

**Frequently Asked Questions**  
**Drew Charter School Hybrid Model**  
**for**  
**Initial Phase**  
**(Pre-K through First Grade)**  
**(Updated October 7, 2020)**

*These Frequently Asked Questions and Responses were developed in relation to Drew's proposed initial shift to the Hybrid Model at Charles R. Drew Charter for Pre-K through first grade. Questions and Answers in black text were included in the initial list of Frequently Asked Questions released on 10/6/20. Questions and Answers in green text are additions incorporated into the document on 10/7/20. More information and details are also forthcoming on Drew's website.*

**Note:** Questions and Answers are specific to the initial phase of our Hybrid Model for Pre-K through first grade.

**General Questions**

**Are families bound by their answers on the survey?**

Families will have until Friday, October 9, 2020 at noon to make a final decision for the October 26, 2020 start date. The choice made will be binding through Quarter 2 (December 2020). Families will have an opportunity to make another selection later this Fall to select a new model for Quarter 3 that starts in January 2021.

**Is the intention for all students to be on the same model? Or will parents be able to opt-out of hybrid and remain fully virtual?**

Students will be able to attend school via either a hybrid or virtual model.

**Which grades will return to in-person learning under Drew's Hybrid Model that is planned to start October 26?**

Drew Charter School is planning to transition to a Hybrid Learning model for Pre-K, Kindergarten, and first grade students starting Monday, October 26, 2020. The current plan is for the remaining grades to phase in to a Hybrid Model in January 2021. *(Please note that Drew's plan requires approval by Atlanta Public Schools prior to implementation. If approved, we will proceed with the plan understanding that changes in public health data or other factors could require potential updates.)*

**If APS chooses to revert back to virtual learning, will Drew as well?**

Yes, although Drew’s model does not have to mirror APS’s model, Drew’s model cannot be any less restrictive than APS’s model. If APS returns to a full virtual model, Drew would be required to also return to a full virtual model.

**What are Drew’s plans to address potential increases in COVID-19 spread and a severe flu/cold season after the upcoming Thanksgiving and Winter holiday breaks when, due to holiday travel and social interactions, the risk of exposure to COVID-19 might be heightened?**

As an appropriate health precaution and as an additional strategy to minimize risk, Drew will implement “Virtual Quarantine Weeks” during the full week of November 30<sup>th</sup> and on January 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>. During these weeks, Drew Charter School will operate under a full-virtual model for all students and staff. Out of an abundance of caution, there will be no in-person learning during these Virtual Quarantine weeks. All students in all grades will operate in the virtual learning model during these two weeks.

**During the hybrid model, will students be given the option to continue 100% virtually?**

Yes, students will have the option of continuing virtually.

**Should hybrid learning begin, will the same curriculum planning attention be provided to those receiving education through 100% virtual learning?**

This is a really important concern for us. We do not want the transition to a hybrid model to negatively impact students who remain fully virtual. This is part of the reason we have taken a more conservative approach to other schools and districts. Based on our current plan and how we leverage the schedule and staff, we believe we can still provide an excellent virtual learning experience to students.

**Will parent meetings (during Hybrid) take place virtually or in-person?**

All parent meetings will continue to occur virtually to best protect everyone.

**Under which conditions will school be closed if someone in the building contracts COVID-19?**

Closure is a school-based decision that will be made by Drew administration in consultation with local public health officials and the Comprehensive Health Services Manager with Atlanta Public Schools. While it is not possible to account for every scenario that the school may encounter, the following scenarios may help inform the decision for when the school should temporarily close.

- 2 or more cases within 14 days, but are linked to an exposure outside the school setting (e.g. in same household, exposed at the same event outside of school)
- 2 or more cases within 14 days, linked together by some activity in school, but who are in different classrooms (outbreak involving multiple cohorts)
- A significant community outbreak is occurring or has recently occurred (e.g., large event or large local employer) and is impacting multiple staff, students, and families served by the school community
- 2 or more cases are identified within 14 days that occur across multiple classrooms and a clear connection between cases cannot be easily identified (outbreak involving multiple cohorts)
- Very high risk of community transmission

In the aforementioned scenarios with the exception of the last one, the school would close for 14 days, with the entire school being cleaned and disinfected. Additionally, all students and staff would be advised to stay home and monitor their health for 14 days. Any known close contacts would be contacted by the Support Team and given resources and advised of Drew's exposure protocols.

In the last scenario, (very high risk of community transmission) the school would close until the COVID-19 transmission numbers decrease significantly.

