



Dear parents and guardians,

We hope you've had a good summer and that you've been able to spend some relaxing time with family and friends. We are looking forward to seeing students again when we begin the school year Monday, Aug. 23.

As we look forward to that day, there are some things that we want you to know. COVID-19 is still in our community. With the emergence of variants and the persistence of positive cases, the Davis School District will continue to follow many of the protocols it began last school year. Those protocols involve:

## **Collaboration with Davis County Health Department**

We truly can't say enough about our partnership with the Davis County Health Department. We worked with its health care professionals throughout the 2020-21 school year and relied on them to provide COVID tests and then vaccines to anyone who wanted them. The health department helped us open our schools and assisted in keeping them open — as long as infection thresholds were maintained — throughout the school year. Last school year, if infection thresholds were exceeded, schools were shut down for a period of time. In accordance with House Bill 294, the same pattern will occur this year.

## **Infection Thresholds**

According to statute passed during the 2021 Utah legislative session, if a school hits a COVID-19 outbreak threshold of 2% of students and staff for a school of more than 1,500 or 30 students and staff for a school of 1,500 or less, the school will conduct a Test to Stay event and test students and staff for the virus. The following protocols will be adhered to:

- Parents must give their approval for their child to be tested. Students not tested will not be allowed to remain at school.
- Those found with the virus will return home and be quarantined.
- Students and staff who are fully vaccinated will not be subject to Test to Stay testing.
- Those who have had COVID-19 within 90 days of the testing event will not need to be tested
- The school will remain open if the testing positive rate is below 2 percent.

## **Face Masks**

House Bill 294 passed at the end of the 2021 State Legislative Session eliminated all mask mandates that had been established to that point. The Davis School District will follow the direction of the Utah State Legislature, the Utah State Health Department and the Davis County Health Department regarding the use of face masks. Face masks are not currently required in schools. However, students and faculty members can wear face masks if they choose to do so.

## **Vaccinations**

At this point, vaccinations are available for those 12 years of age and older. The Davis School District has provided faculty members opportunities to be vaccinated. Schools have also hosted vaccination clinics for staff and students. The district encourages parents to consider vaccinations for their children. As soon as vaccinations are developed and available for younger-aged students, the district will work with the Davis County Health Department to provide students opportunities to be vaccinated — with permission of parents.

## **Staying Home When Sick**

The number one way we can keep any cold or sickness from spreading is staying away from others when sick. This applies in our schools. Everyone gets sick. If someone is sick, they are to stay home and get better before returning to

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school. Teachers will work with students who are sick and give them an opportunity to make up any work that was missed when they were out.

### **Cleaning and Disinfecting**

Custodians in all Davis School District schools will continue efforts to clean and disinfect our schools. This includes the use of electrostatic spray guns that use a powerful hypochlorous acid that carries an EPA-approved kill claim for COVID-19 and other viruses.

### **Hygiene Etiquette**

Handwashing and the use of hand sanitizer will remain common practices in our schools. Davis School District has a large quantity of hand sanitizer available and hand sanitizing stations remain at our schools. Students and staff can easily use those to quickly clean their hands.

### **COVID Aides**

The use of COVID-19 aides will continue in all of our schools. These individuals were invaluable last school year in tracing those who came in contact with people affected by the virus, and, thanks to federal monies, those aides will continue to be employed and provide schools an extra measure of safety.

### **Letters/COVID-19 Dashboard**

We will continue to communicate the number of positive cases with you. If the school your child attends has a situation in which someone has been diagnosed as having COVID-19, you will find that out in a letter sent to you from the school principal. The district will also continue to use its COVID-19 dashboard and link it to the district homepage so you'll be able to see the trends that are occurring.

### **Online Options**

If you would like your child — for any reason — to not attend school in a traditional on-campus setting, the Davis School District has a robust online educational program known as Davis Connect. It was recently awarded a Best of State Award for being the top K-12 online program in Utah. Last year, more than 5,000 students enrolled in the program. It offers 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>

### **Answers to Other Questions**

*What are the symptoms of COVID-19?*

According to the Centers for Disease Control, people with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Anyone can have mild to severe symptoms. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat

- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

This list does not include all possible symptoms. Older adults and people who have severe underlying medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness.

*What will occur if my child contracts COVID-19?*

If your child contracts the virus, he or she will not be able to attend school and participate in activities until 14 consecutive days pass and they are no longer symptomatic. Teachers will work with students who are sick and give them an opportunity to make up any work that was missed when they were out.

*What will happen if COVID-19 is found in my child's classroom?*

If the virus is found within the classroom, the COVID aide will only focus on those who have been within three feet and have spent a total of 15 minutes with a person who is confirmed to have the virus.

*What if my child has been in close contact with someone who has a confirmed case of COVID-19?*

If your secondary-age child has been within that proximity, you will have four options:

1. Your child can be quarantined for 10 days (including weekends) and return to school.
2. Your child can be quarantined for seven days and receive a rapid test. If they do not have the virus after seven days, they can return to school.
3. They can attend school and will be required to wear a face mask for five school days. You will monitor their conditions. If any symptoms arise, they must stay at home.
4. Remain in school with no mask requirement and monitor for symptoms. If any symptoms arise, the student will be sent home.

If your elementary child has been within that proximity, you'll have four options:

1. Your child can be quarantined for 10 days (including weekends) and return to school.
2. Your child can be quarantined for seven days and receive a rapid test. If they do not have the virus after seven days, they can return to school.
3. They can attend school and will be required to wear a face mask for 10 school days. You will monitor their conditions. If any symptoms arise, they must stay at home.
4. They can attend school, will be required to wear a mask for 7 days and receive a rapid test. If they do not have the virus, they can remain in school without a mask.

*What about sports, including those who participate and those who are spectators?*

The school district is waiting for direction from the Utah High School Activities Association regarding sports. As soon as that information is relayed to us, we will pass it to you.

We ask you for your support through this process.

Reid Newey



Superintendent