

Duquesne City School District

Health and Safety Plan Summary 2021-2022

Initial Effective Date: June 8, 2021

Date of Last Review: July 14, 2021

Date of Last Revision: July 14, 2021

Approval Date: July 20, 2021

The following information outlines the district's health and safety plan related to COVID-19. Please note the district is required to review this document every six months and update if necessary. In addition, the district is required to review and update this plan whenever there are significant changes to the CDC recommendations for K-12 schools.

Duquesne City School District is committed to fully opening our schools for the 2021-2022 school year. The district is also committed to offering two different learning pathways to provide students and families with options so they can determine what will best fit their individual needs. These two options are for full in-person instruction or our own Cyber Program, for students in grades K-7.

The Duquesne City School District also completed a major renovation project over the summer of 2021. During this renovation, the district has a new HVAC system that is state of the art to remove airborne particles. The district also purchased air purifiers for every classroom and office with grant monies. This will help keep the students and staff as safe as possible. Desk shields will also be provided for all classrooms for another layer of protection during the school day.

The school district administration will continue to review the current recommendations from the CDC and the Pennsylvania Department of Health each week. After reviewing the recommendations, the district administration will seek clarifying information, if needed, from the school's district doctor and the Allegheny County Health Department.

Based on the information reviewed, recommendations are provided to the Receiver acting as the Board of School Directors (hereinafter Receiver). The Receiver, which is appointed by PDE and the Allegheny County of Common Pleas, retains its statutory authority over the operation of the schools, facilities, and programs of Duquesne City School District. If circumstances change, the Receiver, in consultation with the Superintendent of Schools, will modify this Safety Plan, as needed, to meet

the educational and safety needs of its students, employees and the large school community.

Based on the current information the school district has, we intend to begin the school year with the following strategies in place.

Masks: Masks are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED by the Duquesne City School District when *inside the classroom*. However, any individual who wishes to wear a mask is welcome to wear one. It is highly recommended that if a student or staff member is not vaccinated, that they wear a mask in and out of the classroom.

Masks will be mandatory during:

- *Use of school transportation (buses and vans)*
- *When entering the building*
- *During transitions throughout the day (i.e. from class to class; from class to the cafeteria; from class to recess; from class to a special class).*

Social Distancing: The district intends to operate a regular 5-day instructional schedule for the 2021-2022 school year. Should cases of COVID-19 increase, the school district will return to social distancing wherever possible, limits student movement in grades PreK-7 and increase physical distance at lunch by having lunch in the classrooms.

Hand washing and Respiratory Etiquette: Presentations on hand washing and respiratory etiquette will be presented to all students. In addition, signage and reminders will also be provided. Hand sanitizing stations will also continue to be stationed outside each classroom and office doors and outside of the cafeteria.

Cleaning: The district will continue its current cleaning strategy including disinfectant areas where an individual with a confirmed case was present. All staff will be encouraged to open windows in classrooms, if applicable. The new HVAC system is set to bring the maximum amount of outside air in as possible.

Contract Tracing: The district will continue to contact trace when cases are identified and/or informed by the parents/guardians. As required, all contract tracing information is reported to the Allegheny County Health Department.

Diagnostic Screening: The district has daily health/temperature screenings outside every entry door for students. The district will continue to this practice for the 2021-2022 school year.

Vaccines for the School Community: The Duquesne City School District will continue to provide information regarding the COVID-19 vaccine availability within the community.

Appropriate Accommodations: The Duquesne City School District works to support ALL students. The Director of Special Education Consultant is authorized to work with special education teachers, IEP teams and parents/guardians to make needed accommodations for the welfare and inclusion of students

Coordinate State and Local Health Officials: The district will continue to participate in weekly meetings, held in conjunction with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit, when called and/or scheduled. During the 2020-2021 school year, these meetings were held weekly. The district does participate in state webinars if they are scheduled. The school nurse received “Health Updates” directly from the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Allegheny County Health Department.

To ensure Duquesne City School District is meeting the individual needs of all students, the district is implementing PBIS/Restorative Practices and Second Step. The PBIS/Restorative Practices and Second Step guidelines provide guidance for all staff regarding creating a consistent SEL foundation on which academics will be built. In addition, the district is continuing its relationship with Auberle and Mon Yough to support students with mental health needs.

The district also works closely with our food service provider to ensure all students have access to meals. During the summer (2021), families may pick up meals for their children at the district offices or at one of five bus stop locations. When school is in session, students in school will be provided both breakfast and lunch free off costs. Additionally, students may access meals at school or via pick up if they are learning remotely in our Duquesne City Cyber program.

**** Disclaimer: As we continue to navigate the pandemic and the new variants that have been presenting themselves, the items listed above can change at a moments notice as more cases present themselves. This could mean that masks may be mandatory during all parts of the day and/or the school may need to close if a number of positive cases are identified.**

