



## COVID Guidance FAQs

### What are the quarantine protocols in place?

- Denver Health Doctors guidance says that if you are vaccinated and do not have COVID symptoms, quarantine is not required. If you are showing symptoms, please quarantine for 10 days. For more guidance, please see the [DPS COVID Decision Tree](#)

### What constitutes an "exposure" sufficient for me to have to stay home and quarantine?

- Exemption from Quarantine for classroom exposures:
  1. Fully vaccinated without symptoms (two weeks after last recommended vaccine dose) OR
  2. Previously positive in the past 90 without symptoms day OR
  3. Both parties were wearing a mask properly over the mouth and nose at the time of exposure and without symptoms

\*CDC recommendation: Fully vaccinated people who have a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 should be tested 3-5 days after exposure, regardless of whether or not they have symptoms.
- If not exempt from quarantine, instruct the student/staff to go home and QUARANTINE for:
  - 10 days if not exhibiting symptoms (no testing required) OR
  - 7 days if not exhibiting symptoms with proof of a negative PCR or Molecular COVID-19 test result. The test cannot be given earlier than day 5 from the last exposure and they cannot be in close contact with high risk people.

### If COVID cases rise again what triggers will constitute remote learning?

- Currently the district does not have any triggers that constitute remote learning. They are working with Denver Health to closely monitor community spread throughout Denver and if cases exponentially rise, we will negotiate this with the district to keep students and staff safe.

### What plans does the district have to attract and retain teachers and subs during this time?

- Currently, DPS has 200 substitute teachers available and are actively recruiting more. Lack of substitutes have been a major concern, we are bringing these concerns to the district and working toward a solution around substitute coverage.

### I am concerned that most of our students and guardians will not be vaccinated.

- DCTA has advocated for everybody to wear masks indoors to reduce infection amongst both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals

### Is there any guidance from the district about what constitutes an appropriate face covering?

- Some examples of appropriate face coverings are cloth or disposable face masks that cover your nose and mouth. Students who are deaf and hard of hearing and who are able to communicate with other students by reading lips will have the option of wearing clear masks as well.
- [CDC School Masking Guidance](#)

### Will the district provide staff with PPE and cleaning supplies?

- Yes, the district has a surplus of personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies and they should always be available to staff. If you need help finding the PPE or cleaning supplies in your building, please contact your principal. If you have contacted your principal and were unable to receive those supplies, [contact DCTA](#) immediately.

### What is the guidance for students who are experiencing COVID symptoms?

- Students who experience COVID symptoms must stay home while following the [How Sick is Too Sick? Guidance](#)



- School nurses will monitor for illness related absences and trends. If certain illness absences thresholds are met, the school nurse will notify nursing services.
- After this notification, an Infinite Campus survey in DPS Parent Portal will be activated by nursing services. Once the survey is activated, parents/guardians must complete the student screener available in DPS Parent Portal.

The thresholds for absences due to illness are:

- 30% of staff are out sick due to the same illness symptoms
- 15% of students in a class/grade/entire school are out sick due to the same illness symptoms

#### **How do we support students who may be quarantining best?**

- If a student is out on quarantine, you can best support them by sending any school work home with them and input assignments to schoology and seesaw

#### **What if staff members/parents do not want to comply with the mask requirements?**

- Masks are required indoors at all times with only the exception of eating and drinking. If someone refuses to wear a mask in buildings, please contact your building leadership as well as the [integra hotline](#).

#### **Is DPS providing free COVID testing this year?**

- The district will be providing free COVID tests again this year. Please [click here](#) or visit the commons if you'd like to schedule an appointment.

#### **Can we wear a face shield instead of a mask?**

- Face masks are one of the best ways to protect ourselves and others against COVID. Face shields have not been deemed acceptable to wear in replacement of a mask. [See CDC Guidelines](#) around CDC approved face coverings

#### **Will educators receive time off for booster shots and any side effects from the shots?**

- We are advocating for educators to receive time off for any vaccines related to COVID, whether that be the initial shot or any recommended boosters.

#### **What is the leave plan for staff who may need to take any COVID related time off?**

- The 80 hour COVID sick bank will be available this year. You can request a COVID related leave through TruePay. Please Note: You will select Emergency Leave on the TruePay site. This is the COVID related leave option. If you have additional questions please Call 720-423-3092 or email [LeaveofAbsence@dpsk12.org](mailto:LeaveofAbsence@dpsk12.org).

#### **Why a mask mandate if we are already vaccinated?**

- Vaccinations and mask wearing are the keys to maximizing health and safety to both vaccinated and unvaccinated students, parents and staff.

#### **Do we have a budget for our choice of mask?**

- The district has a variety of N95 and KN95 masks. Please ask your principal if you have any additional mask needs.

#### **Plans to best protect elementary schools and unvaccinated children under the age of 12?**

- Please remain following the [DPS 5](#) to best protect all of our students regardless of vaccination eligibility.

#### **What if my student refuses to wear a mask?**

- If your student refuses to wear a mask indoors, please contact your principal immediately, as masks are required! There are very few accepted reasons as to why a student would need to take off a mask, please see them [here](#).



**I am concerned about students eating together without social distancing or masks.**

- Eating outdoors is strongly recommended, because quarantines won't be required for an outdoor COVID-19 exposure unless directed by the health department. When eating indoors, limit maskless time to 15 minutes as much as possible.

**Can an employer require employees to disclose their vaccination status?**

- Yes, an employer can require employees to disclose and provide documentation of their vaccine status. However, like all medical information, the employer is required to maintain the confidentiality of employee medical information – including documentation of COVID-19 vaccination, under the ADA.