



Daleville Community Schools
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Re-opening Schools 2020-2021

Frequently Asked Questions

TO: All Patrons of Daleville Community Schools
FROM: Paul Garrison, Superintendent
DATE: July 14, 2020

Every day at Daleville Community schools our primary concern is the education, the safety and the well-being of every student we have the privilege of serving every day. It is our belief at that every student is best served by face-to-face instruction delivered in a school environment where-in a highly-qualified teacher can deliver instruction, assess each student's progress and respond personally and effectively to the needs of the student. With this in mind, we will do all within our power to deliver the best education possible to our students while doing all within our power to keep them as safe as possible in our school environment.

It is our hope this school year to have every student, physically attend school at our facilities each school day during the year. Recognizing that this is not always possible, we will also offer each student/parent an eLearning option that will keep students who select eLearning on pace with our students who elect to attend school in person each day.

We recognize that as we proceed with the school year and individual health conditions change, or when we receive additional guidance from state and national agencies, adjustments will become necessary. In our planning, we will use Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Indiana Department of Education (IDOE), and Delaware County Health Department guidance regarding social distancing and cleaning as much as is practical in our school setting. We are also planning to begin the school year by making the wearing of face masks optional for all students and employees at school. Food service employees will be required to wear face masks during food preparation and in serving food to students and adults.

What is the reopening status of Daleville Community Schools?

Daleville Community Schools has resumed summer athletic activities in accordance with the IN-Class plan from the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) and the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) beginning Monday, July 6, 2020.

For the time being, we are still anticipating starting school as per our previously adopted calendar for the 2020-2021 school year. Daleville teachers will return to our schools on August 3, 2020 and Daleville students will return on Wednesday, August 5, 2020. **However**, we are experiencing delays in delivery of a significant amount of materials and supplies that we need in order to prepare our classrooms for operation in as safe a manner as possible. Those delays may well cause us to delay the start of our school year. We are discussing that possibility internally at this time and will make an announcement as soon as possible.

Will Daleville Community Schools offer an eLearning option to students?

It is our plan to offer an eLearning option for those who are not quite ready for face-to-face instruction. We understand that your goal, as a parent, is to provide your child with the best education in the least disruptive method. That is why our plan for those choosing eLearning at the beginning or at any time needed throughout the year will keep pace with those students who remain

in the face-to-face setting. Our goal at Daleville Community Schools is for students who need the eLearning option, to be able to transition from eLearning to the classroom or vice-versa seamlessly and without loss of instruction. It is our plan to provide flexibility to parents in making necessary attendance decisions for their students. Please give the school a 48 hour notice before making such a change.

What are the protocols for the use of face masks?

After consultation with the Delaware County Health Department, Daleville Community Schools will follow guidance provided by the Indiana Department of Education and other state agencies regarding masks. Currently, masks are recommended for all but not required. Through arrangements with the Governor's Office, Daleville Community Schools anticipates providing all students with a cloth mask for the 2020-2021 school year. These masks are recognized as reusable and once distributed will be the responsibility of the student and parent to care for as needed in regards to cleaning and sanitizing and in ensuring that each student choosing to wear a mask will have it at school daily. While no student will be required to wear a mask, all students will be permitted and encouraged to wear them, especially when riding a school bus, moving through hallways, and in other communal settings. Masks will be required for food service employees during preparation and serving of food and for bus drivers during routes. Other employees will be permitted and encouraged to wear masks while in the school setting, especially when moving through hallways and in large group settings.

Will students and employees be screened?

In accordance with guidance received from IDOE, all Daleville students, parents, and employees are asked to self-screen each day prior to attending school. This is based on the latest guidance from the Indiana Health Commissioner. A self-screening checklist will be provided to all families, and families are asked to review it daily with students prior to sending them to school. Students, parents, and employees should recognize the following COVID related symptoms: A fever of 100.4 degrees F. or greater; cough; shortness of breath or difficulty breathing; chills; repeated shaking with chills; muscle pain; headache; sore throat; and/or new loss of taste or smell.

Students or employees exhibiting any of these symptoms are asked to remain at home until symptoms are no longer present.

What precautions are being implemented regarding social distancing?

Principals will develop procedures to minimize or eliminate any time spent in large groups during morning arrival, during the day, or during departure. When appropriate and practical physical Plexiglas barriers will be used to help with social distancing protocols. Recess will be staggered to minimize group sizes on the playground at any given time. Within classrooms, desks will be set up with students facing to front of the room and with as much distance as is practically possible between students so that students do not face each other in regular seating patterns. Seating charts will be maintained for each classroom so that the same students are using the same spaces as much as possible. Outside of classrooms students will be kept in class groups when possible with social distancing between such groups as much as practical.

