLASSROOM TO ENSURE ACADEMIC PROGRESS CONTINUES. THIS APPLIES ONLY TO COVID RELATED ABSENCES.

Mitigation Practices

- Face coverings/masks are **strongly recommended**, but will be optional for staff, students and visitors, inside and outside following the latest CDC guidelines.
- Hand sanitizer will be available on all campuses and district sites.
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) will continue to be available to students and staff who request them.
 - Individual schools will notify parents of morning and after school drop-off and pick-up procedures.

Cafeteria Operations

- Cafeteria operations will return to as close to normal as possible
- Hand sanitizer will be readily available

COVID-19 Response Team

- The district's COVID-19 Response Team will assist school administrators on an as-needed basis
 - Schools' administration team will continue to gather information about positive cases from staff and students and close contacts will be notified following Cochise County Health Department and CDC guidelines and recommendations.

Secondary School Athletics & Clubs

Athletics and clubs will resume as usual, following AIA guidelines and mitigation practices will be effect.

Elementary Events and Field Trips

Elementary events and field trips will resume in the 2021-22 school year in accordance with ADHS, CDC, Executive Orders, Governing Board, and Principal recommendations. DUSD will follow all mitigation practices

School Campuses

As we transition to our “new” normal, our schools will continue to be engaging and positive environments where children learn and grow alongside their peers. Students will attend school five-days per week and Wednesday’s will continue to be our early release days.

School Campuses and Classrooms

- Where possible, student seating will be arranged to maintain as much physical distance as possible.
- Where possible, physical distancing will be maintained in open or common areas, such as hallways, stairwells, gyms and playgrounds.
- Students will utilize their own school supplies and keep their belongings separate throughout the day.
 - Students are encouraged to bring a bottle to school that can be refilled from one of our water filling stations on campus, since outside drinking fountains will be inactive.
 - To limit exposure to other students and staff, recess may be separated by classes and grade level/cohorts.
- Signage will be posted explaining hygiene practices to prevent spread.
- Physical education classes may focus on personal fitness instead of high-contact exercises and will take place outside, when weather permits.
- Middle and high school courses that involve significant interpersonal contact, such as labs, will be held in classroom locations that provide the greatest opportunity to physically distance.
- Special education, gifted and English language services will resume under the close direction of our educators and individual IEP Team.

Face Coverings

Face Coverings are **strongly recommended**, but optional. We will continue to take guidance from our state health officials and will comply with all mandates that impact preK-12 public schools.

Hand Hygiene

Frequent hand washing/cleaning will be encouraged at regular intervals throughout the day with both soap and water or hand sanitizer.

- All classrooms will have access to handwashing and students will be instructed to use soap and water, and scrub for 20 seconds, followed by rinsing.

Health Screening

- Students should stay home if they feel ill or are exhibiting symptoms of respiratory infection.
- Parents and guardians should assess their child's health daily prior to heading to school or the bus stop.
- Students who have a temperature of 100.4 F or higher **should not attend school**.
- If the teacher has concerns based on a visual check of the child, they will contact the school nurse.
- Students will be reminded of proper hygiene, including:
 - Avoiding touching the eyes, nose, and mouth.
 - Covering the mouth when coughing.
 - Covering the nose when sneezing and safely discarding tissues.

Enhanced Cleaning

In order to help prevent the spread of any bacteria or germs the following procedures will take place to help support a clean and healthy environment.

Schools will follow CDC guidelines on proper disinfecting and sanitizing classrooms and common areas.

- Schools will have PPE and sanitizing equipment readily available such as masks/face shields, wipes, sanitizer, gloves, etc.
- Staff are expected to clean and disinfect workspaces when they arrive at work and just before leaving work. Classrooms should be cleaned and disinfected in between class periods.
- Janitorial staff will follow a schedule for increased cleaning of surfaces and bathrooms throughout the day.
- **Frequently touched surfaces** (door handles, sink handles, etc.) will be cleaned with a disinfectant (wipes/spray) between use as much as possible.
- **Classroom door handles** will be disinfected by staff after each use as feasible:
 - When transitioning
 - After the use of the restroom
 - Teach students to wipe down the handle and to properly dispose of the wipe.