With any school closure, the students would automatically be moved to virtual learning.

**Since the Georgia Department of Public Health is not reporting on the number of school cases or school outbreaks, will Drew release information regarding case numbers to staff and families?**

Drew will post information via our website that speaks to any reported cases of COVID-19, the specific academy, and whether the affected Drew community member is a staff member or a student. This information will be updated weekly. Additionally, Drew has been reporting this information to the Department of Public Health on a weekly basis since the last week of August as it is mandatory.

**Will parents be allowed into the building during the Hybrid Model? No.**

### **Instruction/Student Movement**

**What will the schedule look like for Pre-K through first grade students participating in the Hybrid Model?**

Under Drew's Hybrid Model for Pre-K through first grade, the weekly schedule for students in these grades will consist of two days of in-person learning on campus and three days of virtual learning. Participating Hybrid students will be divided into two groups, also known as cohorts.

Cohort A students will come on campus for in-person learning on Mondays and Tuesdays. Cohort B students will come on campus for in-person learning on Thursdays and Fridays. All students will be virtual on Wednesdays for a deep-cleaning of the school building. Information about the weekly and daily schedules, school hours, drop off/pick up plan and other details will be directly shared with participating families soon.

**Any flexibility to choose a cohort to facilitate finding childcare for the 3 virtual days?**

That is not possible due to the size of the school population and other factors.

**Under the Pre-K through First Grade Hybrid Model, will teachers be streaming virtual at the same time as teaching in-class? If so, how will they ensure both groups get necessary attention?**

Students who choose to remain all virtual will maintain a very similar experience to our current model. Students participating in the hybrid model would engage in face-to-face live instruction.

**Will students still receive live (via Zoom) instruction on days they are not present in-person?**

Yes, In the hybrid model, the students will still receive live instruction on the days they are not present in-person.

**Will students keep their same teachers if we choose in-person or virtual?**

We will try to minimize teacher/student transitions, however, some class changes will be necessary based on the number of students that select each model and the number of staff members that are able to return to the building at this time.

**How will bathroom breaks be staggered to minimize crowding?**

Classroom restroom breaks will be scheduled to minimize crowding and allow for intermittent cleaning between use.

**Is my selection of the hybrid or virtual model locked in until the end of the school year or will there be an option to switch between virtual & hybrid?**

Parents can make adjustments to the model each quarter. You will be expected to adhere to the guidelines and processes of your selected return model (virtual or hybrid) until the end of Quarter 2, which ends on December 18th. Prior to the end of Quarter 2, you will have an opportunity to update your preference, if desired, for the start of Quarter 3.

### **Will social time (recess, lunch) be possible albeit in a safe way?**

We anticipate students will have recess daily in a safe environment. All meals will be eaten in the classroom.

### **How will social distancing be enforced?**

Precautionary measures will be taken in the arrangement of classrooms and in movement throughout the building. Students in Pre-K will sit at group tables with plastic dividers. All other grades will sit at individual student desks with 36 sq ft of space. Floor stickers and distancing signage will be posted throughout the building, and staff will monitor student movement between classes. Traffic patterns in hallways have one-way loops, and stairwells have been designated as one-way up or down. Common spaces are decluttered.

### **Will students transition for enrichment classes in the hybrid model?**

It will vary based on grade level and class designations. Any travel within the building will be scheduled to minimize the number of students in the hallway at the same time.

### **Will we continue to have Wellness Wednesdays on the hybrid schedule?**

It is likely that Wellness Wednesdays would be altered in a Hybrid or Virtual model due to pacing challenges we have experienced to date.

### **What will be the start and end times for students on in-person days?**

Our current proposal is for students to be seated for instruction by 8:30am, and dismissal would begin at 3:15pm.

### **What will be the maximum class size limit?**

Maximum occupancy of spaces has been calculated and rooms will be decluttered to allow for proper social distancing. Classrooms will be set up to maintain 36 square feet of space per student. The only exception is Pre-K classes where the students will sit at group tables with plastic dividers.

### **Will children go to the restroom unaccompanied? What is the process for restroom breaks?**

We have scheduled restroom breaks into the daily schedule but should a student need to go to the restroom outside of the designated times, we will have staff monitoring hallways to escort them and provide reminders regarding hand washing and safety.

**Will the cafeteria serve lunch to students who do not bring their own?**

There will be a bagged lunch option for students who don't bring their own lunch. All meals will be consumed in classrooms.

