



DOLTON SCHOOL DISTRICT 149



2021-2022 RETURN TO IN-PERSON LEARNING MODEL

FEBRUARY 8, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Dolton School District 149 held a town hall meeting on January 6, 2022 to share with our parents and community stakeholders the need to provide an optional hybrid model due to the rising surge in Covid-19 cases. The Hybrid optional program began Monday January 10, 2022 and will end effective Friday, February 11, 2022.

On-line learning will no longer be available for students after February 11, 2022. All students must return to full in-person learning on Tuesday, February 15, 2022.

If you are interested in signing your child(ren) up with S&T Lab to participate in weekly Covid testing every Tuesday and Friday, please visit our website at www.sd149.org and click on the link. If you are interested, you must complete a form for each child and please include your email address. Your child's test results will be emailed to you within 48 hours.

As students return to in-person learning, we are sharing the new COVID-19 Protocol from the Center of Disease Control and the Illinois Department of Public Health for you to review.

Students diagnosed with COVID-19

- The student and all District 149 relatives and siblings that live in the household will go into isolation and quarantine at home for a minimum of 5 days and up to a maximum of 10 days.
 - Date of first exposure or symptoms is considered day zero (0).
 - A negative COVID-19 test result is required to return to school.
 - Masks are required in school and on the bus daily at all times.
 - Must be symptom free-NO symptoms present in order to return to school.
- The rest of the students will remain in class and symptoms must be monitored.
- The teacher and staff are required to wear a mask and monitor any symptoms.
- The teacher will continue to work in-person in the classroom.

Family members or any members in the household who test positive for COVID-19

- All District 149 students that live in the household will go into isolation and quarantine at home for a minimum of 5 days and up to a maximum of 10 days.
 - Date of first exposure or symptoms is considered day zero (0).
 - A negative COVID-19 test result is required to return to school.
 - Masks are required in school and on the bus daily at all times.
 - Must be symptom free-NO symptoms present in order to return to school.
- The rest of the students will remain in class and symptoms must be monitored.
- The teacher and staff are required to wear a mask and monitor any symptoms.
- The teacher will continue to work in-person in the classroom.

Students with prolonged symptoms past 10 days

- Negative COVID-19 test is required to return to school
- Physician Release letter is required.

Students with Covid-19 symptoms – Probable Case

- Symptoms include: sore throat, vomiting, swollen eyes, rash, diarrhea, fever, fatigue, runny nose, cough, cold/flu-like symptoms, blue lips, and shortness of breath.
- Isolation and quarantine at home for a minimum of 5 days and up to a maximum of 10 days if symptoms persist.
- A negative COVID-19 test result is required to return to school.
- Masks are required in school and on the bus daily at all times.
- Must be symptom free-NO symptoms present in order to return to school.
- If the student is positive, the student will isolate and quarantine 5 days.
- The rest of the students remain in class and symptoms must be monitored

Certified teachers and support staff members diagnosed with COVID-19

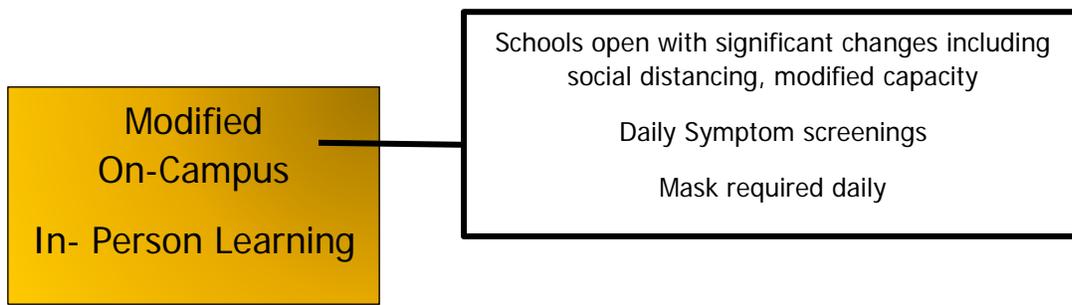
- Isolation and quarantine at home for a minimum of 5 days and up to a maximum of 10 days if symptoms persist.
- First day of symptoms or the date of positive test result is considered day Zero (0).
- Return to work with a negative COVID-19 test result.
- Other staff members should monitor for COVID-19 symptoms. If a staff member exhibits symptoms, they must isolate and quarantine for 5 calendar days and return to work with a negative COVID test result.