- **Student Desks**
 - Beginning and End of each day
 - Provide one wipe
 - Students will wipe down desk
 - Chair
 - Pencil bag
 - Discard wipe
- **Teacher Desks**
 - Beginning and End of each day
 - Wipe down
 - Keyboard
 - Chair
 - Desk
 - Phone
 - Round table

Discard wipe properly

Visitors on Campus

The following protocols are meant to help support the safety and well-being of our staff and students while on school campus. They are not meant to discriminate or judge any one person. These protocols were developed using CDC guidelines.

In order to mitigate the possibility of community spread onto our school campus, we will temporarily not allow parents/guardians or visitors to be on campus without an appointment. This may be re-evaluated at a later date.

Meetings

- Parents/guardians who wish to speak to a teacher must set up a meeting through ClassDojo/Email.
- Meetings with teachers/principal may be done via phone calls, video conferences, or in person if appointment is scheduled.

Social-Emotional Well-Being

- All schools have a school counselor that will help assist in addressing the social and emotional needs of students. We recognize that many students may struggle with processing our new normal and each of our schools are prepared to aid our students in any way.
- The district will follow CDC protocols regarding reported cases and take specific guidance from the Cochise County Health Department.
- School nurses will follow established screening protocols and will consult with public health officials to determine how best to handle students and staff who display or develop COVID-19 symptoms.
- Isolation rooms will be set up within health offices for students or staff who may be sick.

Transportation Services

DUSD will follow the mitigation protocols as outlined by the CDC order to provide “best efforts” to ensure the health and safety of all persons that ride on the school bus/ vans.

- Mask/face covering will be used on school buses/ vans, as per CDC order.
- Students will be asked to comply with physical distancing guidelines when waiting at the bus stop, during boarding and while exiting the bus.
- If possible, students should wait in a parent’s vehicle until the bus arrives at the bus stop.
- Siblings will be encouraged to sit together.
- High touch-point areas, like handrails, door handles and the driver area will be cleaned in between bus runs and the buses will be thoroughly sanitized each night.
- Windows may be open for increased air circulation during seasonal times of year.
- Families are encouraged to transport their children to school to reduce the number of students on a bus.

Breakfast & Lunch Services

- Food & Nutrition Services will provide meals or students may bring their lunch to school.
- The entire square footage of the cafeteria or multi-purpose room will be used to support appropriate physical distancing during each mealtime, as feasible. When weather permits and if feasible, students may enjoy lunch in the school’s outdoor areas.

High School Lunch Services

- Indoor tables will be spaced out as much as possible.
- Additional lunch distribution points will be available inside and outside the cafeteria to reduce the length of lunch lines and allow for social distancing.

Elementary Playgrounds

- Students will have access to playground equipment and fields during scheduled recess time. To help keep recess safe, students are asked not to bring personal equipment to school.
- Students will wash their hands or use sanitizer before and after using the playground equipment.

Before & After School Programs

- Cohorts of students will mimic the size of a standard classroom on the campus and physical distancing will be maintained inside and outside of the classroom, when feasible.
- Students will wash their hands upon entering the program and before leaving for home.

- Families will sign in and out by the office where hand sanitizer and wipes will be provided. (Stevenson)

Arrival & Dismissal Procedures

- Elementary students will go straight to the cafeteria to eat breakfast or the outside recess area prior to the start of school.
- Upon entry, staff members may visually scan students for any signs of illness.
- Hand sanitizer will be available to students as they enter campus.
- Walking students will be encouraged to leave campus quickly.
- Bus students will wait in a designated zone. (Bus schools)
- Parents will wait in the assigned pick-up zone, while students wait under teacher supervision.
- Parents are encouraged to contact the schools or to make an appointment when possible to limit the number of guests in front offices at one time.

Preschool & Kindergarten Programs

- On-site traditional classroom Instruction will be the only model available for our preschool students.
- School events and large gatherings, such as festivals or fundraisers will be in accordance with ADHS/CDC guidelines.

Communication & Training

- Students will be educated about their role to help support a safe and healthy environment.
- Families may request information about COVID-19 symptoms, risk factors, CDC guidelines and the protective efforts to reduce the spread in our community and the Health Guide.
- Ensure that guidance counselors and staff have sufficient training and time to address the social and emotional needs of our students.

Protections for Populations at Risk

The CCHD and the CDC have stated that people of any age with certain underlying medical conditions are at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19. Individuals with specific health conditions have been identified as having an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

Older adults and people with underlying medical conditions such as:

1. Heart, Lung, Kidney Disease
2. Diabetes
3. Obesity
4. Immunocompromised individuals

The above list is not inclusive and subject to change as the science of COVID-19 evolves.

