

Introduction

The School District of Clayton will be prepared to educate its students as we transition in the 2021-2022 school year. Schools need to reestablish a learning environment where employees, students and families feel safe, one that reduces the impact of COVID-19 when returning to learning in August but also considers what risk mitigation strategies need to be in place until vaccines are available for all school-aged children and the pandemic is under control. The following plan is based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and the St. Louis County Department of Public Health as of June 23, 2021. This plan will be revised as guidance from public health authorities changes.

Face Coverings

Guidance for face coverings for the 2021-2022 school year will be finalized in early August 2021 as there may be a need to maintain this protective measure in buildings where students have not had the opportunity to be vaccinated. Current guidelines (used during the 2020-2021 school year) for face-coverings include:

- All staff and all students (grades K-12) are required to wear a face covering.
- Early childhood students (Age 3-5) are encouraged to wear coverings and may be required to wear them during parts of the school day (e.g. when participating in lessons that require them to be in close contact with other students or staff or moving throughout the school building).
- Early childhood students (Age 3-5) may also wear a face covering at other times if that is their parent or guardian's preference.
- Any essential visitors or vendors in the building will be required to wear a face covering on campus.
- All students (regardless of age) will be required to wear a face covering when riding the bus.

Physical Distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding)

Schools will use strategies to minimize movement in the buildings and reduce intermingling of students from different classes, when possible. Class time, travel within the building, lunch and recess times will be staggered and/or spread out to alternate spaces to allow for social distancing. When students travel in the hallways, there will be visual aids to direct students throughout the building. These visual aids will illustrate directional traffic flow and appropriate spacing to support social distancing. Classroom furniture, including desks, chairs, tables, etc., will be set up to maximize physical distancing to the extent possible in the classroom. Strategies such as spacing seating further apart, in the same direction and/or using clear dividers are being implemented. Frequently touched items will be cleaned regularly.

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

Students will be encouraged to wash their hands often, including when entering classrooms, before lunch, after recess and after any activity outside of the classroom. We will take extra care to give students these opportunities to wash their hands during the school day. In locations where access to soap and water is limited, alcohol-based hand sanitizer will be available. A limited number of students will be allowed in the bathroom at the same time. [Health protocol video](#)

Cleaning/Maintenance/IAQ

Schools will follow cleaning procedures recommended by the CDC, using EPA-registered disinfectants. Electrostatic sprayers are used to spread disinfectant on surfaces and in hard-to-reach spaces. Frequently touched surfaces are being cleaned multiple times during the day.

The HVAC systems in each of the District's schools are designed to maximize outdoor air intake (fresh air) in each building while also managing temperature and humidity as too much of either one can promote the growth of mold and mildew and make the building and its occupants uncomfortable.

In addition to the filtering systems already in place, the District has installed Needlepoint Bipolar Ionization systems at each school which will further enhance air purification in each building. In addition to significantly reducing the spread of viruses like the flu or common cold, testing has shown this system reduces the airborne amounts of SARS-CoV-2 by more than 99 percent.

Contact Tracing/Quarantine Procedures

The District's contact tracing team will work to determine who was in contact (based on the most recent guidelines for contact tracing) with the individual who tested positive for COVID-19. Individuals identified as close contacts will be quarantined based on the most recent guidance from the St. Louis County Department of Public Health.

Continuity of Instruction

The District will work to support the learning of students who are quarantined due to exposure to COVID-19. With the expansion of eligibility for vaccines, we expect the number of students who actually need to be quarantined to continue to decline throughout the 2021-2022 school year.

Diagnostic and Screening Testing

District staff will complete a daily COVID-19 self-screening assessment online. The content of this self-assessment is based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Parents/guardians are asked to review the list of COVID-19 symptoms daily to determine if their child should go to school or stay home. Anyone with a fever of 100.4° or higher should not attend school. Families should conduct a self-assessment for symptoms including a fever, a sense of having a fever, chills, a cough, sore throat, headache, new loss of smell or taste, or new muscle aches. If these symptoms occur, do not attend school and call your child's school to report the symptoms your child is experiencing. Any staff member or student who is sick or displays symptoms of COVID-19 must stay home to prevent the spread of illness. They must also inform the school of their illness.

Vaccinations for Students and Staff

Through a partnership with Medley Pharmacy, the District has held first and second-dose vaccination clinics for all staff, students ages 16 and up and students ages 12-15. The District plans to offer additional vaccination clinics (which will also be open to all eligible students and staff) for students 12 and under as soon as they are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

Accommodations for Children with Disabilities

School nurses will work with the parents of students that have a health condition which prevents them from wearing a face covering. In addition, we understand that some students with disabilities may not be able to wear face coverings for disability-related reasons. With that in mind, IEP teams, parents, and school nurses will work together to determine reasonable accommodations.

Communication about Cases of COVID-19

All teachers, staff and families at a school will be notified if there is a positive case in their building. Additionally, any students or staff members who have been in close contact with the affected individual will be notified and required to quarantine for 10 days. When a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, the District will begin contact tracing. (A number of District personnel have received contact tracing training.) **The St. Louis County Department of Health will determine, based on information provided by the District's contact tracing team, which individuals were exposed and will need to quarantine. THIS IS NOT A DECISION MADE BY THE DISTRICT.** These decisions will be made on a case by case basis and could affect anywhere from just a few individuals to an entire class or school building.