

# Dawson Springs Independent Schools

## Revised 2021-2022 Covid19 Operations Plan

### Board Reviewed 9/20/21

## Health & Safety Plan

### A. STUDENT ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

1. Bus Transportation: To ride the school bus, parents must attest each morning that the student's temperature is not greater than 100.4. Students P-12 must wear a mask while riding the bus unless they have a medical exemption. Sanitizer will be available to students to utilize as they board the bus. Students will have assigned seats and a log of bus riders will be kept each day for contact tracing purposes. Seats near the front will be kept open for students with medical concerns, allergies, asthma, etc with windows up. As much as possible, circulation on the bus will be increased by opening windows and roof hatches. Buses will be sanitized frequently.

2. Arrival to School: Arrival will be coordinated at each school to reduce congestion in entering the building by utilizing multiple entrances when necessary to reduce congregation in large common areas. Students will report to their homeroom or 1st period class upon entering the building.

3. Breakfast: Students will be provided breakfast options upon entering the building. When eating, students will be seated as far apart as possible and proper hand washing before and after meals will be encouraged. Seating charts will be kept for contact tracing purposes.

### B. DURING THE INSTRUCTIONAL DAY

#### 1. Masks/Face Coverings:

The Dawson Springs Independent School District will monitor COVID data and guidance from local, state, and national health sources WEEKLY to determine mask requirements for students P-12 and staff. Based on COVID data and guidance, the district will utilize three levels of mask requirements/recommendations and will communicate to parents/guardians, students, and staff members when requirements are adjusted. Should modifications be needed, the levels may be adjusted. Think of the colors of a stoplight related to the levels of response.

**Green Level:** Students P-12, staff, and outside visitors will have the option of wearing masks or face coverings at school and on district property. Masks or face coverings are highly recommended for staff and students who are not fully vaccinated.

**Yellow/Orange Level:** All students P-12, staff, and outside visitors will be required to wear a mask or face covering at school and on district property. While at the "yellow or orange" level, masks would still be required on all school related transportation.

**Red Level:** All students P-12, staff, and outside visitors will be required to wear a mask or face covering at all times at school and on district property. When outside and 3 feet from others, masks are not required.

Masks or face coverings are those that cover both the nose and mouth. Masks (face coverings) are NOT to be confused with face shields. Face shields CANNOT be a substitute for a mask unless accompanied by a current medical exemption, see below. Students that

are unable to wear a mask when required to do so, will be required to provide a current medical exemption to the school office. Face shields should be worn for those who have an exemption from wearing a mask. Words and designs on masks must adhere to the respective school dress code. Masks will be provided for students if families are unable to obtain or provide them for their children.

2. **Rooms, Hallways, Backpacks, and Lockers:** In classrooms, students/desks will be spaced as far as possible. When possible, desks should be arranged so students are facing the same direction. Outdoor spaces will be utilized when and if available and/or appropriate. Transitions will be avoided or minimized as much as possible. At our elementary (p-6), students may bring a backpack to be stowed in a classroom cubby or locker that will be cleaned each day. At the middle and high school, backpacks will be allowed. Lockers will be utilized and efforts will be made to reduce congestion of students including alternating locker access schedules and supervision.
3. **Sanitizing and Signs:** Hand cleaning supplies will be readily available in each classroom and common space in the form of a handwashing station or hand sanitizer. Daily cleaning and disinfection of classroom, gymnasiums, restrooms, locker rooms, cafeteria seating and other facilities will occur. High touch areas will be given special attention and more frequent cleaning throughout the day and in between groups of students utilizing a particular space. Signs regarding hand washing and safety precautions will be posted in all restrooms, water fountains, and classrooms. Water fountains will only be utilized to refill bottles.
4. **Lunch:** Students will be encouraged to wash hands with soap and water or utilize sanitizer before eating. Lunch times and locations will be planned to accommodate as much distance as possible between students while eating. Seating charts will be maintained to assist with contact tracing. Surfaces used for eating must be cleaned and sanitized before another student utilizes the same area. Disposable food service items will be utilized where possible, but all non-disposable food service items will be handled with gloves, washed with dish soap and hot water, and rinsed and sanitized or placed in a dishwasher.
5. **Recess:** Students must practice good hand hygiene by washing their hands or using sanitizer before going out to play and immediately upon returning inside the school building. A recess schedule will be utilized to limit how many classes are at recess at a specific time.
6. **Practice & Education:** Teachers and staff will provide students continual practice and education related to safe and healthy practices. These practices include but are not limited to: proper handwashing/sanitization techniques, correct mask wearing, and appropriate social distancing.