**When students get to school, will they be expected to sit in their seats all day?**

No, students will engage in instruction in a variety of formats, including but not limited to desks, wobble cushions, outdoor learning, recess, etc. All of these activities in grades K and 1 will continue to follow social distancing guidelines.

**What would the protocol be for students who have bathroom accidents?**

These would be handled similar to prior to COVID-19 with additional precautions and protection taken by staff.

**Can parents walk students to class?**

No.

**Will my Pre-K student be socially distanced for naptime?**

Yes.

**Can I pick up my Pre-K student prior to naptime daily?**

Yes.

**Facilities/Operations**

**Will students be required to wear masks when on campus for in-person learning under the Hybrid Model?**

Everyone is required to wear a mask at all times, except while eating. This requirement applies to students and staff.

**Will teachers wear masks at all times or only face shields?**

Everyone is required to wear a mask at all times, except while eating. This requirement applies to students and staff.

**What happens to young children who won't keep their masks on?**

We anticipate using a variety of strategies to support students in adhering to our mask requirement as well as additional protocols if students struggle to wear their masks consistently.

Videos will be shared to help families practice mask wearing and acclimate children before returning to school.

**Have any improvements been made to the building's air filtration?**

Yes, we have installed higher rated air filters throughout our buildings that increase fresh air circulation. We are following CDC, EPA and ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Engineers) recommendations with regard to air filtration and fresh air circulation. Specifically, we have increased our air filters from a level 8 to level 13, which is basically the hospital grade level of air filtration. We have also added pre-filters to units that can accommodate this modification. The HVAC system at the Elementary Academy has new roof top units, which were replaced this past summer. At the JA/SA campus, CO2 sensors, that help control fresh air flow, are being calibrated and replaced, if defective. All of our HVAC systems will run on occupied mode 24 hours a day so that fresh air is circulated constantly throughout the buildings. We are also considering the possibility of UV light and/or electromagnetic air purification system retrofits.

**Will classrooms with shared half-moon tables be converted to individual desks?**

Yes, furniture will be removed or replaced in order to best facilitate social distancing. In kindergarten and first grade, each student will have an individual desk. Pre-K students will use group tables with dividers.

**Will before & aftercare be available for the days that students are in-person?**

At the moment, we are primarily focused on re-entering school safely under the hybrid model. Before and aftercare will be phased in when and if possible.

**Please provide information about pickup and drop off practices.**

New arrival & dismissal processes are being finalized and will be communicated before the start of the hybrid model implementation. All students will be subject to a touchless temperature scan and mask check daily before entering the school.

**Do restrooms vent to the outside or recirculate?**

Restrooms vent outside. HVAC systems will circulate fresh air 24 hours a day and air filters have been increased to MERV level 13 from 8. This is hospital grade air filtration.

**How are shared spaces and common areas being cleaned daily?**

Communal restrooms will be treated twice during the school day with electrostatic disinfectant sprayers in addition to receiving regular attention from custodial staff. Classrooms will be

disinfected nightly. High Touch areas, like entrance doors and door handles, will be cleaned periodically during the day. This is in addition to nightly cleaning and sanitizing.

**When can students who are not currently returning to the Hybrid Model come pick up their personal items left at the school last March?**

In order to limit COVID-19 exposure, access to lockers and personal belongings will only be permitted for students who choose to return to school under the Hybrid or future models.

**Will there be any barriers provided for desks/tables?**

Reception counters, teachers with assigned desks and individual offices that serve children will have a plexiglass desk shield. We must all rethink how we work, interact and serve students to maintain social distancing as much as possible.

**Will there be dividers placed in between students in the classrooms?**

No, all students will sit in individual desks with 36 square feet of space. The only exception is Pre-K classes where children will sit at group tables with dividers.

**Should we return to school and someone is infected, what is the procedure for cleaning the facility?**

If there is an indication that there has been exposure to a reported case of COVID-19, the parents/guardians of the group and/or close contacts will be contacted as per the Exposure Protocol and the affected room will be closed for up to 24 hours. Cleaning and disinfection of the area will be performed by the appropriate staff.

Our current procedures and plans exceed both APS recommendations and CDC guidelines. Drew has made a significant investment in state of the art Electrostatic Disinfectant Sprayers that will be used in each facility daily. Facility surface and air COVID-19 testing will occur proactively on a regular basis. Our best defense will be preventing the virus from coming into building by using health checks and temperature screening.

