

Dunkerton Community School

Empowering students to be life-long learners and caring, responsible citizens

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Overview

For the 2021-22 school year, the Dunkerton Community School District will return to in person, traditional learning. The district will continue to follow guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Black Hawk County Public Health (BHCPH), and the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) regarding COVID-19 safety protocols. This plan is a fluid document and may change during the course of the school year.

Face Masks

Face masks will be optional in all Dunkerton buildings for visitors, staff, and students in grades PreK-12. HF 847, signed by Governor Reynolds on May 20, 2021, prohibits a school district from adopting or enforcing a policy that requires employees, students, or the public to wear a mask while on school property.

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=HF%20847&ga=89>

The school district will allow students, teachers, other staff members, and visitors who want to voluntarily continue to wear a cloth face covering for reasons that make sense for their family or individual health condition to do so. Parents should discuss with their child(ren) their family's decision and the importance of respecting the face-covering decisions of others.

Fask masks on school busses

Passengers on school busses will be required to wear face masks. The CDC issued an Order effective February 1, 2021, imposing a requirement for persons to wear masks while on public transportation conveyances, indicates that "passengers and drivers must wear a mask on school buses, including on buses operated by public and private school systems, subject to the exclusions and exemptions in the CDC's Order." The Iowa Department of Education affirmed this guidance.

Proof of Vaccination

The School will not ask for proof of vaccination. HF 889, signed by Governor Reynolds on May 20, 2021, prohibits the mandatory disclosure of whether a person has received a COVID-19 vaccination as a condition for entry onto the premises of a governmental entity.

Social Distancing

To reduce the risk of transmission, the CDC recommends schools maintain at least three feet of physical distance between students within classrooms, combined with indoor mask wearing by those who are not fully vaccinated. The district will make efforts to implement student seating with a physical distance of at least three feet. This social distancing effort will not always be possible.

Events and Activities

All extracurricular activities will return to normal operations with no limitations on attendance.

School meals

The USDA has authorized that school meals will be free to all students this year.. Students will eat lunch and breakfast in the school cafeterias. If school is not able to be held in-person, grab and go meals will be provided. Below is a link to the press release for the free school meal program.

<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/04/20/usda-issues-pandemic-flexibilities-schools-and-day-care-facilities>

Cleaning and disinfecting protocols

The District will continue with the enhanced cleaning and disinfecting protocols in place for the 2020-2021 school year.

- Practice frequent use of hand washing for at least 20 seconds, and if unavailable use hand sanitizer. Hand sanitizer stations are provided throughout the school building.
- High touch surfaces will be frequently disinfected.
- Bottle filling stations are available. Students are encouraged to bring personal water bottles.
- Night time aerosol sanitation of classrooms.

Visitors and Volunteers

As part of the return to learn plan, the district felt it was important to host Back to School Night to invite parents back into school and help for the school year get off to a good start.

Isolation, quarantine and illness information

The district will follow guidelines specified by the Iowa Department of Public Health for isolation and quarantine:

COVID-19 positive isolation

COVID-19 positive persons can return to normal activities after:

Ten days since symptoms first appeared and 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving.

Loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation.

Close Contact Quarantine Information

IDPH states, “*If a case of COVID-19 is identified in a school, exposed students and teachers can be advised to consider staying home in accordance with public health best practices to monitor for symptoms. If a student or teacher becomes symptomatic they should stay home while ill and consider getting tested.*”

Illness

Even though attendance is a priority for students and staff, we do encourage everyone to stay home if they are not feeling well. The specific symptoms that require staying home include a fever of 100 degrees or above, difficulty breathing or a loss of taste or smell. Other symptoms include sore throat, headache, body aches, fatigue, runny nose, congestion, rash, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. Students with COVID-19 symptoms should contact their healthcare provider for further evaluation and testing.

Communication Procedures

When there is a positive COVID-19 case reported in an elementary or junior high classroom, the district will communicate this to all families within the classroom.

Continuity of Services

IDPH continues to ask K-12 schools to report when >10% of students are absent due to illness. When >10% absenteeism is reported, IDPH will contact the Local Public Health (LPH) department in the county where the school administrative offices are located. Public health will contact the school to provide best practices and support tailored to the specific types of illnesses being reported. If school is interrupted due to challenges resulting from COVID-19, the district will continue to provide educational services to ensure that student learning continues in a safe manner.

Academics

In the event school is interrupted due to COVID-19, the district may consider a hybrid (for secondary schools) or full time virtual model (entire district) of instruction. This decision will be made with consultation with Public Health and the Board of Education.