Preparing for when someone gets sick (CDC Guidelines)

Adults (Staff)—Contact your Point of Contact (POC) immediately for next steps

Students—Contact the school site Point of Contact (POC) or school administrator for next steps

Quarantine or isolation

You **quarantine** when you might have been exposed to the virus.

You **isolate** when you have been infected with the virus, even if you don't have symptoms.

Quarantine

Quarantine if you have been in close contact (within 6 feet of someone for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) with someone who has COVID-19, unless you have been fully vaccinated. People who are fully vaccinated do NOT need to quarantine after contact with someone who had COVID-19 unless they have symptoms. However, fully vaccinated people should get tested 3-5 days after their exposure, even if they don't have symptoms and wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until their test result is negative.

What to do

- Contact the Point of Contact Immediately
- Stay home for 14 days after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19.
- Watch for fever (100.4°F), cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19.
- If possible, stay away from people you live with, especially people who are at higher risk for getting very sick from COVID-19.

After quarantine

- Watch for symptoms until 14 days after exposure.
- If you have symptoms, immediately self-isolate and contact your local public health authority or healthcare provider.

You may be able to shorten your quarantine

Your local public health authorities make the final decisions about how long quarantine should last, based on local conditions and needs. Follow the recommendations of your

local public health department if you need to quarantine. Options they will consider include stopping quarantine

- After day 10 without testing
- After day 7 after receiving a negative test result (test must occur on day 5 or later)

Isolation

Isolation is used to separate people infected with COVID-19 from those who are not infected.

People who are in isolation should stay home until it's safe for them to be around others. At home, anyone sick or infected should separate from others, stay in a specific "sick room" or area, and use a separate bathroom (if available).

What to do

- Communicate with your Point of Contact
- Monitor your symptoms. If you have an emergency warning sign (including trouble breathing), seek emergency medical care immediately.
- Stay in a separate room from other household members, if possible.
- Use a separate bathroom, if possible.
- Avoid contact with other members of the household and pets.
- Don't share personal household items, like cups, towels, and utensils.
- Wear a mask when around other people if able.

Learn more about what to do if you are sick and how to notify your contacts.

For Anyone Who Has Been Around a Person with COVID-19

Anyone who has had close contact with someone with COVID-19 should stay home for 14 days **after their last exposure** to that person.

However, anyone who has had close contact with someone with COVID-19 and who meets the following criteria does **NOT** need to stay home.

- Someone who has been fully vaccinated and shows no symptoms of COVID-19. However, fully vaccinated people should get tested 3-5 days after their exposure, even they don't have symptoms and wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until their test result is negative.

Or

- Someone who has COVID-19 illness within the previous 3 months **and**
- Has recovered **and**
- Remains without COVID-19 symptoms (for example, cough, shortness of breath)

Student Protocol

In the result of a child(ren)/adult getting sick at school, the following protocols will be followed in order to protect the health and wellness of every student and staff member on campus. (CDC Guidelines)

If a child/adult presents with any of the symptoms of COVID-19 while at school the following protocols will be put into effect immediately.

- Student(s) shows signs of infectious illness consistent with COVID-19.²
- Teacher or staff excuses student(s) from classroom, cohort or area within the school. Alert the COVID-19 POC. If masking is not required at the school, provide student with mask as soon as possible.
- COVID-19 POC takes student(s) to isolation room/area and ensures student(s) is properly supervised and masked. The parent, guardian, or caregiver is called. Arrangements are made for student(s) to either go home or seek emergency medical attention³. Note: If multiple ill students must be placed in the same isolation room/area, ensure mask use and stay at least 6 feet apart while supervised.
- Parent, guardian, or caregiver picks up student(s). Parent, guardian, or caregiver contacts healthcare provider for evaluation and possible COVID-19 test. (**Note:** If a school does not have a routine screening testing program, the ability to do rapid testing on site could facilitate COVID-19 diagnosis and inform the need for quarantine of close contacts and isolation.)
- Clean and disinfect areas that the ill student(s) occupied. Ventilate the area(s), wait as long as possible before cleaning to let virus particles settle (at least several hours), and use personal protective equipment (including any protection needed for the cleaning and disinfection products) to reduce risk of infection.

Student **negative** COVID-19 test result.⁴

- Student(s) return to school following existing school illness management policies.

Student **positive** COVID-19 test result.

