

Returning to School 2020

COVID-19 Health & Safety Reminders for Families

The District is committed to adhering to strict safety standards to prevent the spread of Covid-19. In preparation for the start of the school year, we have focused on implementing recommendations from the Michigan's Safe School Roadmap, to ensure a safe return for both students and staff. Some of these items include:

- All staff and students will be required to wear masks on the bus and throughout the school day. Your child's bus and school will also have a supply on hand if a mask is needed. If your child can not wear a mask for health-related reasons, then a note will be required by your child's health provider.
- Social distancing in every classroom by assuring that seating is appropriately spaced.
- Display signs in the buildings that promote handwashing, and proper wearing of masks.
- Hand sanitizer, hand soap, and tissues, will be available for the proper hygienic practices.
- Students will receive training on hygiene practices and an overview of COVID
- Staff will be required to obtain and submit proof of a negative COVID test before returning.
- Staff has also received training on prevention and recognition of COVID symptoms, as well as information on reducing the risks of spreading disease in our buildings and classrooms.
- All staff and students will be screened at school entry
- We also know that after this prolonged closure, many of our students and staff will require physical health and social-emotional supports. All schools will have a school nurse and school counselor, equipped with tools and resources to support students and maintain our whole child commitment.

Students who feel ill during the school day shall be sent to the nurse office. If the school nurse determines that the child needs to be sent home or requires further evaluation, parent will be notified.

In the event of a suspected case of COVID at school, the District will work closely with the Detroit Health Department to investigate and conduct contact tracing, maintaining student and staff confidentiality at all times. Any students or staff that are determined to be in close contact (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) with that individual, will be asked to quarantine for 14 days.

Families and students play a critical role in the health and safety of our school and home communities. As we work to maintain a healthy school environment, all families must:

1. Watch the following video with your child prior to the first day of school.
 - a. [COVID - Knowing the Basics - Pediatrics](#)

2. Complete the [COVID-19 Screening Tool for Families](#) prior to sending their child to school every morning. If the answer to any of these questions is yes, keep your child at home and contact your primary care provider. If your provider determines that your child does not have COVID-19, they may return to school after being free from fever for 24 hours *without* the use of any fever reducing medications.
3. **Submit Health Information** - Complete and submit the [DPSCD Student Health Packet](#) by **September 12, 2020**. This is a fillable PDF form. Download it to your computer, fill it out and then upload it to the [Student Health Documents Portal](#).
4. Ensure that your child is up to date on immunizations. We also recommend that every child receive a Flu vaccine each year. If your child is overdue for immunizations, please call your child's health provider or contact the Detroit Health Department to schedule an appointment at 313-876-4667.

We are also including a few tips that can help reduce the spread of illness and keep your child and family healthy this season.

Please encourage your children to do the following both at home and school:

- Wash hands often – this includes before and after eating, and after using the restroom.
- Keep unwashed hands away from eyes, nose and mouth.
- Avoid close contact with individuals who are sick or have symptoms of being sick.
- Avoid sharing cups (including water bottles), and utensils with other individuals.
- Cover coughs with a tissue, or cough into a sleeve or elbow.

Make sure to also keep good health habits. This includes getting plenty of sleep, staying active, eating healthy foods and drinking lots of fluids. If your child has not had a physical in the last year, please call your child's doctor to schedule.

Thank you for your continued support during these unprecedented times. We look forward to a successful and safe school year!