Delaware Valley School District

2020-21 Reopening Plan

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Please note that this FAQ was created on 8/2/20 based on current information at that time. Future regulations may supersede and/or contradict some of this information.

**Medical Issues**

**Will there be temperature checks at school?** No, temperature checks will be part of the daily screening done at home before departing for school.

**What is required of parents daily in terms of symptom screening?**

**Daily Symptom Monitoring**

Please complete this checklist on a daily basis with your child to monitor for symptoms of COVID-19.

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| --- |
| Has your child been exposed to anyone with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days? |
| If yes, the student should stay home from school. The student can return to school 14 days after the last time that they had close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Column AIf you checked 1 or more symptoms, student should stay home from school | Column BIf you checked 2 or more symptoms, student should stay home from school |
| [ ] Fever (100.4°F or higher) [ ] Cough [ ] Shortness of breath [ ] Difficulty breathing[ ] Nausea or vomiting[ ] Diarrhea |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [ ] Lack of smell or taste (without congestion) [ ] Sore throat [ ] Chills [ ] Muscle pain  | [ ] Headache [ ] Congestion or runny nose   |

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**Will students/staff need to be COVID tested before school starts?** No, COVID testing is only recommended for people showing symptoms.

**What happens when a student/staff member shows symptoms?**

**What happens when a student/staff member shows symptoms in school?**

**What happens when a student/staff member tests positive for COVID?**

**How long does someone need to stay at home if showing symptoms or tests positive?**

**Will schools close if a student/staff member tests positive?**

Please see the COVID flow chart for answers to all of these questions.

**What is the current definition of close contact?** A close contact is someone who has been within six feet of you for a period of 15 or more minutes.

**What is contact tracing?** It is a process conducted the PA Department of Health to identify everyone who might have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID.

**Masks**

**Will students/staff be required to wear masks?** Yes, everyone will be required to wear masks at all times except in specific situations (see next question for examples). There are some exemptions for medical conditions or disabilities.

**When would students be able to take their masks off?** Two examples are:1) Students will be able to take their masks off when seated in the cafeteria similar to what is done in restaurants. 2) Students will be able to take a mask break when their location in a classroom provides them with 6 feet or more of space.

**Do families need to send students to school with a mask?** Yes, we ask that families supply their child with one or more masks and encourage students to get used to wearing a mask during the summer so it isn’t a new feeling on the first day of school.

**Transportation**

**Why is two students per seat the standard?** There are situations when students will be closer than 6 feet apart and need to wear masks. While riding on the bus is a good example. Since only six counties in PA have departments of health, most areas of the state have had to rely on the expertise of these departments. The Bucks County Department of Health has taken a leading role in providing guidance to many school districts. They have recommended two students per seat wearing masks.

**What percentage of students are expected to ride the bus in the fall based on parent survey #2?** Approximately 57% versus the normal ridership of approximately 80%. This will dramatically decrease the number of students riding our buses and will provide more space.

**What precautions will be taken on the buses for cleaning, disinfecting and ventilation?** High-touch areas will be cleaned after every run and each bus will be disinfected daily. One of the strongest recommendations is for opening windows to allow fresh air in and germs out. Weather permitting, windows can be left open all day long.

**How will more car traffic be handled?** Based on the parent surveys, we anticipate more students being dropped off in the morning and picked up in the afternoon. All of the schools are working on plans to accommodate this increase. More information will be available either on the specific school websites and/or in the summer letter that is mailed home.

**Cafeteria**

**Will student seating arrangements be different?** Yes, since students need to take their masks off to eat, students will need to be spread out more to provide social distancing. While each school is different, outside seating, hallway seating and other alternative locations will be used to spread students out properly.

**What is the cleaning regimen?** Every cafeteria table will be disinfected after every lunch period so that the next group of students coming into the cafeteria will have clean tables available. The tables will also be disinfected after breakfast as well. Lunch trays will continue to be cleaned in a high-temperature dishwasher. All utensils will be disposable.

**Is anything else new?** Yes, the cafeterias will now be cashless operations. Families can make deposits electronically or deliver checks to the school. A drop-box will be available at each school for deposits. Secondary students will no longer have to use the PIN keypad. A touchless system is being implemented similar to what the elementary schools already do.

