



Davis School District

LEARNING FIRST



# Davis Learns Together

District plan to safely open schools in the fall during  
COVID-19 pandemic

July 2020



Hello Davis School District families,

We hope that your summer is in full swing and that you are enjoying a nice break and time spent together. As we prepare to begin what we hope to be the very best school year we have ever had, we want to communicate significant information relative to how school will look this year.

We LOVE school! Children NEED school! Students thrive in safe, structured and nurturing environments. Currently, we are planning a normal school opening on August 25. Our hope is to keep school “in the building” through a shared commitment from students, teachers, families, and staff by preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Together with the Davis County Health Department, we have developed guidance for the opening of school with all students having the opportunity to attend on a regular schedule. However, we realize as the state relaxes restrictions, the risk of infection and the corresponding need to follow health guidelines increases.

The following guidelines are intended to provide protection for our employees, students, and community.

What we will do as school and district personnel:

- Mitigate risk/spread by encouraging physical distancing, proper hand hygiene, sanitization, wearing masks, staggering class start and release times, hallway flow adjustments, adjusting lunch times and seating, recess modifications and spacing of students in common areas.
- Be aware of illness/symptoms in the student body and contact a student’s family immediately if a student exhibits symptoms.
- Monitor positive COVID-19 cases and its spread in Davis District, and follow — as we would with any community health concern — the recommendation of health department officials regarding school closures, modified school schedules or in-school adjustments.
- Continue to refine our digital curriculum to meet the needs of distance learning as it arises.
- Modify our method of delivery, however necessary, to ensure the health and well-being of students and staff.

What you can do:

- Understand that these guidelines are determined by health, educational and civic professionals commissioned to care for your child, considering the physical environment, time spent in school, and the potential risk to the health of our students, staff and families.
- Keep your child home if they have a fever, cough, cold or flu symptoms, and have them return only when these symptoms have subsided.
- Talk to your child about changes they may notice at school, reinforcing that these measures are in place to preserve their health, and the health of those around them.
- Send your child to school with a mask and encourage them to wear it.

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- As always, please reinforce the importance of respecting the authority of teachers and staff to maintain order in the classroom, the hallway, and other campus areas.
- Prepare as much as possible to adapt to change. As evidenced this past spring, things evolve quickly, and schedule modifications and/or closures may be unavoidable.
- Recognize you can choose traditional face-to-face school or online options and, as always, we are happy to assist you with your child's educational needs.
- Know that you as a guardian and parent have the right to keep your child home at any time as you assess risk as it relates to your family.

Also, if you would like your child — for any reason — to not attend school in a traditional on-campus setting, the Davis School District has two fully online school options.

- First, your student could enroll in Davis Connect K-12 Online School, where students will work online with a teacher during school hours. All teachers for Davis Connect K-12 Online School will be Davis District teachers, but they will not likely be teachers from a student's resident school.
- Second, your student could enroll in Davis Connect K-12 Independent Study, where students will work online independently at their own pace with active parent support.
  - Students who choose either of these options will be withdrawn from their current school and enrolled full-time in Davis Connect, with the opportunity to re-enroll at their original school at the beginning of each new term. Priority enrollment is available now until August 1, after which enrollment requests will be granted based on program availability. For more information about online options and to enroll, please visit: <https://www.davis.k12.ut.us/academics/online-learning>

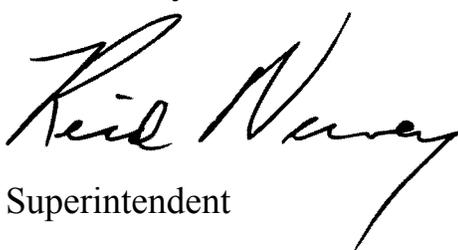
Overall, circumstances will likely vary from school to school and program to program, each with unique challenges and solutions. Specific school details will be communicated to you directly by the administration of the school your child attends.

As an extension of the “Davis Learns Together” plan — which was released April 6, 2020 — the focus for opening school this fall will be on “The Big Five:” Hygiene Etiquette, Stay Home When Sick, Cloth Face Mask, Physical Distancing, and Clean and Disinfect. When taken together, “The Big Five” will provide protection from COVID-19 while enabling our schools to resume a more traditional operation.

The information that follows will provide you more details about “The Big Five” focus. Please read it thoroughly, and please know we are making every effort to provide the best educational experience possible.

We ask for your support through this process.

Reid Newey



Superintendent

# Preface

The following eight pages will provide you additional details regarding the Davis School District's "Big Five" approach to operating schools while COVID-19 exists in the community. Those five aspects are: Hygiene Etiquette, Stay Home When Sick, Cloth Face Mask, Physical Distancing and Clean & Disinfect.

