

# DENVER CITY ISD

2021-2022 District Guide  
to Reopening Schools



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**PLEASE NOTE:** The details in this document are subject to change as directives are provided by governing authorities and/or health officials or as environmental conditions change.

# REOPENING DCISD 2021-2022

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We are anxiously awaiting the arrival of your student(s) on August 16 and have been making preparations to ensure the health and safety of your student(s). Despite extensive challenges, DCISD will continue to provide excellent instruction to our students in our classrooms.

As our community navigates the uncertainty of COVID-19, we understand our Denver City ISD families, staff, and community members have questions and concerns about the upcoming school year. While we may not have all the answers our goal is to provide our parents with as much information as possible so they can make the best decisions for their families when school starts on **August 16**.

## How is Denver City ISD preparing to reopen?

While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of furthering the spread of COVID-19, current science suggests there are many steps we can take to significantly reduce the risk to students, teachers, staff, and families. Denver City is closely monitoring guidance from the State of Texas, TEA, CDC, UIL, pediatricians, and other state and local officials on how to reopen safely. This guidance document contains information on four sets of practices that minimize the likelihood of viral spread, including some that are requirements for all schools and others that are recommendations:

1. PROVIDE NOTICE: Requirements for parental and public notices
2. PREVENT: Required practices to prevent the virus from entering the school
3. RESPOND: Required practices to respond to a lab-confirmed case in the school
4. MITIGATE: Recommended and required practices to reduce likely spread inside the school

The following document is a comprehensive plan with steps Denver City ISD will take to safely reopen our campuses with minimal disruptions to our students' regular school experience.

## What instructional options will Denver City provide?

Denver City ISD is committed to providing an excellent learning environment for all students. Teachers excel in meeting the needs of every student to help them meet their full potential. Therefore, face-to-face learning is the selected DCISD instructional method.

## What can you expect next?

Denver City ISD remains committed to our beliefs, which always guide our decision-making process. Updates will be posted to our District social media accounts at <https://www.dcisd.org/Denver>.

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## DCISD HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN

While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of furthering the spread of COVID-19, the current science suggests there are steps schools can take to reduce the risks to students, teachers, staff and their families significantly. This plan is in effect immediately unless there are mandatory shutdowns and guidance changes from state and/or local agencies. Changes to the public health situation may also necessitate changes to these guidelines.

These guidelines address:

- On campus instruction
- Non - UIL extracurricular sports and activities (UIL activities follow the guidance found on the UIL website.)
- Any other activities that teachers, staff or students must complete that cannot be accomplished virtually

### INCREASED SANITATION EFFORTS

- Daily cleaning procedures of highly touched surfaces.
  - Staff will provide opportunities for students to clean their own spaces before and after they are used, in ways that are safe and developmentally appropriate. This includes cleaning surfaces between different class groups.
  - Daily cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces that are touched in common throughout the day. This includes objects such as door handles, common tables/desks, shared supplies and high touch devices such as shared keyboards/tablets.
  - Cleaning products will be safely stored.

### CUSTODIAL SERVICES CLEANING AND DISINFECTING

All Denver City ISD custodial staff will complete additional and enhanced training on CDC-based cleaning procedures. Below is a list of surfaces and areas of the building that will be sanitized daily or between use as much as possible by custodians:

- Building Entrances, Elevators, Stairways, Glass Doors/Windows/Mirrors, Classrooms, Showers, Corridors/Hallways, Administrative Suites, Work Rooms/Break Rooms, Libraries, Computer Labs

Frequently touched surfaces and areas listed below will be sanitized and disinfected daily or between use as much as possible:

- Tables, Desk, Doorknobs, Light Switches, Restrooms, Locker Rooms, Weight Rooms, Countertops, Handles, Phones, Keyboards, Toilets, Faucets, Sinks, Touch Screens

### HAND SANITIZING

- Hand sanitizer and/or hand washing stations with soap and water at each entrance/classroom.
  - Students, teachers, staff and campus visitors will be encouraged to sanitize and/or wash hands frequently.
  - Campuses will teach good handwashing techniques.
  - Students, teachers, staff and campus visitors will be encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and If not available, cover coughs with in their elbows. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash, hands should be washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or hand sanitizer should be used.

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## **SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION:**

- Buses will be thoroughly cleaned after each bus trip, focusing on high-touch surfaces such as bus seats, steering wheels, knobs and door handles.

## **STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

### **UIL PROGRAMS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Denver City ISD will follow guidance from the University Interscholastic League (UIL), the Texas Education Agency (TEA), and the State of Texas on UIL and extracurricular activities for our students and for events hosted at our facilities. Throughout workouts and practices, equipment will be sanitized, and we will continue to follow CDC guidelines for cleaning procedures.

### **UPCOMING ATHLETIC SEASONS**

At this time, UIL plans to begin fall competition seasons as scheduled on the UIL calendar. UIL will continue to work with the state officials and monitor CDC and other federal guidance to determine any further modifications to this guidance.

## **STUDENT ATTENDANCE**

Daily attendance will be taken and students must be in attendance 90% in order to receive credit and/or promotion to the next grade level. Students will be required to meet the minimum attendance for class credit rule (TEC, §25.092). Students are required to attend at least 90% of their classes to receive credit. Remote conferencing attendance will count in the same manner as face-to-face attendance in satisfying this requirement.