**Meals for Students not Attending In-Person**

**Will meals be available for pick-up?** We are still working out the details with the state and the USDA but it is our hope that we can make meals available for pick-up to our online students.

**Hallways and Bathrooms**

**How will hallway traffic work?** While each school is designed differently, we are looking at ways to reduce traffic and get students from point A to point B faster. Some options include: some one-way staircases, some one-way halls, some staggering of schedules, having some teachers move instead of students, and reducing the number of times students can go to their lockers. Elementary hallways will be less crowded because many specials will be taught in the classroom. Secondary hallways will be less crowded due to reduced in-person enrollment, less stopping at lockers and other traffic flow improvements. We will also use more doors for entering in the morning and exiting in the afternoon.

**How will the hallways be safe for travel?** There will be less students in the hallways and they will be required to wear masks. They are only in the hallways for four minutes between classes which is good since the current research has targeted 15 minutes or more as troublesome in terms of exposure.

**Will the water fountains be working?** No, the traditional water fountain spouts will be turned off to avoid the spread of germs. The newer style fountains with the bottle refill option will be operational. We encourage students to bring a bottle of water or a refillable bottle marked with the student’s name for personal usage.

**Attending Classes Online Via Zoom**

**Will Zooming into a classroom be like last spring?** No, our intention is to provide live instruction. The online students will be taught at the same time as those in the classroom.

**What will Zooming look like?** To the students at home, they will be looking at the teacher and the Smartboard. It will be like sitting in the front row of the classroom.

**What about student privacy/confidentiality?** Since the camera will be in the front of the room not the back of the room where all the students would be in view, many of the typical privacy concerns are alleviated. Teachers can pause the Zoom call if something needs to be addressed in the classroom. If someone on Zoom is misbehaving or off-task, they can be muted. Parents at home should not participate in the classroom activities.

**How would Zoom students ask questions?** Each teacher may have a different system for this much like they do in an in-person classroom setting. Details such as these can be communicated during the first week of school.

**Will Zoom students have to stare at a computer screen all day?** No, just like in-person students don’t have to stare at a Smartboard all day long. Each subject and teacher will be different but there will be times throughout the day when online students will be looking in a book for an answer, reading a passage silently, solving a problem on paper or some other activity that gives their eyes a break from the screen. Online students will also have a break at lunch time, recess and possibly an elective that isn’t conducive to Zoom.

**Will Zoom students be marked absent if attending class online?** No, if a student attends a class online, it is treated the same as if he or she were attending in-person. Online students need to be punctual, attend for the entire class and participate as requested like an in-person student would.

**If my child attends via Zoom and wants to return to in-person schooling, what do I do?** Please contact your child’s counselor to coordinate this move.

**Can in-person students attend via Zoom on days when they aren’t feeling well?** Yes, please be sure to get the Zoom information from your teacher so you are prepared in advance.

**Can in-person students switch over to Zoom learning?** Yes, please contact your child’s counselor to coordinate this move.

**What if Zoom won’t work because of technology issues such as lack of Internet access or not enough bandwidth to support live instruction?** If this is an unusual interruption, please let the teacher know. If your home technology won’t work on a regular basis then Zoom probably isn’t a viable option for you.

**What if I have multiple children and our home Internet won’t currently support that much live video?** You can look to increase your bandwidth from your provider, run a hard wire to your device if it is a Wi-Fi issue or not have all of your children do Zoom.These are just three ideas to explore.

**Will students be able to borrow Chromebooks again this year?** Yes, since Zoom provides live instruction, we will want each student to have a device. Therefore, we will be loaning out Chromebooks again. Each student will have to obtain a Chromebook from his or her school as opposed to the mass distribution sites like we did last spring.

**Hybrid/Alternating Days Schedule**

**What type of alternating schedule is DV considering?** After examining many models, we have decided that all **secondary** students will be divided into two groups: Group A would be for students with last names A-K and Group B would be last names L-Z. Group A would attend on Monday and Tuesday. Group B would attend on Thursday and Friday. Wednesdays would alternate each week between the groups.

**Are you considering an alternating day schedule for elementary students?** No, not at this point for several reasons including less mixing of students throughout the day, more space per child available and less likely to contract/transfer the disease.

