

WE HAVE A PLAN TO KEEP OUR STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY SAFE



SUSPENSION OF FACE TO FACE LEARNING FAQ

REOPENING PLAN 2020

Read our full plan at www.detroitk12.org/returntoschool

Questions? Email us at service.desk@detroitk12.org

As of November 16, 2020

Suspension of Face to Face Learning – November 16, 2020

A. General Information about the decision to suspend F2F

B. Families

C. Regional Technology & Family Support Hubs

D. Staff -School Based

E. Staff-Central Office

A. General

1. Why has the district chosen to suspend Face-to-Face learning?

The district reopened Face-to-Face instruction and Learning Centers at our schools this fall based on the city's low positivity rate for COVID-19, our District's preparation related to PPE, COVID safety protocols and the preference of both our families and staff. The District communicated that if the positive infection rate reached 5-7% we would consider discontinuing in person teaching and learning. While there is limited evidence of infection spreading in school buildings, last week, the seven-day infection rate for the City of Detroit was 4.8%. Based on this week's reporting, the infection rate will reach 6% or higher by Friday. Consistent with national and state trends, there are no signs that these rising numbers will decrease soon. After considering and discussing these numbers with the city's health department, consulting DFT leadership, and other district union leadership, the School Board and Superintendent decided to suspend in person learning until January 11th.

2. Is the District closing because there were multiple outbreaks in schools or because of the number of cases in the schools?

No. The decision to suspend in person learning is not a reflection of employees or students not fulfilling their COVID safety commitments. In fact, the opposite is true. For two months, our employees prevented the spread of COVID. Despite excessive examples of outbreaks in other districts and schools throughout the state and city, our district, which opened nearly 100 buildings for two months, experienced only three outbreaks with no major health issues experienced by our employees or students. We could not be prouder of everyone who worked in a disciplined way to meet the needs of nearly 10,000 students through in person learning or learning centers. We appreciate our students and staff for adhering to health and safety protocols.

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3. When will the District suspend Face-to-Face Learning?

Face-to-Face and Learning Centers will close for students and teachers after Friday, 11/13. Out of courtesy to families who may need more time to make arrangements, Learning Centers will open on Monday, 11/16 only to accommodate the needs of families.

4. How long can we expect the suspension of face-to-face learning?

In-Person learning and learning centers will be temporarily suspended until 1/11/21.

5. Is there a possibility that Learning Centers could open prior to 1/11?

Learning Centers may reopen prior to 1/11 based on COVID positivity rates in the city.

6. Will school buildings continue to be open during normal operating hours?

Schools and District offices will remain open and staff who are required to report to work in-person will continue to report. Schools will also continue to be available as work locations to staff members who require access to the internet and for distribution of materials. Additionally, approved Face-to-Face partners may continue to provide critical mental health and physical health services.

7. Will athletics be suspended?

Effective November 18, the Michigan High School Athletic Association has suspended all athletics for 3 weeks. Organized sports will resume after that time if the positivity rates in the city/state are reduced.

B. Parent/Family

8. My student attended Face-to-Face. What are next steps?

In the last couple days of Face-to-Face instruction, teachers worked with students who attended Face-to-Face, providing direction on how to log in and access online learning platforms.

Starting the weekend of November 14-15, communications were sent via robo text messages and emails directing families to a newsletter that includes information on how to access online materials, resource links and directions to contact their schools.

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Families/students should expect to hear from their teachers no later than Tuesday morning. In addition, Parent Academy sessions and townhall meetings will be held. Parents will be directed to general information on their schools and district web pages. Reminders will be sent on the school level via email and robo calls/texts.

9. My student has been learning online since the beginning of the school year. Is there anything I need to do?

No additional action is required at this time for students who have been online for the first quarter.

10. My student was participating in online at a Learning Center. What will change?

After Monday, 11/16, the Learning Center will no longer be open. Your student will continue to learn but do some from home.

11. Will my student's classes change now that they are online?

Your child should have the same schedule with the same teachers. In some cases, due to the transition to online courses, there may need to be schedule changes to level out class sizes.