**With water fountains closed, how will students/staff have access to water throughout the school day?**

Each building has water bottle refill stations which will be operational. Regular drinking fountains will be shut off.



## **Exposure Response Protocols, Contact Tracing, and Communications**

### **Will students and staff returning for in-person learning under the Hybrid Model be required to be tested for COVID before returning on October 26th?**

Drew Charter School will provide opportunities for free, onsite testing for staff and students who are opting-in to in-person learning via the Hybrid Model. Testing results will remain confidential. Staff will be required and students will be highly encouraged to be tested prior to entering the building for in-person learning on October 26th.

### **What happens if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19?**

- If a staff member or student tests positive for COVID-19, the Support Team will guide the family/staff member in determining the Drew community members with whom they have been in contact and the campus locations that were visited. The affected community member's identity will be protected.
- The Support Team will notify Drew community members\* who have had contact with the affected Drew community member and the appropriate response protocols will be implemented.
- A household member who tested positive should remain home isolated as recommended by the CDC for 14 days since the symptoms first appeared and at least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved.
- Household members of the affected person should monitor for symptoms and are quarantined from campus activities for 14-days after the last exposure to the positive household member.

*\*All parents/guardians in the affected classroom/group/etc. will be notified within 24 hours of the school receiving notice of a positive COVID-19 notification.*

### **How will Drew mitigate risks and handle potential COVID cases?**

Drew has formed a COVID Support Team to mitigate risks and address potential cases. Click [here](#) for more information about the COVID Support Team, prevention measures, contact tracing, and exposure processes and protocols.

### **What is the process for daily temperature checks?**

The school has invested in several touchless, infrared temperature scanners. The wrist is held over the device and the temperature is scanned instantly. The device talks and also gives a visual indicator if temperature is elevated or above allowable range.

All temperature scanning will occur curbside before the parent/guardian drives off or walks away. If a child scans a high temperature (100.4 or above), the child will be denied access and

will be required to return home to follow the Exposure Response Protocol. If a child has an elevated temperature (99.6 - 100.3), they will be taken to the pre-designated isolation area, and the nurse will re-scan and perform a health check to determine if the child is able to stay at school. The nurse will also advise the parents of the student(s) with the elevated temperature(s) of the protocol taken if they are not determined as eligible to be sent home.

### **What will be done to prevent a bottleneck of students and staff at the door for daily temperature checks?**

Staff and students may only enter the building via specific, separate entry points to minimize crowding. All temperature screening and mask checks for students will occur curbside before entering the building. Staging will be set up at each entry point to encourage social distancing, which will include markers on the ground to indicate 6 feet of spacing between each person. Some arrival and dismissal times will be staggered.

### **What happens if someone has a temperature when they arrive for school in the morning?**

Anyone (staff or student) arriving at school with a temperature will be denied access to the building. The communicated protocol will request that parents and guardians commit to checking temperatures and potential symptoms prior to bringing/sending students to school. Additionally, staff members will have a health screener app that will indicate that they are not cleared to come to work with a temperature. (We are also considering the use of the health screener app for students as well.)

All temperature scanning will occur curbside before the parent/guardian drives off or walks away. If a child scans a high temperature (100.4 or above), the child will be denied access and will be required to return home to follow the Exposure Response Protocol. If a child has an elevated temperature (99.6 - 100.3), they will be taken to the pre-designated isolation area, and the nurse will re-scan and perform a health check to determine if the child is able to stay at school. The nurse will also advise the parents of the student(s) with the elevated temperature(s) of the protocol taken if they are not determined as eligible to be sent home.

### **What happens if a student or staff member gets sick during the day?**

As per our previously communicated Exposure Protocol:

- The teacher will radio the nurse or member of the administrative team to move the student to isolation.
  - *If the sick person is the teacher, they will radio to the nurse to be relieved of duty and go home to contact their physician to determine if testing is necessary.*
- The student will immediately be isolated in a pre-designated location depending upon the campus.
- The parent/guardian of the affected student will be contacted for immediate pick-up.

- Once the student is picked up, the parent will consult with a pediatrician to determine if testing is necessary.
  - Negative COVID-19 test results:
    - Student can return to school after 24 hours of no symptoms without medication and following Drew’s existing illness management policy.