- Student(s) found to have COVID-19 and begins home isolation.
- COVID-19 POC starts a list of close contacts of the ill student(s) and informs staff, parents, guardians, or caregivers of close contacts of possible exposure⁵.
- COVID-19 POC works with local health officials to assess spread and support follow up with staff, parents, guardians, or caregivers of student(s) that had contact with the ill student(s).⁶
- Parents, guardians, or caregivers of close contacts are advised to keep their children home (quarantine according to local health department requirements) and to consult with the student(s)' healthcare provider for evaluation and possible COVID-19 test⁷.
- Members of the ill student(s)' household and staff who had close contact with the student are advised to quarantine according to local health department requirements⁷.
- The ill student(s) can return to school and end isolation once the following are met:
 - 10 days out from the start of the symptoms, AND
 - Fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication, AND
 - Symptoms have improved.

Adult Protocol

- Students, teachers, and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as influenza (flu) or COVID-19, **should stay home** and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care.
- **Contact your site Point of Contact immediately.**
- Staying home when sick with COVID-19 is essential to keep COVID-19 infections out of schools and prevent spread to others. It also is essential for people who are not fully vaccinated to quarantine after a recent exposure to someone with COVID-19.
- Schools that do not have a universal mask requirement could require masking by students, teachers, and staff if they are experiencing onset of upper respiratory infection symptoms at school while waiting to be picked up or leave the school.
- CDC guidance provides that people who are fully vaccinated and do not have COVID-19 symptoms do not need to quarantine or get tested after an exposure to someone with COVID-19.
- Schools should educate teachers, staff, and families about when they and their children should stay home and when they can return to school. The site Point of Contact will provide guidance.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic it is essential that staff and students stay home if they are showing signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and get tested.
- Getting tested for COVID-19 when symptoms are compatible with COVID-19 will help with rapid contact tracing and prevent possible spread at schools, especially if key prevention strategies (masking and distancing) are not in use.

- Some localities might choose to use testing to shorten quarantine periods.
- Fully vaccinated students, teachers, and staff with no COVID-19 symptoms do not need to be tested following an exposure to someone with COVID-19.
- People who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 3 months and recovered do not need to get tested following an exposure as long as they do not develop new symptoms.
- Any fully vaccinated person who experiences symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should isolate themselves from others, be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, and tested for SARS-CoV-2 if indicated.
- People with COVID-19 have reported a wide range of symptoms from no or mild symptoms to severe illness.
- Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Because some of the symptoms of flu, common cold, and COVID-19 are similar, it is hard to tell the difference between them based on symptoms alone.
- Testing can help confirm a diagnosis, and inform medical treatment and care. Also, testing will confirm the need to isolate from others for at least 10 days and quarantine close contacts.
- It is imperative that the adult be in close communication with the Point of Contact for direction and next steps.

In-Person Learning and Continuity of Services

For the 2021-2022 school year, DUSD is providing traditional In-Person Instruction, five days a week beginning Aug. 5th, 2021. In the event that a group of students or class is closed (per recommendation of the Cochise County Health Department and CDC Guidelines), the LEA will continue to provide online instruction during temporary quarantines and closures following AZ Standards across the content areas. The LEA will provide students a loaned device based on availability (DUSD is working towards becoming a 1:1 district). The LEA will also issue paper/pencil instructional materials if online access is an issue. Students with disabilities, English learners, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, children and youth in foster care will continue to have their needs met through distance learning procedures by the classroom teacher or the special education teacher.

- All student academic needs will continue to be offered via synchronous and asynchronous instruction using evidence-based best practices and interventions via Google/Google Classroom.
- Social Emotional Learning will be embedded during instructional time. All school principals participated in CASEL's Summer 2021 Leading Schoolwide SEL: Preparing for the Journey Ahead webinar. This training provided guidance and resources to assist with the development and implementation of social emotional learning in the schools based on student and staff needs.

- DUSD's Child Nutrition Department will provide Grab and Go meals-(breakfast and lunch) at various sites, if needed.
- SEL school plans will include and address staff.

CONTINGENCY PLANS

If public health officials or the Governor require that school districts move into an alternative educational delivery model, Douglas Unified may implement one of the following contingency plans:

Revised Calendar Model

The current environment may warrant a change in the school district's currently approved calendar.

The district will work with its legal counsel on the ability to make modifications as needed based on current conditions or any Executive Orders from the Governor.

Hybrid Model/Remote Learning

A remote instructional model may be selected to ensure all students continue to receive instruction on a daily basis. The remote plan may vary and information will be shared to families in a timely manner.