Our plan for keeping our students, staff and community safe during the COVID-19 pandemic

RETURN TO LEARN AUGUST

School Year 2020-2021

JUNE 26, 2020

Plans will be modified as public health guidelines are updated
School District 11 students need to return to school. We know continued school closures not only pose increased learning loss, they threaten the social emotional wellbeing of students, food insecurity, and many other critical needs our students face. Thankfully, Colorado Governor Jared Polis has instructed schools statewide to return to the classroom in August with as much normalcy as possible. With the state and local health guidance, we are announcing some of the “stakes in the sand” D11 is planning to implement, providing for safe and secure learning environments. There are still some unknowns, hence the term “stakes in the sand,” but we continue to receive updated guidance almost daily. We have been reviewing the public health orders and are committed to safely opening schools, with modifications, the week of August 17.

The health and wellbeing of our students, staff, and community is our highest priority. Working with collaborative teams of educators, students, parents and community members, we are completing the detailed plans for our return and want to give you a “sneak peek” at what we are anticipating for the new school year.

It’s very important to note that the guidance we’ve seen has been rapidly changing, so please understand these plans must be flexible and allow for changes as new health data is released.

To maintain your trust in D11, we want to remain transparent in our planning and explain in greater detail what our health standards for reopening schools will look like. We are planning for a simple, yet strict wellness screening for all adults and students as they arrive to school. This likely will consist of temperature and symptom checks. Anyone who feels ill or is showing symptoms of illness, such as an elevated body temperature, dry cough or shortness of breath must stay home.

Additionally, there will be safety measures inside our buildings to further strengthen health conditions. Students will highly be encouraged to wear masks or facial coverings in the classroom, but this will not be required. Staff will be required to wear masks, face coverings or shields.

Staff and students will be given regular handwashing breaks and hand sanitizer will be in place in all buildings. Our facilities teams have been and will continue to regularly disinfect our buildings and busses to ensure the highest level of cleanliness possible.

Finally, we know the psychological impact on our D11 families at the end of last school year took a toll. We believe the health benefits of in-person school attendance outweigh the health risks. We also know some of our students and their families will prefer an online learning option and we are planning to offer both in-person and online options for families to choose what is best for them. Stay tuned as plans are finalized and communicated over the summer.
Our Vision of What Practices Will be in Place in August

Healthy Practices

➢ Teach and reinforce washing hands and covering coughs and sneezes among children and staff.
➢ Teach and reinforce appropriate use of cloth face coverings among staff and students (when age and developmentally appropriate) when in the vicinity of others, particularly in indoor settings.
➢ Have adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer, etc.
➢ Take scheduled breaks for hand hygiene.
➢ Post signs on how to stop the spread of COVID-19, properly wash hands, promote everyday protective measures, and properly wear a face covering.
➢ Avoid immediate contact such as shaking or holding hands and hugging.
➢ Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors, using fans, and other methods that do not pose additional safety or health risks.

Classrooms and Educational Spaces

➢ Implement physical distancing at all times and to the greatest degree, wherever and whenever possible.
➢ Require educators and other school staff to wear face coverings or masks in school whenever possible.
➢ Consider the utilization of additional barriers (e.g., plastic sneeze guards, face shields) for employees working directly with younger children or where spacing and masking may be more difficult for either staff members or students.
➢ Clean, sanitize, and disinfect frequently touched surfaces (e.g., playground equipment, door handles, sink handles, drinking fountains, refillable water stations) multiple times per day. Shared objects should be cleaned between use.
   • Students will be responsible for cleaning their own space - supplies provided.
   • Students will not share materials (i.e. crayons, scissors, etc.).
➢ Disinfect and sanitize education tools regularly (e.g. books, whiteboards, computers).
➢ Ensure adequate supplies, to minimize sharing of high touch materials and disinfect between each use.
➢ Keep each child’s belongings separated in individually labeled storage containers, cubbies, or taken home each day and cleaned.
➢ Avoid the use of items not easily cleaned, sanitized, or disinfected (e.g., upholstered furniture or soft or plush toys).
Establish clear guidance for staff members and parents on self-screening, temperature checks, home hygiene, and attendance/reporting procedure.

Encourage both students and adults to stay home if they or a family member is experiencing symptoms.

Create a communication system for staff and families for self-reporting of symptoms and notification of exposures and closures.

Screen for any recent student or staff international or out of state travel in the last 14 days. If travel has occurred consult with your local public health agency to determine if students or staff will need to quarantine for 14 days from the date of travel.

Establish specific protocol to report COVID-19 absences, separate from routine absences.

Cohort Management

- Consider keeping classes/cohorts together, as often as possible, to include the same group of children each day.
- Minimize the mixing between classes/cohorts as much as possible.
- Limit assemblies, gatherings, events, and activities to those that can maintain adequate social distancing and support proper hand hygiene.
- Consider limiting the use of common space such as cafeterias and develop plans to allow students to eat in their designated (class/cohort) group whenever possible.
- Limit nonessential visitors, volunteers, and outside groups.
- Consider alternative classroom settings serving students with special health care needs.

School Bus Transportation

- All bus riders and drivers will be required to wear a mask/shield at all times.
- Windows will be open at all times.
- Students will be assigned seats. Student family members will be asked to share seats. Single riders will be seated individually.
- More information will follow once the final transportation plans are in place.

Personal Responsibilities

- Establish clear guidance for staff members and parents on self-screening, temperature checks, home hygiene, and attendance/reporting procedure.
- Encourage both students and adults to stay home if they or a family member is experiencing symptoms.
- Create a communication system for staff and families for self-reporting of symptoms and notification of exposures and closures.
- Screen for any recent student or staff international or out of state travel in the last 14 days. If travel has occurred consult with your local public health agency to determine if students or staff will need to quarantine for 14 days from the date of travel.
- Establish specific protocol to report COVID-19 absences, separate from routine absences.
1. **QUALITY INSTRUCTION** - Quality instruction continues to be the cornerstone to the success of educational programs since coursework delivered through hybrid models must continue to be available (on-campus and remote learning) and should meet the same standards as coursework offered only on-campus. We will need to give educators “space and grace” as they work to improve the delivery of content through multiple models.

2. **COMMITMENT TO EQUITY** - All students must have opportunities to achieve academic success that are accessible, personalized, relevant, and responsive. Schools have a responsibility to be responsive and meet the continued needs of ALL students, including students from low-income backgrounds, students with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, foster youth, English language learners, and students from diverse cultures.

3. **ADOPT A WHOLE SCHOOL WELLNESS APPROACH** - Take a system-wide approach to promoting student academic, social, and emotional learning, physical wellbeing, and college, career, and civic readiness. We will adopt a whole school wellness approach to ensure student success in school, work, and community.

4. **PARTNER WITH STUDENTS, FAMILIES, COMMUNITY, AND EMPLOYEE GROUPS** - Engage with students, families, community partners, and employee groups to build collective impact and support public health. Maximize the assets of the entire community, including health care, expanded learning, early learning, and family and community partnerships to implement health and safety protocols and to improve alternative learning models.

5. **LEARN AND IMPROVE** - Adopt continuous improvement practices and use best practices to guide decision making while enhancing the quality of student learning opportunities. We will use data and collaborative feedback to inform improvement of instructional and school practices. We will work together, leverage our collective positive effect through advocacy, and share best practices and resources. To maximize impact, D11 staff members will establish an infrastructure designed to promote ongoing collaboration and sharing of best practices among our stakeholders.