Student Attendance

- Students are **not** marked absent if they are in isolation and quarantined if they **attend online.**

Dolton School District 149's Plan to Return to Full In-Person Learning Guidelines for Return to In-Person Learning Model

The following guidelines are required for all public and nonpublic schools in Illinois serving Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade students. Please be advised that these requirements are subject to change pursuant to updated public health guidance and changing public health conditions. We are also attaching the **Illinois State Board of Education's (ISBE)** Transition Joint Guidance (Appendix). This document was written in conjunction with the **Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH)** (Appendix). Along with these documents, we are also attaching the Access/Equity/Engagement document created by the Illinois Association of School Administrators (**IASA**) (Appendix). Within several of the documents, you will read various references to in-person learning models. Refer to the diagram below. Please be advised that Dolton School District 149's "**In-person Instruction**" model is equivalent to the "**Modified On-Campus**" model.



In preparation to return to full in-person instruction, Dolton School District 149 will continue its plan to include the following protocols according to ISBE and IDPH:

- Require use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Require facemasks, at all times, except at breakfast and lunch.
- Provide plexi glass shields on all student desks.
- Require COVID-19 posters and social distance markers in designated areas.
- Recommend 6 feet social distancing be observed, as much as possible.
- Require all schools conduct symptom screenings and temperature checks daily.
- Require students with temperatures of 100.4 to move to the isolation room and contact parents to pick up child. Student must quarantine for 5 days.
- Provide bottled water to all students daily to maintain hydration via Organic Life.
- Require students to wash and/or sanitize hands frequently throughout the day.

- Set washroom breaks daily ensuring proper cleaning and sanitizing after each use.
- Require all visitors to have appointments upon entry to all school buildings.
- Require an increase in school wide cleaning and disinfecting.
- Provide communication about social distancing and safety for staff and students through: newsletters, marquees, robocalls, flyers, social media (Facebook & Twitter), press releases, Class Dojo, Google Classroom and the district website.

Plan and modified for Dolton School District 149

It is important to note that the following guidelines from the IDPH (Illinois Department of Public Health) should be followed:

- Require use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including face coverings;
- Prohibit more than 50 individuals from gathering in one space;
- Require social distancing be observed, as much as possible;
- Require that schools conduct symptom screenings and temperature checks or require that individuals self-certify that they are free of symptoms before entering school buildings; and
- Require an increase in school wide cleaning and disinfection

These guidelines are required for all public and nonpublic schools in Illinois serving Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade students. Please be advised that these requirements are subject to change pursuant to updated public health guidance and changing public health conditions. We are also attaching the **Illinois State Board of Education's (ISBE)** Guidance (Appendix). This document was written in conjunction with the **Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH)**(Appendix). Along with these documents, we are also attaching the Access/Equity/Engagement document created by the Illinois

- Teachers report to designated classes to minimize movement throughout the building
- Require students to wash and/or sanitize hands frequently throughout the day
- Set washroom breaks accordingly using social distancing daily
- Require all visitors to have appointments upon entry to all school buildings

Face Coverings for In-Person

All students, staff, administrators and visitors in any of our District facilities must wear face coverings at all times unless they are younger than two years of age or have trouble breathing with the necessary medical documentation on file. Face coverings are expected to be worn at all times in all facilities even when social distancing is maintained. Dolton SD 149 will provide face coverings (masks/face shields) for staff and students during the instructional day. Students are allowed to wear personal masks (**no bandanas or scarves**) that adhere to the district's dress code (no skulls, profanity, or inappropriate symbols or images).



