

Mitigation Protocol for school buildings

Last revised: September 3@ 11:00 am

| | |
|--|----------|
| Prioritizing SEL Strategies | 2 |
| Layered Prevention Strategies | 2 |
| Daily Self Screening | 2 |
| Monitor Symptoms | 3 |
| Symptom monitoring, getting tested and staying home when sick – mitigation plan | 3 |
| International Travel | 3 |
| Instructional Grouping | 3 |
| Masks | 3 |
| Mask Exemption | 4 |
| Attendance-Updated | 4 |
| Quarantine | 4 |
| Athletics | 5 |
| Bake Sales | 5 |
| Seating Charts | 5 |
| Social Distancing | 5 |
| Cafeteria | 5 |
| In Person Activities | 6 |
| Instruction for Students on Quarantine | 6 |
| Media Centers | 6 |
| Classrooms-(Desks, Carpets) | 6 |
| Lockers | 6 |
| Water Fountains | 7 |
| Promote COVID-19 Vaccination | 7 |
| Ventilation/Air filtration-Updated | 7 |
| Community Use of School Facilities: | 8 |

This document is created by district departments to ensure consistent and timely information is accessible by all school and district staff.

Prioritizing SEL Strategies

Everyone has experienced some level of trauma during COVID-19 and going back to the classroom to resume a normal day to day routine may bring up some issues for the educator at the front of the classroom, as well as their students and their caregivers.

We recommend adding deep breathing exercises to each day's activities, and strongly urge all teachers to do constant check-ins to ensure everyone is doing OK while navigating this new normal. These check-ins should continue year-round and we need to remain vigilant to ensure everyone's mental health is top priority

Layered Prevention Strategies

When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, such as when schools cannot fully re-open while maintaining these distances, it is especially important to layer multiple prevention strategies. Layered together, these measures create stronger, more resilient protection against COVID 19. Prevention strategies include:

- Hand-washing,
- Cleaning touchpoints (**high-traffic areas that a person often comes in contact with** such as doorknobs, light switches, keyboards, phones, elevator buttons, and much more. ... These areas are considered high-risk areas for contracting diseases, viruses, germs, and other pathogens)
- 3' Distancing (to the extent possible)
- Masking indoors
- Screening testing
- Ventilation
- Staying home when sick, etc.

This short video demonstrates the effectiveness of layering prevention strategies. The [Swiss Cheese Model](#).

This 10 minute video is a great welcome back, and a perfect explanation of our layered mitigation procedures. A good tool to deliver the message which leaves administrators able to respond to questions from staff.

[District layered mitigation procedures](#)

Daily Self Screening

Daily COVID self-screening will continue for all individuals entering the buildings during the 2021-2022 school year in compliance with MIOSHA regulations. Vaccinated individuals that provide a copy of their vaccination card do not have to complete the daily self-screening

checklist. Please note, providing your vaccination card is not required. Unvaccinated individuals or individuals that do not provide a copy of their vaccination card are required to complete the daily self screening checklists. To submit a copy of your vaccination card, please complete the following form:

[Optional Vaccination Card Submission](#)

Monitor Symptoms

Symptom monitoring, getting tested and staying home when sick – mitigation plan requires staff and students (regardless of vaccination status) to monitor for COVID-19 symptoms including fever (temperature of 100.4 Fahrenheit or above), new cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, or onset of chills and muscle aches. When an individual is experiencing symptoms, they should get tested for COVID-19, and if they test positive do not report to school. Report these cases to the school nurse.

International Travel

Beginning August 25th- any staff/student that is returning from international travel and before returning to in-person school must be symptom-free and provide a negative covid test (PCR or rapid) taken after returning to the United States and prior to attending school.

If you are aware of staff that traveled internationally, please request that they turn in a negative PCR test to you. Both vaccinated and unvaccinated. This test replaces a quarantine of 7-10 days after international travel.

Since the rapid tests suffice for international travel, staff should not need to miss work.

Instructional Grouping

Teachers will plan small groups and independent work stations. Limit independent work station time and small group time to 15 minutes or less. If students are three feet apart, no seating chart is required for small groups.

Masks

Dearborn Public Schools require universal indoor masking for students, staff, volunteers, and visitors regardless of vaccination status. This includes while in the school buildings, at school activities, and while entering, exiting, and riding the school bus.

- Masks are required in all areas of the buildings, including but not limited to break rooms, kitchens, restrooms, hallways, stairwells, lobbies and meeting rooms.
- Masks may be removed while actively eating or drinking or if an employee is working alone in an office or more than six feet from another staff member. **update**
- Masks are not required when students and staff are outdoors.
- If teachers are lecturing and they are socially distancing, they can lower the mask while talking. (outside of 6 foot parameter)

- Students who have health issues preventing them from wearing the masks must get a doctor's note-see below
- As with any concerns regarding failure to comply with rules, regulations, or misconduct, school administrators will address students refusing to wear a mask to further explain the mandate. An administrator (and perhaps someone who the student has a good relationship with) should meet with the student and encourage him/her to wear a mask. We should have plenty of masks to offer the student. Should the student still refuse to wear a mask, an administrator should call home and inform the parent that mask-wearing is mandatory and if the student still refuses to wear a mask, then the student will be suspended from school due to non-compliance. The suspension would be for the duration of the school day only, unless other offenses occur. This will need to be repeated each time the student refuses to follow a school rule.

Since 6 foot social distance is not possible in all classrooms, students who are determined to be close contacts will NOT have to be quarantined for 10 days, if they are found to be 3-6 feet apart and both parties wore masks.

Less than 3 feet and masked, then they have to quarantine if they have not been vaccinated.
3 feet to 6 feet if masked= no quarantine.

Parents will be notified that their child is a close contact and they will be required to closely monitor for any symptom development for 14 days past their exposure date.

