

**We Have a Plan
to Keep Our
Students and
Community Safe**



**PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT
AND SCHOOL BUILDING SAFETY FAQ**

REOPENING PLAN 2020

Read our FAQ at detroitk12.org/returntoschool
Questions? Email us at info.reopen@detroitk12.org

Personal Protective Equipment and School Building Safety

Question: Will students be required to wear masks?

Answer: All children in preschool through grade 12 will be required to wear masks while using school transportation and while in public areas such as hallways and cafeterias. Students in grades 6-12 will have to wear masks during class. Those in grades K-5 don't have to wear facial coverings if they remain with their classes throughout the school day and don't interact with students in another class.

Question: Are face shields acceptable alternatives to mask?

Answer: No. The CDC does not recommend the use of face shields as a substitute for cloth face coverings. However, a face shield that covers the eyes, nose and mouth can be worn in addition to a cloth mask, if desired. Moreover, a face shield may be worn by younger children who are not required to wear a cloth face mask.

Question: Can parents "opt-out" their child from the facial covering requirement, but still send them to school in-person?

Answer: No. The child may opt-out of the requirement only if they choose to enroll in a fully remote learning environment.

Question: How do we support our young students (pk-2) who may not adhere to social distancing practices during school and have trouble wearing masks?

Answer: Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students will not be required to wear masks in accordance with the MI Safe Schools Roadmap. No student in the early grades will be penalized for not adhering to mask wearing guidelines. All classes will practice social distancing as recommended by the CDC. Daily, teachers will review distancing and cleanliness protocols that support the safety of all. It will be imperative for adults to talk with children about why certain actions are being taken and to do so in a manner that expresses care and concern, rather than fear.

Question: What recourse is there if students/families openly refuse to wear masks and they have no documentation of being unable to medically tolerate a facial covering?

Answer: Schools should enforce compliance with state and local requirements for students through their normal disciplinary mechanisms. If mask wearing is inconsistent, students will be moved to online learning.

Question: Who determines whether a student or staff member can medically tolerate a facial covering?

Answer: People who should not wear facial coverings include the following:

1. Anyone who has trouble breathing
2. Anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance.

Schools will require documentation from a medical professional, as they do for other types of accommodations.

Question: What protective equipment will be provided to staff and students? Will PPE be replaced throughout the day if it is lost or damaged?

Answer: The District is committed to providing supplies of personal protective equipment to students and staff members. Students and staff will each receive a set of reusable masks, and instructional staff will receive clear face shields to use for instruction. Disposable masks will be available at each location in the event staff or student masks are lost, damaged or need replacement. Additional items such as hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes will be provided to each classroom on a regular basis throughout the year. Staff and students may also wear their own face coverings.

Question: How often will protective equipment be provided? Will the district run out of it?

Answer: Additional items such as hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes will be provided to each classroom on a regular basis throughout the year. The District will monitor use of these items and make additional purchases as needed.

Question: How will students and staff be held accountable for wearing PPE throughout the day?

Answer: The District will ensure that everyone entering a building completes a COVID-19 symptom check. During the arrival process and when inside buildings, staff, students, and guests will be required to wear face coverings. All school staff will monitor students throughout the day to ensure they are wearing their masks when they are indoors or near other students. Staff will review expectations daily and encourage students to respond appropriately. The Student Code of Conduct will also be updated to include COVID-19 specific guidelines.

Personal Protective Equipment and School Building Safety

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Question: Will visitors be required to wear masks when entering buildings?

Answer: Yes, it is expected that all visitors will wear their own face coverings when visiting buildings throughout the District, based on the requirement that anyone in Michigan should wear a face covering when leaving their home.

Question: How will buildings be cleaned to ensure safety?

Answer: All buildings will be cleaned and disinfected on a daily basis and high-touch surfaces will be disinfected periodically throughout the day. Classrooms, offices, and shared spaces will have a posted cleaning log. Custodial staff will complete the log daily showing that a specific room/area has been cleaned.

Question: I heard there will be budget cuts. How can we provide increased safety measures with a reduced budget?

Answer: The District received additional federal CARES Act funding which is being used to purchase the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), as well as help offset additional costs incurred due to COVID-19.

Question: How will entry and exit of the buildings be handled in order to maintain socially distant guidelines?

Answer: Multiple entry and exit points may be established at larger schools to allow for social distancing during arrival and dismissal. Signage will also reiterate the need to stay six feet apart while waiting to enter the building.

Question: How will the district successfully enforce social distancing inside and outside of the schools throughout the day?

Answer: No large group congregating will be allowed unless social distancing can be maintained, students will be limited to 20 in one physical room at a time (unless in a large room that allows for more space), and each school will utilize outside facilities and large gathering areas (gyms, cafeterias) where possible.

Question: What is the procedure for buses and how will social distancing be enforced on buses?

Answer: The number of students on one bus at a time will be limited to allow for as much social distancing as possible. Bus drivers will also assign seats. Students from the same household will be allowed to sit together on the same seat. Masks will be required for everyone riding a bus, including adults

Question: Due to the size of District, how can we ensure that these protocols will be followed consistently District-wide?

Answer: It is expected that District guidelines around reopening are followed consistently at all locations. Non-adherence to the guidelines in the plan by employees may lead to disciplinary action. Non-adherence to the guidelines by students will be addressed at the school level. A hotline and email address have been established to ensure individuals can report safety issues and those issues will be followed up on regularly by the administration and regular reports will be shared with the Board. Questions specifically related to operations (including necessary supplies or restocking soap in bathrooms, etc.) can be reported at 313-578-7018. General questions or concerns related to reopening can be shared via email at info.reopen@detroitk12.org.