Self-Certification & Symptom Screening

Only students and staff members who are healthy should report to school for in-person learning. As such, Dolton School District 149 is requiring parents and staff to self-certify themselves daily prior to entering of the District's facilities. It should be noted that ALL staff member's temperatures will be taken upon arriving to work daily. If any of the following symptoms of COVID-19 are exhibited by staff or students, then they should remain home.

- **Fever of 100.4 or higher**
- **Chills**
- **Cough**
- **Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing**
- **Headache**
- **Loss of taste or smell**
- **Nausea or vomiting**
- **Fatigue**
- **Muscle or body aches**
- **Congestion or runny nose**
- **Diarrhea**

Health and Wellness Isolation Rooms for Students In-person

- Each building will have a room or space separate from the nurse’s office where students who are feeling ill are evaluated or wait to be picked up. These rooms will be called isolation rooms. Face coverings must be worn by students and staff at all times. A record will be kept of all persons who enter the room and the room will be disinfected several times a day. Strict social distancing is required. Parents, guardians, and/or authorized individuals should pick up ill students within a reasonable amount of time; students will not be allowed to utilize the school bus for the return home.
- Students who do not display symptoms of COVID-19 can be seen and treated in the nurse’s office. These would include students who are injured during the school day or students with special health care needs such as those with chronic health conditions (i.e. diabetes or seizures), those requiring medical treatments (i.e. suctioning, tube feeding, or nebulizers), and those with individual health care plans.
- Nurse’s offices will be separate from the isolation rooms. School nurse staff and/or administrator/designee working with individuals with illness symptoms will be provided the appropriate PPE. This includes gloves and face coverings to interact with staff and students. Appropriate PPE should be used in conjunction with appropriate hand hygiene and standard precautions.
- Immunization requirements still remain in effect during this time period. Information regarding local health departments and health systems can be provided.
- Considerations have been given to the impact that COVID-19 has had on the mental health of faculty, staff, students, and their families. The mental and emotional well-being of students and staff members will be monitored. Access to school counselors, social workers and school psychologists are readily available and will be communicated to students. Principals will establish a Building Crisis Team to provide supports, as needed, to staff and students. The District will also have a District Crisis Team to coordinate supports. Social Workers will work with students on lessons that are age-appropriate concerning social distancing, hand washing, mask wearing and proper hygiene.

Safety

Social Distancing in a School Environment

All Main Entrances

Dolton SD 149 will take measures to ensure social distancing:

- Touch-free thermometer check (thermos scans).
- Masks are required.
- Students seated in every other seat in the classroom
- Staff will monitor/supervise students in line using 6 feet social distancing
- Employees will be required to utilize the thermos scans upon entering the workplace.

Transportation

Dolton SD 149 will take measures to ensure social distancing:

- Assigned seating with the first row of seats on the bus remaining empty.
- **Buses will be sanitized between groups and/or stops.**
- PPE provided to bus driver and assistant.
- Driver and assistant must self-certify prior to entering the bus.
- Where at all possible, parents will be encouraged to drop off and pick up students from their schools. This is optional but busing will run their normal routes.
- DSD 149 will continue to work with our current transportation company, First Student Bus Company, to provide transportation for students to and from school. We will continue to follow all COVID-19 guidelines related to travel. **The first row of seats on every bus will be empty.** Students will be placed according to CDC guidelines. **No more than 45 students will be transported on any of our school buses for any reason.** Masks must be worn by all students and the bus company will keep extra masks in the event our students forget their masks on a given day. **All students must have a temperature scan before boarding the bus. All cleaning supplies necessary to sanitize the buses will be provided by First Student Bus Company to ensure the buses stay cleaned and sanitized. The buses will be sanitized several times throughout the day and in between pick up and drop offs by a First Student driver and/or bus aide.**