Please be aware there is no such thing as a "COVID-free zone" in our classrooms or schools. The more people congregate in society — no matter where that takes place — the more opportunity there is for the virus to spread. COVID-19 exists everywhere and, at this point in time, no vaccine has been developed.

That being said, representatives from the Davis School District and the Davis County Health Department have been meeting at least weekly since Feb. 27. The information that follows — if adhered to by all involved — will provide the best measures to not only prevent the spread of the virus, but also give us an opportunity to provide the best education we can for all students.

In a related note, the school district will continue to share information with you and also utilize its webpage as a way to provide additional resources. That web page is [davis.k12.ut.us](https://davis.k12.ut.us).



# Hygiene Etiquette

## Handwashing

Schools will increase instruction and monitoring of student handwashing. Proper hand-washing techniques include lathering hands with soap, scrubbing between fingers, washing the backside of each hand, scrubbing each wrist, washing underneath fingernails and rinsing with water. The process should take 20 seconds.

Elementary schools will provide frequent opportunities for students to wash hands, including before and after recess, lunch and other activities.

## Hand sanitizing

If soap and water are not readily available in some classrooms, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol will be used (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer).

Elementary students will also sanitize their hands every time they enter and exit the classroom. Staff in secondary schools will encourage students to sanitize hands each time they enter and exit a classroom and frequently throughout the day.

Students will be instructed to cover all surfaces of their hands with sanitizer and rub them together until their hands feel dry.





Each school will have free-standing hand sanitizing stations positioned throughout the school in high traffic areas, including the main office, library, counseling center, cafeteria and gym. If health conditions allow for concerts, plays and athletic events to be held, the hand sanitizing stations also will be used at the entrances of those events.

## **Respiratory etiquette**

Staff and students will be encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

## **No physical contact**

Students and staff will be reminded to practice physical distancing when it comes to greetings — no handshakes, high fives or hugs. Air high fives, air elbow bumps or a simple wave can be used in place of physical contact.

Students and staff are encouraged to avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth.



# Stay Home When Sick

## Don't hesitate to stay home

If you feel sick, stay home, except to get medical care.

Students and staff are asked to stay home from school if they have any of the following COVID-19 symptoms:



- Shortness of breath, sore throat or persistent cough



- Temperature higher than 100.4 degrees



- Congestion or runny nose



- Vomiting or diarrhea



- New loss of taste or smell

Students should also stay home from school **if they are experiencing other illness symptoms** such as severe or long-lasting abdominal pain, rash with fever, strep throat, head lice before first treatment or any other illness that prevents a student from participating comfortably in school activities.

Staff and parents of students are encouraged to notify school officials of any COVID-19 symptoms, positive tests for COVID-19, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 symptoms or a confirmed or suspected case. Staff and students who are sick or who have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 should stay home.

## Accommodating high-risk students and staff

Staff and parents who consider themselves as high-risk, will complete a form with health information that will be shared with the health department to help facilitate contact tracing. Employees will work with their immediate supervisor if there is a concern about risk. High-risk students also will be given the option to attend the district's online school.

## Health rooms

Schools will identify a health room where symptomatic individuals can stay until they are able to go home. These rooms will be dedicated to use for students who feel ill once at school. They will not be used for other purposes, such as storage.

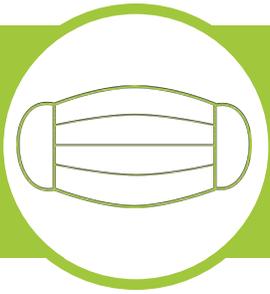
Students or staff who are symptomatic should not come to school. If a

student begins exhibiting symptoms after arriving at school, they will wait in the health room with a facial mask and maintain physical distancing while arrangements are made for them to be picked up by a parent or emergency contact as soon as possible. Parents and guardians need to make sure their emergency contact list is up to date.



## Monitor symptoms

Staff will be encouraged to safely and respectfully monitor any observable symptoms in students, such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath. Staff will observe all applicable privacy laws and regulations in doing so. Additionally, schools will continually remind students to self-check for symptoms.



# Cloth Face Mask

## Face mask etiquette

Cloth masks will be provided for all students and employees. As mandated by Utah Gov. Gary Herbert, students will be required to wear masks during the school day. Employees will be required to wear face masks when physical distancing of 6 feet is not possible.

Accommodations will be made for staff and students who have respiratory issues.

According to the CDC, the COVID-19 virus spreads mainly among people who are in close contact with one another, usually within about 6 feet, so the use of cloth face coverings is important in settings where people are close to each other or where physical distancing is difficult to maintain.

Currently, the CDC does not recommend the use of face shields as a substitute for cloth face coverings.

In some instances, face shields will be used as needed for special education, language immersion and an approved requested accommodation.