12. Will my child's teacher(s) remain the same? Will their classmates remain the same?

In most cases, students will keep the same teacher(s) and classmates, however it is possible that as classes transition online there may be some changes to class rosters to balance class size. Any changes will be communicated directly from the school.

13. Where do I find my child's(ren)'s DPSCD email login credentials?

Step 1: Go to Clever: <https://clever.com/in/dpscd>

Step 2: Click "Log in with Active Directory"

Step 3: Enter Student's Username: studentsID#@thedps.org

- **Example: 12345678@thedps.org**

Step 4: Enter Student's Password: first letter of first name in upper case, first letter of last name in lower case, 2 digit of their birth month, 2 digit of their birth year, 01 (male) or 02 (female)

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- **Example: Jane Doe's birthday is May 13, 2004; her password is Jd050402**

For more information about logging in to Clever, please see the [Clever Login Instructions](#) ([Español](#), [Arabic](#), [Bengali](#)).

Please contact your child's school or the Parent Hotline (313-240-4377) if you do not know your child's Student ID.

14. What support is available for me to better assist my child in online learning?

Parent Academy sessions will continue to be offered to families as they support their children online. Additionally, the following resources are available to assist you and your child:

- Parent Hotline: 313-240-4377
- Homework Hotline (M-TH 5-8pm): 833-466-3978
- Accessing Student Email: 313-576-0100
- Connected Futures Support
- Technology/Device Support: Text "HELP4CF" to 562-372-6925 or online form help4cf.org
- Connectivity Issues: Text "INTERNET4CF" to 562-372-6925 or online form human-i-t.org/internet4cf
- www.detroitk12.org/returntoschool

15. When will my child be able to return to Face-To-Face learning?

The District is planning to return to Face-to-Face learning on January 11, 2021, however, that is dependent on the fact that COVID positivity rates in the City of Detroit lower.

16. How will food distribution occur?

As is the case currently for online students, food distribution will occur through all schools on Monday (3 meals) and Thursday (4 meals).

17. How will families access assistance during this time?

In addition to the continuation of online learning support already offered through the Homework Hotline and Human-I-T, schools will remain open with staff to support online learning and technology materials distribution until the Thanksgiving break. Technology Support & Family Resource Hubs will open on 12/1.

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C. Technology Support & Family Resource Hubs

18. What are the Technology Support & Family Resource Hubs?

These sites, geographically spread across the city, will provide a range of drop-in services to families, in-person throughout the suspension of Face-to-Face learning. The Hubs are scheduled to open on December 1, 2020.

19. What types of support will be provided at the Technology Support & Family Resource Hubs?

Technology Help

- Technical support with Connected Futures and Loaner devices
- Warranty exchanges for Connected Futures devices (select dates)
- Repairs for Connected Futures devices
- Login help
- Distribution of Connected Futures devices to eligible families (2nd wave)
- Loaner device distribution
- Digital literacy training

Online Learning Support

- Help with online learning platform navigation
- Help with assignment submission
- Support understanding online learning expectations
- Parent-teacher or parent-administrator communication support

Community Resources

- Utility assistance
- Food banks
- Mobile COVID screening
- Connections and resources to locate childcare and supervision options

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20. Where will the Technology Support & Family Resource Hubs be located?

Eastside

- East English Village
- King High School
- Denby High School
- Pershing High School

Southwest

- Western High School
- Academy of the Americas
(Konkel location)
- Munger Elementary Middle

Northwest

- Mumford High School
- Henry Ford High School
- Renaissance High School

Westside

- Cody High School
- Mackenzie Elementary Middle
- Gompers Elementary Middle

D. Staff-School Based

21. What work functions will Face-to-Face teachers perform on Monday, 11/16?

On Monday, **11/16**, F2F teachers will have a professional learning day. Sessions will take place in the morning and will be required for staff who have not yet completed *Schoology* and *Setting Up Your Online Classroom* PD sessions this fall, and optional for teachers who have completed these sessions already. The afternoon will be available for teacher preparation activities in *Teams* and *Schoology*. While F2F teachers engage in professional learning activities, students will have access to independent online learning activities on this day, so that they can continue their learning, and practice using online learning platforms. Students will receive an orientation to these materials on Friday, before they leave school.