Classrooms

Dolton SD 149 will implement regulations to reduce large clusters in one location:

- Assigned seating with 6 feet of distance wherever possible.
- Arrange desks so they all face the same direction.
- Face masks are required to be worn by students, staff, and visitors.
- Avoid switching classes and allow teachers to travel instead of students.
- Students or staff with symptoms referred to medical provider immediately

Lunch Cafeteria

Dolton SD 149 will enforce protocols to ensure cleanliness and reduce chances of contamination by:

- Utilizing disposable utensils
- Entry and Exit procedures

- No sharing of any sort (soup/salad bars discontinued)
- Offering two bottles of water daily or as needed
- No self-serve stations
- Assigned seating
- Promote social distancing

Communication

Dolton SD 149 will continue to execute information regarding social distancing and safety for personnel and students through any of these platforms:

- Newsletters
- Marquees
- District website
- Robo-calls
- Flyers
- Social media: Facebook, District Website and Press Releases
- Class Dojo
- Google Platforms

Washing Hands

Students and staff are expected to perform regular hand washing:

- All classrooms have hand dispensers
- Before eating
- After eating
- After using shared equipment
- After using bathroom

Procedures for handling individuals who have tested positive:

- Designated areas will be wiped down and sanitized (after 24 hours if possible)
- The last people that came in contact with are encouraged to self-quarantine for at least 5 days we will follow the COVID-19 Protocols.

Individuals will only be allowed back if:

- Symptom free
- at least 5 calendar days have passed since they have shown symptoms

Preventative procedures:

- Encourage individuals to stay at home when not feeling well (remote learning will be available)
- Promote handwashing
- Ensure social distancing
- Require usage of face masks
- Remind individuals to sanitize

Continue to hire custodians and contracted custodial cleaning team

Ensure the cleanliness of the environment by:

- Establishing a sanitization schedule
- If a person tested positive wait 24 hours (if possible) before sanitizing
- Adjust custodial schedule as necessary

EQUITY

Dolton School District 149 remains committed to a holistic approach to our in-person-learning model. In addition to academic support, DSD149 will continue to support students and families with their physical, mental, and emotional health during these unprecedented times.

ATTENDANCE

Student Attendance

Daily attendance and engagement of students is and has always been a cornerstone of Dolton SD 149's educational expectations. We will continue to follow attendance procedures and encourage parents to report student absence from in-person learning model. We will also continue to follow all state laws mandating the reporting of child abuse and neglect. Dolton SD 149 will provide face coverings (masks/face shields) for staff and students for in-person learning during the instructional day.

Any student demonstrating a fever, cough, chills, breathing difficulties, muscle pain, sore throat, or any symptoms related to COVID-19, or non-characteristic behaviors should remain at home and parents are encouraged to contact the school. If students are well enough to participate in on-line the teacher will know if students log on for class. This option is only available if a student test positive, so there is no interruption in learning.

If any student is too sick to participate and they do not log in for class they will be reported as absent.

Staff Attendance

Dolton SD 149 encourages and supports staff attendance and is committed to providing appropriate protective equipment, clean and hygienically safe environments, adequate staffing, planning and collaboration time, necessary and reasonable modifications and accommodations and, as always, a voice in processes and decision-making related to the safety and well-being of staff and students.

Dolton SD 149 will provide face coverings (masks/face shields) for staff and students during the instructional day. All students and staff are required to wear masks unless medical restrictions are documented.

SPECIAL EDUCATION GUIDANCE

According to Federal guidance from the Office of Special Education and the Office for Civil Rights, if a district closes its schools to slow or stop the spread of COVID-19, and continues to provide educational opportunities to general education student populations, the schools must ensure that students with disabilities also have equal access to the same opportunities. Included in this requirement, schools must implement the IEP of a student with a disability to the greatest extent possible. This means every attempt possible has been tried and documented to ensure equitable access for students with a disability.