- Students will interact with teachers daily via computer or phone.
- Digital platforms to support communication and accountability include Google Classroom and SeeSaw.
- Daily attendance will also be documented through the completion of daily assignments. Students identified as not engaged in the daily assignments/communication will be counted absent per TEA guidance.
- Truancy laws will apply to students who fail to attend school, but remote conferencing attendance satisfies attendance requirements.
- TEA requires that schools track the instructional method in which the student is participating each school day.

## **FACE-TO-FACE LEARNERS**

- There are no changes to the way face-to-face days present and days absent will be reported.

## **COMMUNICATION**

Denver City ISD is committed to keeping our staff, students, parents, and other stakeholders informed on changes made to the 2021-22 school year due to COVID-19.

Denver City ISD will continue to communicate through the District's channels, including:

- Website <https://www.dcisd.org/Denver>.
- School Messenger (callouts)
- Skyward (email messages)
- Social media
- Facebook (District and campus-level)
- Remind messages (campus-level)

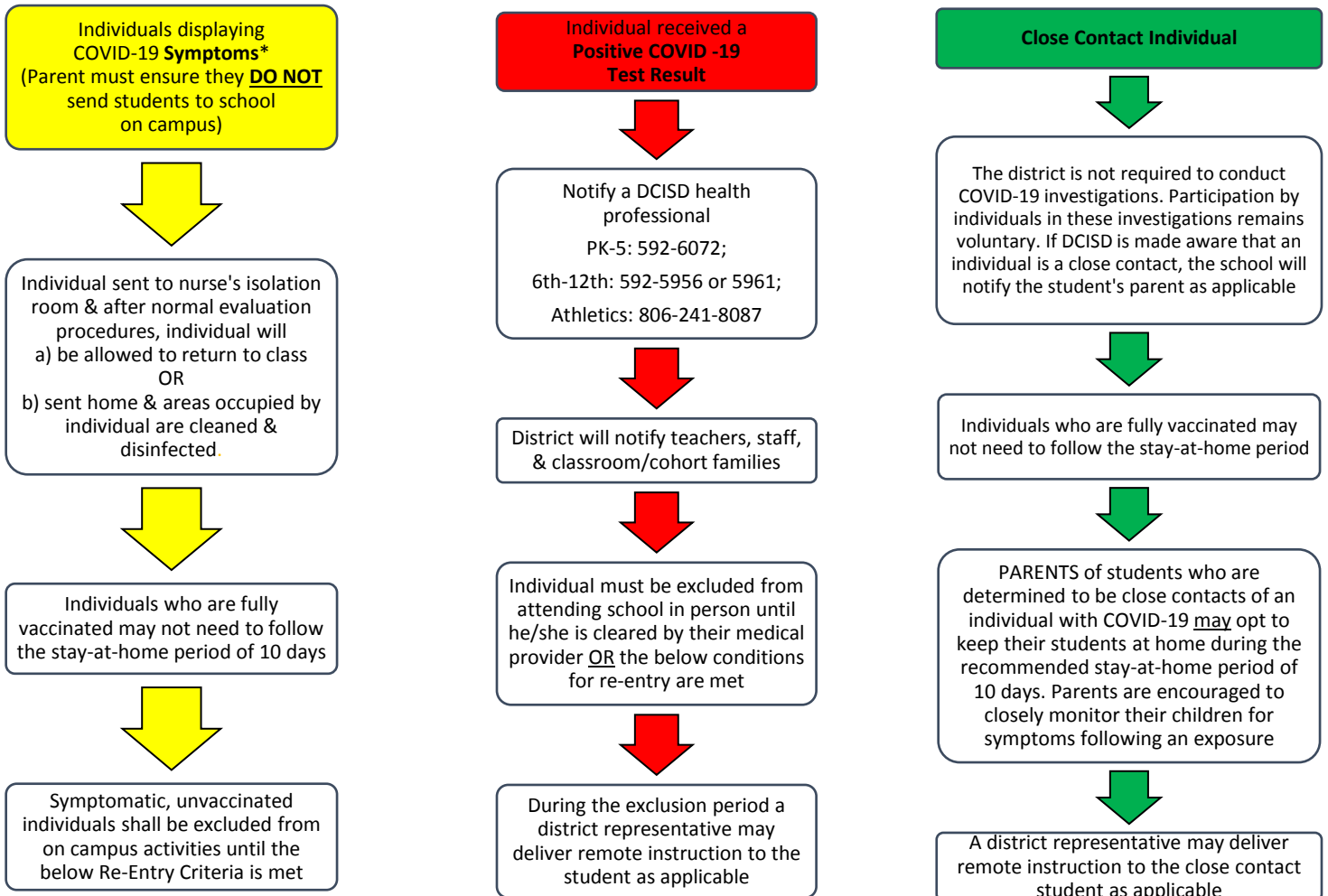
If you have any questions about Reopening Denver City ISD, please contact your campus principal.



# DCISD Mitigation Plan



DCISD will not require students or staff to wear a mask; however, individuals are encouraged to follow the safe practices they have already mastered, such as wearing face coverings over the nose and mouth wherever it is not feasible to maintain six feet of social distancing from another person not in the same household.



Re-Entry Criteria for COVID-19 is as follows:

- Exclude until cleared by their medical provider (i.e. doctor's note) **OR**
  - at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset **AND**
  - fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever suppressing medication (fever is defined as a temperature of 100°F or higher) **AND**
  - other symptoms have improved

\*According to CDC, the most common symptoms of COVID-19 in children include fever of 100°F or higher, chills, cough, nasal congestion or runny nose, new loss of taste or smell, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, diarrhea or vomiting, stomachache, tiredness, headache, muscle or body aches, and poor appetite

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