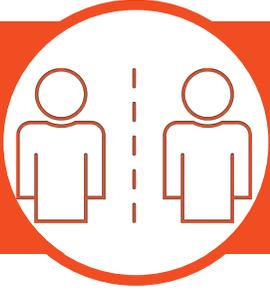
## Masks on school buses

Since physical distancing measures cannot be maintained while transporting students, each student will be required to wear a mask, as mandated by Utah Gov. Gary Herbert, when riding a school bus to and from school. Bus drivers and bus aides are also required to wear masks when transporting students.



## Visitors, non-regular staff and volunteers

Visitors and volunteers will be required to have a temperature check, complete a symptom checklist and wear a mask upon entry into a school building.



# Physical Distancing

One of the best ways to curb the spread of COVID-19 is by doing your best to physically distance from one another. The rule of thumb is to maintain 6 feet of distance between yourself and anyone else. If that distance is maintained, the virus is less likely to be passed from one person to another.



Of course, physical distancing is challenging in a school where classroom walls cannot be moved. In those settings, if students cannot be placed 6 feet apart, they will be required to wear cloth face coverings as mandated by Utah Gov. Gary Herbert.

When a teacher is in front of the room during class — and can maintain 6 feet of distance between himself or herself and students — the teacher will not have to wear a mask. If the

teacher moves closer than 6 feet, such as for one-to-one instruction, they will be required to wear a mask.

## Lunch service

Students will be distanced as much as possible. In elementary schools, lunch will be scheduled by grade level with tables sanitized between each seating. In secondary schools, tables will be spaced and students will be required to wear masks in line when physical distancing of 6 feet is not possible.

## Playgrounds

Safety and physical distancing requirements will also be maintained during recess. If students are within 6 feet of one another, they will be required to wear a face covering as mandated by Utah Gov. Gary Herbert. Supervisors will be trained to provide structured recess activities that include physical distancing, as well as behavior management strategies. Grade levels/classes will be assigned specific areas of the playground.

## Layout modifications

Teachers may also put forth efforts to distance students from one another. They may be able to distance desks farther apart than normal.

Those with larger class sizes may not be able to do that.

Teachers may choose to have students face the same direction rather than facing one another and remove reading corners, etc. to optimize space.



In elementary schools, students will wash their hands before attending classes held in

common spaces — InfiniD labs, computer labs, art and music — and be given a disinfecting wipe to clean all surfaces at their station before beginning the lesson. Library visits also will be scheduled.

## Large gatherings

Because of the need to stop the spread of COVID-19, large gatherings, such as the typical back-to-school nights, band and choir concerts, may be held differently. No assemblies that include the whole school will be held. If schools can maintain physical distancing of 6 feet, smaller assemblies or performances can be held.

In secondary schools, the timing for class changes will be shortened to discourage congregations of students. Directional signs will indicate expected traffic flow (travel on the right).

At elementary schools, students will be released at the end of the day on a staggered schedule. More information will follow as the school year approaches.



# Clean & Disinfect

## Cleaning schedule

The district will implement a multi-step cleaning protocol in all schools, to include daily disinfection of touchpoints — drinking fountains, handrails, door handles, sinks, toilets, partition walls and locks. Other daily disinfection will include bathroom floors, student desks and chairs, locker handles and computer mice and keyboards. If there is a concern of possible contamination, buildings will be electrostatically sprayed using a powerful hypochlorous acid that carries an EPA kill claim for COVID-19 and other viruses.

Lunch rooms tables will be disinfected by lunch room monitors, custodians and nutrition staff between each lunch group.

Playground equipment will be disinfected twice a day; once after morning recess and again after lunchtime recess. High touchpoints on school buses, such as the backs of seats and handrails, will be wiped down and sprayed with disinfectant after each riding group. Bathrooms will be cleaned while class is in session.



## Shared objects

Students will have assigned classroom seating and will sanitize their own space upon arrival with alcohol-based cleaner and a paper towel. Students will clean all shared hard surfaces such as desks, computers or other equipment when entering and exiting the classroom. Elementary students will be given a disinfecting wipe to clean all shared supplies in STEM, music and art activity spaces.

Lockers will not be used in secondary schools to prevent congregating of students. Students will be allowed to bring backpacks to class in order to keep their belongings separated from others.

## Air handling & filters

Davis School District Utilities and HVAC departments will implement guidelines to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19, which includes increasing outside airflow throughout buildings, moving to a higher efficiency filtration level in HVAC equipment and running HVAC equipment two hours before and after building occupancy.

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## **Special thanks to:**

Community Relations  
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Davis County Health Department



Updates to this plan will be available at  
[davis.k12.ut.us](http://davis.k12.ut.us)