COVID-19 Protocols and Mitigation Plan for Re-Opening Schools

Dysart Unified School District administration, working with the Arizona Department of Education (ADE), the Governor’s office, other state and local officials, along with input from the Governing Board, parents and community and CDC guidance, developed the following protocols for reopening schools. The protocols that follow include recommendations for mitigating risk and will be implemented across all district sites.

SCHOOL OPTIONS FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR:

In the Dysart Unified School District, all students will start school remotely on Tuesday, August 4 for the 2020-2021 school year. Students will follow a normal school daytime schedule during remote learning.

Dysart will provide three different learning models for parents to choose from in light of COVID-19. More details about each option and instructions for selecting your preferred option will be posted at Dysart.org/BackToSchool.

Health Screenings, Cleaning and Disinfecting

Before coming to school

● Parents should screen students for the symptoms below each morning, should self-report symptoms, and must keep students at home if symptoms are present. Students will have the opportunity to make up work missed due to symptoms of COVID-19.

● Students must not come to school if they exhibit any of the following symptoms:
  ○ fever of 100.4 degrees or higher, or chills; and
  ○ shortness of breath or difficulty breathing;
  ○ muscle aches;
  ○ sore throat;
  ○ headache;
  ○ fatigue;
  ○ congestion or runny nose;
  ○ cough;
  ○ vomiting;
- diarrhea; or
- new loss of taste or smell.

*Note: Schools will not give out attendance awards for the duration of the COVID-19 health crisis.*

**On the bus**
- Students should not be sent to the bus stop if they are exhibiting the above symptoms.
- Face coverings shall be required on school buses when social distancing is not possible, with the exception of students with medical conditions.
- Buses will be disinfected between each run during the day, and will undergo additional cleaning and disinfecting each night.
- Students will load the bus from back to front to minimize contact with other students and while unloading, the students will exit from front to back.

**At school**
- Face coverings shall be required at school when social distancing is not possible, with the exception of students with medical conditions. Face covers:
  - are not required while eating, during recess or outdoor activities
  - are required in classrooms and other common areas when social distancing is not possible
  - are required for all employees and visitors
  - any student who has difficulty breathing or who is incapable of physically removing the face covering on his/her own will not wear cloth face coverings, and alternate methods of protection will be discussed by parents and staff.
  - students are encouraged to bring their own face coverings in compliance with the dress code. Disposable masks will be available, if needed.
- Temperature checks will be conducted daily for students and staff. Thermometers are provided in each classroom and front office. The process will be:
  - A staff member will visually check each student and take temperatures with a non-contact thermometer. Any student with visible symptoms of runny nose, cough, shortness of breath, or vomiting, or one who has a fever at or above 100.4 degrees, will go to the health office. The health office will use the following flowchart to evaluate student health: [https://www.Dysart.org/healthflowchart](https://www.Dysart.org/healthflowchart)

- Classrooms and offices will be provided with cleaning supplies to disinfect learning and high touch surfaces.
- Classrooms that do not have sinks will be provided with a hand sanitizer station.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be placed at multiple places at each site.
- Each school will develop social distancing routines for traffic in hallways, which may include signage and floor markings.
- Teachers will arrange classroom furniture to maximize the distance between students.
- Students will continue outdoor recess activities. Playground equipment will be disinfected on a regular basis. Schools may limit the number of students accessing playground equipment.
- Lunch service will continue in the cafeterias.
  - Meals will be available during the initial remote learning period (August 4-17) and will continue with limited offerings at
  - Meals will be served during the remote learning (until October 9th, or sooner per health benchmarks) and will served in alignment with student schedule.
  - Hand sanitizing stations will be placed at each cafeteria.
  - Cafeteria staff will keep as much distance as possible between students. Outdoor seating may be available.
  - Food will be served in closed containers. There will be no open food, self-serve stations, or beverage fountains (at high schools).
  - Cafeteria staff will take steps to speed up lunch lines and use touchless checkout.
- All bathrooms will remain open. Surfaces will be disinfected regularly throughout the day.
- Students will be reminded to wash hands throughout the school day.
- Students will not share school supplies.
- Staff will continue to promote behaviors that reduce the spread.

**Classes, Curriculum, and Special Education Services**

- Teachers will use a consistent learning platform in all school models, so that at any point during the school year, students and teachers will be able to seamlessly transition back to remote learning, should school closures become necessary again.
- Appropriate special education services will be provided per each student’s IEP. Individual factors may influence which model is most appropriate and so parents should work with their child’s IEP team on the best option.
- All classes will continue to be offered, although adjustments may be made to the format, capacity, etc.
- Furniture will be moved to support more spacing within sites.
Trips, Events and Activities

- Traveling field trips are currently suspended. Students may experience virtual field trip opportunities.
- Indoor, large group assemblies are currently suspended.
- Small group extracurricular activities will continue, in compliance with current executive orders.
- Athletics will continue in accordance with guidelines published by the Arizona Interscholastic Association.
- Schools will conduct virtual Meet the Teacher/Curriculum Nights

Visitors to School

- Nonessential visitors and volunteers will have limited access to school sites.

Training

- Prior to students returning to campus, all staff will be trained on implementation of these protocols. Training will include proper use of PPE and supplies; cleaning and disinfecting; and other measures.

Communication

- Parents may visit www.Dysart.org/BacktoSchool for up-to-date information. Please ensure contact information and preferences are current, including phone numbers for calls and text messaging and email.
- Additional signage will continue to be posted at sites to communicate with staff and students to reduce the spread.
- Questions should be directed to schools.