22. How will the transition to online learning look for all other school staff who have been reporting Face-to-Face?

All in-person school personnel, other than DFT staff, will continue to report to work, with safety protocols and hazard pay as bargained, through **11/24**.

- This includes Principals, Assistant Principals, Deans, School Culture Facilitators, Paraeducators, Trainable Aides, Security/Police, School Nutrition staff, Clerical staff, Custodians and Building Engineers, as well as medical providers including Nurses, who will be on hand to support a smooth transition to online learning and school operations, including the distribution of instructional materials.
- LT Substitutes who were assigned to Learning Centers will be released from their assignment after **11/13** and reclassified to day-to-day status.

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- Teachers who require access to the internet during this period will be able to access it at their school building, with social distancing in their own classrooms.
- Following the Thanksgiving Break, beginning on **11/30**, Principals and Assistant Principals will report to their schools daily.
- Additional school-based essential workers will also be identified and announced prior to the Thanksgiving break, for staffing in schools and Regional Technology & Family Support Hubs.

23. What will happen with Hazard Pay for DFT staff who will now be working remotely?

DFT staff who opted to work in person for Q1 will receive their hazard pay bonus for that quarter. DFT staff who return F2F following the suspension will be eligible for a prorated bonus for Quarter 2, based on the number of days schools are open for F2F instruction that quarter.

24. Will there be layoffs of school-based staff?

Our commitment is to maintain all employees--with the exception of substitutes--fully employed throughout the holidays. The district will revisit its budget and operations based on COVID positive rates after Winter Break to determine the status of employment of employees not directly supporting online learning. Therefore, as a reminder, with the exception of substitutes not covering an online teacher vacancy, unemployment cannot be filed by any employee at this time.

25. What about unemployment?

As previously advised through previous District communications, Unemployment benefits are paid to individuals who become unemployed or underemployed through no fault of their own, and who meet all other eligibility requirements. During the suspension of face-to-face instruction in schools, offices and buildings will remain open and DPSCD employees will continue to be compensated and are expected to continue working, with the exception of day-to-day substitutes and substitutes in Learning Centers who will no longer have the ability to take on assignments. Those two groups of substitutes may qualify for unemployment benefits, and it is their decision to apply for unemployment benefits. Benefit eligibility is determined by the State of Michigan's Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA) and not DPSCD.

If any employee makes the decision to file for unemployment, they must ensure that all information provided to the State of Michigan's UIA is truthful. It is against state law to intentionally make false statements or conceal material information to

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gain payment of benefits. The Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Agency policy provides that intentional efforts to hide and/or give false information to qualify for, receive, or increase unemployment benefits will result in severe penalties. The District also takes false claims seriously and, where appropriate, will issue discipline up to and including termination.

For more information on unemployment in the State of Michigan, please visit the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on the state's Unemployment Insurance Agency web page: https://www.michigan.gov/leo/0,5863,7-336-94422_97241---,00.html

E. Staff-Central Office

26. Will the District Central Office remain open?

District offices will remain open through the suspension of F2F learning. Central Office Essential Workers, including staff from IT, Operations, the Office of School Nutrition, FACE, Payroll, and select individuals with specific duties and responsibilities that cannot be completed virtually, will continue to report in person, with safety protocols and hazard pay as bargained, through the suspension of F2F instruction. These staff will be directly notified of their status via their supervisor. All other central Office Staff will begin a gradual transition to remote work for non-essential workers between 11/13 and 11/24, based on their specific responsibilities for schools.

27. Will there be layoffs of central office staff? What about unemployment?

Our commitment is to keep all employees, with the exception of substitutes who will not have assignments to fulfill, fully employed throughout the holidays. The district will revisit its budget and operations based on COVID positive rates after Winter Break to determine the status of employment of employees not directly supporting online learning. Therefore, as a reminder, with the exception of substitutes not covering an online teacher vacancy, unemployment cannot be filed by any employee at this time.

All FAQ's and plans can be viewed at: <https://www.detroitk12.org/returntoschool>

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