Mask Exemption

School administrators, teachers, and office staff are not in a position to question medical diagnoses. Please note that the exemption needs to come from a medical doctor. Forward all doctors' exemptions to your school nurse. Our nurses will follow-up with doctors, as needed. Develop a system to share these exemptions with the student's teachers. At this time, religious exemptions will not be honored.

Attendance-Updated

Attendance and truancy procedures will be the same as pre pandemic

Students on quarantine:

A new attendance code was created so that we can track how many absences students have due to quarantine. This is also to make sure that people are not abusing this reason for absence. Fadia Nahed has created the code and the we shall use the following code:

"U" - Unable to attend due to Quarantine-Excused Quarantine

Quarantine

Since 6 foot social distance is not possible in all classrooms, students who are determined to be close contacts will NOT have to be quarantined for 10 days, if they are found to be 3-6 feet apart and both parties wore masks. Parents will be notified that their child is a close contact

and they will be required to closely monitor for any symptom development for 14 days past their exposure date.

Continue to inform building administrators, school nurse and executive directors of new incidents in the building.

Use “U” for quarantine absences.

Athletics

The Athletic Department will comply with all guidance published by Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) for students and spectators.

The most current MHSAA guidance says masks are NOT required for athletic events (athletes, coaches, spectators). Obviously anyone that wants to wear a mask is allowed to do so. We strongly recommend that spectators wear masks.

Bake Sales

Keep the lines short and spaced out—social distancing observed.

Limit the number of parents involved.

Field Trips

Field trips are permitted with masks required on buses and for indoor venues. Send a copy of the field trip permission letter to your executive director for awareness.

Seating Charts

Required for

- Classroom tables/desks
- Carpet if used for gathering students
- Lunchrooms
- Bus

The seating charts will be needed when contact tracing.

Social Distancing

Maintain three feet whenever possible.

Cafeteria

The seating charts will be needed when contact tracing.

Students wear their masks while waiting in line for lunch and on their way outside to recess.

They take off their masks while eating.

In Person Activities

Use this link for all activity requests. Activities will be approved by the feeder Executive Director. Indoor activities are limited to up to 50% capacity at maximum. Outdoor activities will follow current mitigation strategies. homecoming dance. If indoor we use masks and 50% space capacity. If outdoors no masks and no space capacity restrictions. I want to make sure we are all giving the same answers.

Please Note: Bounce houses are not permitted due to potential for transmission.

Large gatherings during Open house, parent meetings, etc follow the 50% rule .

<https://forms.gle/e6cxYAQRD1hUzgtW8>

Instruction for Students on Quarantine

Students who need to quarantine will be provided with asynchronous work. Teachers will use excused absence code.

Media Centers

Book checkout will resume with no quarantine needed for books.

Classrooms-(Desks, Carpets)

Students can be seated in cooperative groups (joining 4 desks because of space or round tables) while layering as many mitigation strategies as possible (All are fully masked, 3 feet apart from all directions, proper sanitation, and ventilation)

Carpets may be used in classrooms. Students should be distanced and seating chart maintained.

Lockers

Monitor hallways and discourage any congregating at the lockers at the secondary level. Keep the time at the lockers to a minimum

Maybe half the class at the lockers at a time....and space out who is at their locker to every other one. For example, if an elementary teacher assigns their students numbers 1-20, have the odd numbers out at their lockers and then the even numbers.

Water Fountains

Water Fountains may be used if the building engineers have opened them according to their guidelines to protect against legionnaires disease. Drinking fountains, that have been stagnant for 30 days or longer, must be flushed for a minimum of one hour before use. Mark communicated this to all of the Engineers on July 22nd to make sure this is done.

Promote COVID-19 Vaccination

National data shows that more than 90 percent of the new COVID-19 cases are among unvaccinated or not yet fully vaccinated persons. All staff and students 12 years and older should get vaccinated to protect themselves and others from illness.

Ventilation/Air filtration-Updated

All of the district's buildings were designed and engineered using the ASHRE (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditional Engineers) standards. These standards are used across the school district industry.

Air filtration is measured by MERV. The higher the MERV rating the more particulates (Smaller) the air filter element will filter out. MERV ratings of 13 or higher are when the term HEPA comes into discussions. The Dearborn School District is fortunate to have two licensed HVAC technicians as part of the Operations staff. These two tech's have examined every school building and have improved the air infiltration as much as each building's air handling system will allow. A system that uses a filter element with a higher MERV rating than what the system was engineered to use will be counterproductive for improving the air quality. In conjunction with these practices, we have also taken these additional measures as part of our Covid mitigation plan:

1. Building air handlers have been scheduled to run 24/7 to change over more air in all of the school buildings.
2. Weather permitting, the dampers on the building's air handlers will be adjusted to be open as much as possible. Warmer days will allow them to be open more. Regardless of the outside temperature, the dampers will be open a minimum of 15-20 percent.
3. Air filter elements will be changed more frequently.
4. Weather permitting, classrooms with windows will be cracked open to allow more air into the buildings.
5. At this time room air purifiers have been supplied in every quarantine room and other specific classroom situations.

Lastly, all of our building engineers in conjunction with our HVAC technicians have examined every classroom throughout the entire district to confirm that each classroom that will be used has a fresh air supply vent.

Community Use of School Facilities:

Students, staff, and visitors participating in non-school/district activities conducted in school buildings are expected to comply with Dearborn Public Schools mitigation protocol and mask requirements. Examples include and are not limited to after-school childcare activities and community youth recreation events hosted during evenings/weekends or other community events or meetings.

If the permit is for a sport activity such as basketball, Zumba, etc, participants are expected to follow Dearborn Schools athletic department protocols-see [athletics](#) section above.