How will lunch be served?

Food trays will be prepared for students by cafeteria staff practicing sanitary procedures and self service will be eliminated. Students may bring a lunch from home if that is desired. Additional lunch

periods will be added as needed and additional lunch space secured in order to social distance as much as possible between tables and classroom groups of students. Lunch seating may be assigned if that is seen as necessary.

What precautions will be taken during bus transportation?

Parents are encouraged and may provide transportation for their students to and from school if they seek further social distancing than the school can provide on busses. Students will have assigned seats and are encouraged to wear face masks when riding the bus. Bus drivers will wear either face masks and or face shields during their routes. Hand sanitizer will be made available to students as may be possible.

Will field trips be held?

Traditional Field trips and all-school assemblies will be postponed / canceled until further notice. Outside activities by individual classes may occur which may include short walking trips where social distancing can occur.

Will before and after school latch-key services be provided?

Latch-key childcare services will be provided as in the past. Social distancing and smaller group sizes will be encouraged when additional space and additional adult staff is available.

Will visits be allowed to the school?

Visitors and non-instructional volunteers will not be permitted during the school day until further notice. Parents may make appointments to complete business in school offices. The schools will continue to utilize student teaching and practicum students from college teacher preparation programs on a regulated basis regarding social distancing as much as is practical.

Will water fountains be available?

In keeping with guidance from IDOE, school drinking fountains may not be used until further notice. Bottle refill stations will be available on a scheduled basis. Students and employees may bring water containers from home for use at school. Hand sanitizer will be available close to bottle fill stations and all will be encouraged to sanitize hands before and /or after use. The water bottle fill stations will be cleaned / sanitized frequently during the day by school custodial staff. Students and staff are encouraged to bring sanitary water bottles from home each day.

What will be the cleaning / sanitary procedures maintained at the schools?

Students will be scheduled and encouraged to wash hands and / or use hand sanitizer frequently between activities at school each day, especially prior to lunch. Hand sanitizer will be readily available in cafeterias and near main entrances. Classrooms and highly trafficked area will be cleaned and sanitized nightly. High traffic areas, physical fitness equipment, playground equipment, and classroom spaces used by multiple school student groups will be sanitized much more frequently. Supervising teachers will encourage students to sanitize equipment between uses.

How will student /employees with symptoms be housed at school?

In the event that any person at school exhibits symptoms of COVID, the person will be housed in a designated / isolated area to be monitored by the school nurse or nurse's aide until the individual is able to proceed to their home. Such an area will be designated in each building and will be thoroughly

cleaned / sanitized after each use. Principals, with consultation of the school nurse, will determine the location at each school.

What if a case of COVID is confirmed at school?

If a case of COVID is confirmed at school, Daleville Community Schools will consult with the Delaware County Health Department to determine whether a school closure or partial school closure is necessary and for what length of time it should last. Current guidance suggests a closure of two-to-five (2-5) days for the first confirmed case. Teachers will be ready for virtual instruction in the event of such closures, which may be for the effected school and not the entire district. At this time the Indiana Department of Health does not recommend closing all schools in an entire district for small numbers of cases within a single school building.

How will virtual learning be handled in the event of school closure?

In the event of a school closure due to a local outbreak of COVID, any affected school will move to eLearning for the length of the closure.

When would an employee or student with symptoms (not a test confirmed case) return to school?

After the student or employee is excluded from school due to exhibiting COVID symptoms, the school will follow IDOE / Health Department guidelines regarding return to school. A flow chart will be developed and communicated by school nursing staff for return-to-school following the exhibit of symptoms.

Will the school calendar be altered?

At this point, there are no plans to change the adopted school calendar for school year 2020-2021.

When will full-time employees resume regular work?

Regular work hours are now in effect for employees. Any employee who does not typically work during summer break will begin working on August 5, 2020 on the students first day of school unless they are notified to report earlier by their supervisor.

How will leave be affected for employees?

Daleville Community Schools will follow local policy and collective bargaining agreements relating to employee leave. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) entitles employees who are ordered to be in quarantine or have other defined, related circumstances to continue to be paid without using accumulated leave for up to two (2) weeks. If an employee has a disability or underlying health condition that qualifies as a disability, the school may be required to provide accommodations. Employees should check with their immediate supervisors for more details.

Is this document subject to change?

Of course in the environment we find ourselves in during this COVID 19 Health Emergency guidance from the agencies we are monitoring is subject to change. We will change our reopening plan and our plans for daily service depending on the latest information and guidance we receive in order to promote both the safety of our students and their educational progress.

Whom do I contact for more information?

For building-level questions, including eLearning options, contact your school's principal.