



UPDATED DD4 COVID Protocols

In an effort to keep DD4 aligned with SCDHEC guidelines, the COVID Response Team, in collaboration with all district nurses, has updated the COVID Employee/Staff Protocols.

Starting Tuesday, March 1, 2022, all Dorchester District Four schools and locations are suspending Test-to-Stay and quarantine practices in accordance with DHEC guidance. The District has reviewed data from the last two weeks as required by DHEC and determined that no DD4 schools or locations had 10% or more of their students and staff absent due to COVID-19, and less than 0.2% of students and staff were positive for COVID-19 District-wide. Therefore, all DD4 schools and locations are suspending Test-to-Stay and quarantine practices related to close contact exposures until further notice. This means that all schools and locations can resume normal operations and suspend contact tracing, social distancing, and mask requirements for students and staff after an exposure.

The District will continue tracking positive cases at all schools and locations. If a school or location reaches 10% of its students and staff absent due to COVID-19 over two consecutive one-week periods, the District will notify the administration, and they will reinstate contact tracing, Test-to-Stay and quarantine practices at their location as required by DHEC.

Reporting Symptoms Continues

Any students or staff who have symptoms of COVID-19 are still required to be excluded from school/work and isolate until they have a negative COVID test.

Please be Aware of the Following COVID-19 Symptoms

The CDC reports people with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms -- ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Please watch for the following.

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Quarantine for Positive COVID-19 Cases Continues

Students who test positive for COVID-19 should continue to notify their school nurse and are required to quarantine for (5) five days from the date of the positive test. Staff who test positive for COVID-19 should continue to follow the self-report procedures established and will be required to quarantine for (5) five days from the date of the positive test or onset of symptoms as confirmed with the COVID Response Team. At home tests will continue to be accepted with an attestation form. At home COVID-19 tests cannot be used to access COVID-19 Relief days.

Testing

DD4 is now providing COVID-19 test kits to students or staff who have symptoms and need to take a test. Parents or staff may request a test kit from their school or work location.



UPDATED DD4 MASK COVID Protocol

In an effort to keep DD4 aligned with SCDHEC guidelines and State Regulations, the COVID Response Team, in collaboration with all district nurses, has updated the COVID Transportation Protocols.

Starting Thursday, March 3, 2022, all Dorchester District Four school buses will no longer require students to wear masks to ride the bus. The State regulation that required masks on State owned buses was lifted and therefore DD4 has suspended this policy pending formal removal of the mask mandate policy at the March 15th board meeting.

DD4 continues to strongly encourage mask wearing while on school buses and indoors, however, masks are not required on any bus or in any school or office location.

If a student or staff member is not feeling well or has any of the COVID symptoms listed below, that person is asked to remain at home and not get on the bus or enter a school building without a negative COVID test. Anyone who has tested positive for COVID should complete their required quarantine prior to returning to school/work or riding the bus.

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- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Quarantine for Positive COVID-19 Cases Continues

Students who test positive for COVID-19 should continue to notify their school nurse and are required to quarantine for (5) five days from the date of the positive test. Staff who test positive for COVID-19 should continue to follow the self-report procedures established and will be required to quarantine for (5) five days from the date of the positive test or onset of symptoms as confirmed with the COVID Response Team. At home tests will continue to be accepted with an attestation form. At home COVID-19 tests cannot be used to access COVID-19 Relief days.

Testing

DD4 is now providing COVID-19 test kits to students or staff who have symptoms and need to take a test. Parents or staff may request a test kit from their school or work location.