Positive COVID-19 test results:

- COVID Support Team initiates a list of close contacts of the ill students and communicates the possible exposure to teacher(s)/staff/parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver(s) in the affected group.
- Exposed area(s) closed off for up to 24 hours. Cleaning and disinfection of area(s) performed by appropriate staff.
- Nurse/members of COVID Support Team will work with local and district health officials to assess transmission levels and support contact tracing efforts.
- Close contacts are notified, advised to stay home (quarantine for 14 days), and to consult with their healthcare provider for evaluation and determination if testing is recommended.
- Members of the student(s)’ household are requested to quarantine for 14 days.
- Student(s) returns to school after meeting criteria for ending home isolation.

**How do we ensure students and teachers are staying safe outside of school in order to limit COVID-19 exposure?**

We will encourage all staff and hybrid families to sign a community pledge that speaks to staying safe, wearing masks, washing hands, and practicing social distancing in order to keep our Drew community safe. Pre-K through first grade families joining the Hybrid Model will receive the pledge document soon. In addition to the free COVID-19 testing provided prior to the start of our virtual model on October 26<sup>th</sup>, we will also offer retesting bi-weekly (to staff and students who are opting for in-person). You may view a copy of Drew’s COVID-19 Community Pledge [here](#).

**What will be the protocol if a student tests positive for COVID-19?**

- The student and household members who are members of the Drew community should not come to campus.
- The student’s family should contact the nurse that serves their academy.
- The exposed area(s) will be closed off for up to 24 hours. Cleaning and disinfection of area(s) will be performed by appropriate staff.
- The affected student and household members should stay home for the length of quarantine time recommended by the CDC - currently 14 days.

- They will need to consult with their doctor, and the nurse will encourage them to be re-tested to indicate that they are negative for COVID-19 prior to returning to school.

The Support Team will notify any Drew community members who have had close contact with the affected student and the appropriate response protocols will be implemented based on potential exposure. The affected student's identity will be protected.

- Determined close contacts of the student will be quarantined at home for 14 days since the last exposure to the student who tested positive for COVID-19.
- Close contacts in quarantine should be tested and should self-monitor for symptoms and seek medical advice as needed. A negative test in the 14-day window does not change the quarantine time.

### **What will be the protocol if a teacher tests positive for COVID-19?**

If a teacher tests positive for COVID-19, they should stay at home and follow the protocols by contacting the nurse and Human Resources immediately. The nurse and identified Support Team will determine the Drew community members with whom the teacher has been in contact. The affected teacher's identity will be protected. The exposed area(s) will be closed off for up to 24 hours. Cleaning and disinfection of area(s) will be performed by appropriate staff.

The Support Team will notify any Drew community members who have had close contact with the affected teacher and the appropriate response protocols will be implemented based on potential exposure.

- Determined close contacts of the teacher will be quarantined at home for 14 days since the last exposure to the staff member who tested positive for COVID-19.
- Close contacts in quarantine should be tested and should self-monitor for symptoms and seek medical advice as needed. A negative test in the 14-day window does not change the quarantine time.

### **Will my child's identity be protected if he/she or someone in my family contracts COVID-19?**

The identity of any staff member or student who tests positive for COVID-19 will not be released. In the case of a household/family member testing positive for COVID-19, they will be considered to have had "close contact exposure". As per Drew's Exposure Response Protocol:

- The student and/or household members should not come to campus; The student's family should contact the nurse that serves their academy;
- The Support Team will interview, contact affected Drew community members, and implement response protocols.
- The student and household members should stay home for the length of quarantine time recommended by the CDC - currently 14 days from the last date of exposure to the

affected person. They will need to consult with their doctor, and the nurse will encourage them to be tested prior to returning to school;

- The student and household members should monitor for symptoms as recommended by the CDC.

**What will the policy be around contact tracing and communications? Will individual privacy take precedence over public health, or vice versa?**

Neither public health nor privacy will be compromised. There will be a support team that will support the nurse with any communications to Drew community members in order to identify locations in the school that have been visited by an affected person. Nurses will maintain close contact with the Georgia Department of Health (DPH) and follow DPH guidelines as they maintain student health information and monitor absences. Individuals will be notified of possible exposure to illness and/or cases of COVID-19 should they or their student(s) be impacted. Nurses and members of the Support Team will maintain confidentiality per the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

**How will I as a parent be notified if my child is a part of the contact tracing process as a result of someone contracting COVID-19?**

All parents/guardians in an affected classroom/group/etc. will be notified within 24 hours of the school receiving notice of a positive COVID-19 notification. The initial contact will be via the phone number on file in Infinite Campus. There will be a follow-up communication via the email address on file in Infinite Campus.