



Duquesne City School District

300 Kennedy Avenue
Duquesne, PA 15110
Administrative Office: (P) 412-466-5300
(F) 412-466-7599
Elementary Office: (P) 412-466-9600
(F) 412-469-3625

August 20, 2021

Dear Duquesne Families,

The educators and staff at Duquesne City, and all of us at Central Administration, continue to prepare for a safe and healthy return to school. Today, I am writing with information pertaining to our current plan for the start of the 2021-2022 school year. An important part of our planning depends on you!

Mitigation Strategies

Duquesne City School District has developed a mitigation chart to accommodate the fluidity as it relates to an uptick in COVID-19 cases and/or internal spread. **Our position is subject to change at any time.**

***The Duquesne City School District will be operating on Mitigation Level 1 - Recommend Masking K-7 at the start of the 2021-2022 school year.**

*Mitigation Level 1 Recommend Masking PreK-7	Mitigation Level 2 Universal Masking of Unvaccinated Population PreK-7	Mitigation Level 3 Universal Masking PreK-7
<p>The district strongly recommends and encourages that the entire school community wear a mask in accordance with current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations, especially the unvaccinated population while in the classroom. Masks will be mandatory during all transitions (i.e. coming in and out of the school building, traveling from the classroom to the cafeteria, classroom to the restroom, classroom to specials, etc...).</p> <p>Following CDC order, universal masking will be required while on district transportation to and from school and activities. This includes all students and staff, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated.</p>	<p>The district requires that all students in pre-Kindergarten to seventh grade students, wear a mask at all time while indoors.</p> <p>Parents/guardians of students in grades pre-Kindergarten-7th who "opt out" of wearing a mask will have to inform the district in writing providing medical documentation on physician letterhead.</p> <p>Students may remove their masks while eating or drinking inside when socially distanced to the extent feasible, and during mask breaks, or outdoors.</p> <p>Following CDC order, universal masking will be required while on district transportation to and from school and activities. This includes all students and staff, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated.</p> <p>Modifications to this strategy may occur at any time based upon active cases, transmission, or other factors that suggest masking might reduce the spread in a</p>	<p>The district requires that all students in pre-Kindergarten to seventh grade students wear a mask at all times while indoors.</p> <p>Parents/guardians of students in grades pre-Kindergarten-7th who "opt out" of wearing a mask will have to inform the district in writing providing medical documentation on physician letterhead.</p> <p>Students may remove their masks while eating or drinking inside when socially distanced to the extent feasible, and during mask breaks, or outdoors.</p> <p>Following CDC order, universal masking will be required while on district transportation to and from school and activities. This includes all students and staff, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated.</p> <p>Modifications to this strategy may occur at any time based upon active cases, transmission, or other factors that suggest masking might reduce the spread in a</p>

Dr. Sue Mariani – *Superintendent*
Eric Harper – *Principal / LEA*
Celeste Rudge – *Director of Literacy & Innovation*

Dr. William Kerr – *Receiver*
George Little – *Assistant Principal / DSAP*
Dr. Joseph Merhaut – *Special Education Consultant*

Aaron Hassett – *Business Manager*
Dr. Jamie Schmidt – *Director of Curriculum, et. al*
Jim Miller – *Network & Technology Specialist*
Brian Stowell – *Director of Facilities, et. al.*

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Contact Tracing, Isolation, and Quarantine

The guidance developed by the CDC and Allegheny Health Department continue to highlight important protocols for contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine which are currently under review and will be shared once received.

Face Coverings

In the upcoming days, you will be receiving correspondence requesting your preference in regards to face coverings for your child / children in the school setting. Based on your response, we will be able to better prepare to assure your requests are granted. Please note that students who wear a face covering will have ample / scheduled opportunities to remove them and will be granted breaks as requested. Face coverings will not be required outdoors unless parents request their child / children to wear one.

Transportation

Face coverings are mandatory for all participants riding a bus. There will be two (2) students per seat with face coverings. Many buses will have less students traveling this way as the District is strongly encouraging parent transportation to and from school.

We ask that you show students, faculty, and staff patience and grace in the coming months. Planning for this school year has not been easy. While we know we will not make every family 100% happy with the decisions made, we strive to ensure that the quality of education is not compromised and that each and every student and staff member is safe and supported at all times.

Please keep in mind, last school year we were able to successfully educate over 350 students by following local COVID-19 data and responding accordingly. Children at Duquesne received a rigorous education and we plan on continuing to provide a rigorous education. We will be offering in-person or our own cyber school this school year.

If you have specific questions, always feel free to contact your school principal(s), Mr. Harper or Mr. Little.

Your cooperation and partnership is very much appreciated.

Sue A. Mariani, Ed.D
Superintendent
Duquesne City School District
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AASA Nationally Certified Superintendent

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