### **C. SCHOOL EXCLUSION, SCHOOL NURSE, & CONTACT TRACING**

1. **Exclusion & Sick Students:** Students should stay home or will be sent home if any of the following occur: Fever over 100.4 degrees F, new uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing, (for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their baseline), Shortness of Breath, Headache, Sore Throat, Gastrointestinal Symptoms, New rash, New onset of loss of taste or smell, or exposure to a positive COVID-19 case. Any student who presents with COVID-19 symptoms (previously listed) during the school day will be isolated until the student leaves campus. A waiting area will be provided for ill students awaiting pickup by parents. In the case of a positive COVID-19 test of a student or staff member, school officials will follow current guidance of KDPH and the HCHD regarding contact tracing, notification, disinfecting of buildings, and potential school scheduling changes.
2. **School Nurse:**
  - a. Teacher/staff will call the nurse seeking to send a student down who needs to be

seen.

- b. Once seen by the school nurse, if the child needs to be sent home they will call the office.
- c. PPE will be available if needed during the assessment/care of the student. Adult supervision must be maintained while the student is in the waiting area.
- d. Family member/responsible party will be notified to pick up student ASAP
- e. Disinfection of the waiting area will take place 15-20 minutes after student is discharged

3. Return to School: The student/staff may return to school when the following are true: a. Their medical provider has determined a different illness other than COVID19 and cleared the student/staff to return. (\*\*Subject to change based on CDC/KDPH guidelines)

OR

- b. They have 2 negative test results (at least 24 hours apart) for COVID 19 AND no symptoms OR
- c. At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared  
AND
- d. At least 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever reducing medication  
AND
- e. Symptoms have improved.

4. Contact Tracing: The district must notify the Hopkins County Health Department of any positive cases of COVID-19 and cooperate with contact tracing investigations by providing rosters/lists of students related to bus transportation, classroom cohorts, cafeteria seating charts, etc. The Health Department will be responsible for notifying staff and families of at risk students required to self quarantine. FERPA laws prohibit individual names of infected students from being disclosed. Seating charts are required for all classrooms. For COVID-19, a close contact is defined as any individual who was within 3 feet of an infected person for a cumulative time of at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated. If a student or staff member is fully vaccinated OR was masked during the contact and has been exposed to a positive case he/she does not have to quarantine unless they experience COVID-19 symptoms. It is recommended that during the 14 days after exposure he/she wears a mask while indoors or until he/she receives a negative test result that has been collected after day 5 from the date of exposure.

#### **D. STAFF EXPECTATIONS**

1. Masks & Personal Protective Equipment: Staff will follow mask guidelines listed above. Additional protective equipment will be provided and worn by staff who administer medical treatment, have contact with ill students, or are considered at high risk. Additional equipment will include when necessary: face shields, gloves, gowns, or other PPE.
2. Classroom Preparation/Operations: Teachers should assist in routinely disinfecting frequently touched items in the classroom such as desks, doorknobs, pencil sharpeners, staplers, markers, white boards, technology and items that students frequently share.
3. Seating Charts/Student Seating: Seating charts must be kept for all classes and entered into Infinite Campus so that office staff may access to assist contact tracers. Student desks/tables as much as possible, should be moved to face the same direction and spaced out as much as the room allows.

4. Daily COVID Self Check: Staff will follow the Daily COVID-19 self check protocol. If a staff member has any COVID-19 symptoms, has tested positive for COVID-19, or if they are not fully vaccinated and have had known contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 they will NOT report to work and contact a school nurse.

#### **E. FOOD AND MEAL OPTIONS:**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has approved an extension of the Federal Summer Food Program which allows us to provide meals for ALL children and youth age 18 and younger at no cost.

- Meal Prices - Meals are currently provided at no cost for all children age 18 and younger.
- Menus - Menus can be viewed online at our district website here:  
<https://www.dawsonsprings;kyschools.us>
- Free & Reduced Lunch Application - Applications for free and reduced lunch for the 2021-2022 school year are available online at the district main page or paper copies are available at the school. Please be sure to complete an application for the 21-22 school year!
- Questions - If you have any questions or have special needs on meals, please contact Jeannie Blanchard at (270)797-3811, extension 2133

#### **F. TRANSPORTATION:**

We intend to run our buses and transportation as normal. If you have any questions regarding transportation please don't hesitate to contact the office of the school your child attends and they will be happy to help you.

#### **G. DEVICES AND INTERNET ACCESS:**

- The Dawson Springs Independent School District is a 1:1 Chromebook district. Every student will have access to a Chromebook device.
- Students in grades K-5 will have a Chromebook to utilize at school. Students in grades 6-12 will be provided a device to use at school and take home.

Internet Access: Please let us know if your family needs Internet access by calling Laura James at 270-797-3811, extension 1

#### **H. PRESCHOOL AND PRESCHOOL EXPANSION:**

- Our Preschool has expanded capability to enroll more students on a full day, 5 day a week program for ages 3 and 4 for both in and out of district students.
- Please contact Kristin Merrill at 270-797-3811, extension 1 if you have any questions.

#### **I. TEST TO STAY PROGRAM WILL BE PILOTED IN COLLABORATION WITH THE HOPKINS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT:**

- The program should be initiated the week of September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 if all goes as planned.

If you have any questions on any of the items mentioned above or items in other areas please do not hesitate to contact the office of the school where your child attends.