DSD 149 is committed to Equity, and this includes services and programs for students with disabilities. Special Education departments nationally and locally recognize that this will be challenging in certain circumstances and that compensatory services may be necessary to ensure equity for all students. Health and safety is the No. 1 concern.

Related Services

Students will be provided instructional support through related service activities for occupational therapy, speech, physical therapy and social work services.

Homebound Students

- Homebound or home instruction will be delivered entirely through remote instruction.
- For special education students with IEPs, the nature, extent, and service delivery model should be determined by the child's IEP team.

Medically Fragile Students

- Student safety is the primary consideration when determining how to meet the needs of students with disabilities who are medically-fragile or immunocompromised upon return to in-person instruction.

- The district may convene an IEP meeting to review the student’s health care plan and determine any potentially harmful effects that may result from potential risk of exposure to COVID-19 if in-person instruction resumes.
- The IEP Team may consider how to address this risk to the student, including consideration of alternative placement options such as continuing the implementation of remote learning, a hybrid of virtual and homebound instruction, or other appropriate service delivery and placement options in the student’s least restrictive environment. 34 C.F.R. §§ 300.114-300.116.
- The district ensures full compliance with IDPH safety requirements, including social distancing policies as much as possible and take into consideration individual student circumstances.

Social and Emotional Needs

- The district can assist families in preparing students with disabilities who struggle with changes in routine or understanding personal boundaries for the return to in-person instruction by providing social narratives about the return to school and advanced notice regarding anticipated changes to the environment that the child may experience upon return.
- The district will offer additional social work or counseling service or increased social and emotional (SEL) programming during the time of transition.

Students with 504 Plans

- Students will receive accommodations based on their 504 Plans.

Early Childhood Transition

- There is no flexibility from the federal and state requirement to ensure that a child transitioning from an early intervention program has either an IEP or continued Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) in effect on the child’s third birthday (23 Ill. Admin. Code 226.260).
- In order to comply with evaluation timelines, early childhood evaluation teams may conduct assessment procedures, such as parent interviews, child care provider interviews, parent rating scales, and review of early intervention reports, in lieu of direct student contact for evaluations.
- Face-to-face evaluations will take place with social distancing and sanitary guidelines in place.

IEP Meetings

- During in-person IEP meetings, all IDPH requirements must be met including but not limited to wearing appropriate PPE, requiring social distancing be observed, as much as possible, complying with capacity limits, and require symptom and temperature screenings.
- Parents or guardians and additional participants should continue to be afforded the opportunity to participate via alternative means.
- When reviewing IEPs, IEP Teams might consider if changes are needed to the methodology, content or delivery of instruction to allow the student to receive the necessary specialized instruction to address the impact of any lack of progress documented during remote learning. Additionally, IEP Teams may consider changes in minutes, service delivery or educational placement to meet the unique needs of the student.

Evaluations

- Evaluations can still be held virtually to the greatest extent possible; however, districts and other serving entities may conduct evaluations in person as long as they adhere to all state and local safety guidelines.

Assessments

For standardized assessments, students must be in-person. Schools will adhere to the District-wide assessment schedule for local and state assessments for example: NWEA MAP, IAR curricular assessments. Assessment dates will continue to be posted in the District Handbook, on the district and school websites, and calendars. The Assessment schedule incorporates early testing to identify deficiencies and possible gaps for instructional purposes. Administrators and teachers will identify grade-level standards that students did cover in the previous school year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in accordance with our curriculum maps and develop intervention strategies, small groups, tutoring, materials and resources to address areas of concern.

Grading/Homework

According to ISBE guidelines and recommendations, DSD149 will return to our traditional Board approved grading scale and policies. We will insure that students have all the necessary tools, technology, and teacher supports at school to complete all assignments, take assessments, and complete projects in a timely manner. Per the School Code, grading policies are the exclusive responsibilities of local districts (105 ILCS 5/10-20.9a). Policies can be found on our District website.