**If DV went to an alternating day schedule, would all of my secondary grades children attend on the same days?** Yes, based on our current enrollment, the alternating day schedules would be for last names beginning with A-K in one cohort and L-Z in the other cohort.

**Can siblings with different last names attend on the same days?** Yes, please call the counselor(s) of the students that need to have their day switched to get all siblings aligned.

**Heating/Ventilation/Air Conditioning (HVAC) System**

**What is the status of DV’s HVAC system?** First, we have much newer schools than most districts so we are very fortunate in that respect. The grades 11-12 section of the high school was built in 1970. DDES was built in 1982. The grades 9-10 high school was built in 1988. The other five schools were built in the 1990s or 2000s. We have spent more than $1 million over the last six summers to upgrade our HVAC system including digital controls that allow us to monitor and adjust classroom temperature and air flow via desktop computer or phone app. We also have a preventative maintenance software program that directs the regular maintenance and replacement of filters and belts to keep the system functioning properly.

**Do all of the schools have air conditioning?** Yes, adding air conditioning was part of the HVAC upgrades project mentioned above.

**What will be different this year?** First, we hired an outside firm to do a deep cleaning of all ducts, vents, louvers, and motors this summer. Second, instead of switching the system to “unoccupied” after school each day, the system will stay on “occupied” so fresh air can be circulated into the classrooms all day and night.

**Cleaning and Disinfecting**

**What is daily cleaning?** These are the typical activities such as sweeping, vacuuming, emptying the garbage, cleaning bathrooms, and washing windows.

**What is disinfecting?** After cleaning an area, the next step is to disinfect it with a disinfecting spray. Last spring, you learned about our backpack sprayers/foggers. The sprayers kill 99% of all germs on contact and dries in less than one minute. We now have a sprayer for every school, our athletic facilities, DV buses and Rohrer Bus. Having all of this equipment at our disposal means we can disinfect all schools and buses daily.

**What additional measures are being added?** We are looking at shifting some staff hours to provide more help during the school day to clean high-touch areas more often and to clean the increased number of cafeteria tables needed due to social distancing limits.

**Visitors**

**Will visitors be allowed in the schools?** First, we want to encourage students to plan ahead and pack everything they need to reduce the number of public visits to the office. Second, we are encouraging parents to make phone calls, Zoom calls or emails to connect with school staff. Third, all visitors will need to wear masks in order to be buzzed into the offices.

**What Should Students Bring to School?**

A mask, a water bottle and perhaps a small bottle of hand sanitizer are three things we haven’t mentioned in the past. On the elementary level, you may want to pack a pencil box full of items for your child to use exclusively such as pencils, crayons, pencil sharpener, eraser, scissors, glue stick and other similar items.

**Specific Class Notes**

**Elementary Special Areas** – many of these classes such as guidance, health, music etc. can be held in the classroom so students don’t have to travel.

**Secondary Electives** – some of these classes aren’t very conducive to Zoom such as ceramics and cooking, and will require some creativity and/or alternative assessments to make them work.

**Special Education –** every child in our special education program has an individualized education plan (IEP) to meet his or her needs. Therefore, we encourage parents to call the special education office in the summer or your child’s case manager once school resumes to discuss your child’s particular situation. It is our goal to provide five days of learning for self-contained students even if general education students go on an alternating day schedule.

**Career-Tech (CTE) –** this is another area that isn’t very conducive to Zoom so attending in-person for five days a week is being offered. The high school is currently working on a plan to assist CTE students who can’t do in-person learning. This small percentage of students should contact the CTE school counselor, Miss Cosentino.

**Physical Education** – the goal is to take kids outside as much as possible; students in K-8 will not change for PE and it will be optional for HS students.

**Music** – singing is almost as bad as sneezing and coughing in terms of spreading germs so modifications will need to be made to music classes.

**Recess** – the goal is to take kids outside as much as possible but teach the students creative ways to play and be socially distant.

**Sports –** competitive sports fall under the jurisdiction of the PIAA. They have said fall sports are a go unless the Governor deems it unsafe. Our off-season workouts are in progress while we monitor the situation closely. The state has not provided any guidance yet on spectators at sporting events.

**Other Co-Curricular Activities –** we hope to have as many co-curricular activities as possible throughout the school year while following the guidelines for crowd sizes and social distancing.