



Updated 8/31/2022

This plan outlines Detroit Country Day School's COVID-19 policies and protocols. The details in this plan reflect our most essential commitment to providing a safe and healthy learning environment while offering a full and familiar school experience for all of our students. Throughout the school year, DCDS will monitor COVID-19 conditions and continue to seek guidance from our local, regional, and national public health agencies. Any changes to this plan as a result of shifting COVID-19 conditions will be communicated to the school community in a timely manner.

GUIDANCE

Federal and state agencies recommend that schools follow local governance recommendations. Detroit Country Day School currently bases its COVID protocols on that of the Oakland County Health Department (OCHD). Please understand that Detroit Country Day School's protocols are adjusted when OCHD provides updated guidance as well as when positivity rates and other factors in our area change.

The School Administration has sought and will continue to seek guidance from multiple sources, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), our local public health departments and medical professionals, the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS), our local and peer schools.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Hold the health and safety of community members as top priorities
- Offer the highest quality educational experiences for our students and their families
- Maintain connections and relationships
- Support social-emotional wellness for all members of our community
- Provide clear, frequent and timely communication
- Keep community whole to the extent possible
- Continue to follow best practices and use the most up-to-date data / information available when making decisions especially around health & safety



IN-PERSON LEARNING (ON CAMPUS)

Though subject to state mandates, Detroit Country Day campuses will remain fully open and the School will provide in-person learning in all divisions during the 2022-2023 school year. In addition to offering its robust academic programming, the School intends to continue to provide its offerings in athletics, arts, clubs, and extracurricular activities, as well as DEI, advisory, leadership, community service, and social programs.

Remote learning is permitted in cases of mandated isolation periods for those students who test positive for COVID-19. These remote experiences may include synchronous and asynchronous lessons. Teachers will work hard to create remote experiences consistent with the ones provided to those in-person.

PREPARING FOR INTERRUPTIONS

Detroit Country Day School has prepared for possible interruptions to in-person learning in the event our area experiences a spike in COVID-19 cases and/or our campuses must be closed for a period of time. In those cases, the School will have to immediately shift all students to full remote learning.

FULL REMOTE LEARNING

Full Remote Learning will only be in effect if the State of Michigan requires schools to close their campuses, under the direction of local public health authorities, or at the discretion of the School in cases of significant community COVID-19 cases.

As previously stated, remote learning is only permitted in cases of mandated isolation for students who test positive for COVID-19. These remote experiences may include synchronous and asynchronous lessons. Teachers will work hard to create remote experiences consistent with the ones provided to those in-person. These students will also not be allowed to participate in any other in-person school activities during their isolation periods.



HEALTH AND SAFETY

COVID-19 COMPLIANCE

Parents and students must comply with the School's COVID-19 policies and expectations. Failure to adhere to the School's expectations can jeopardize the student's place in the community.

VACCINATIONS

COVID-19 vaccinations are not required but strongly recommended for all eligible individuals in our school community.

MITIGATING RISK OF COVID-19

COVID-19 policies are intended to mitigate, not eliminate, risk. No single action or set of actions will completely eliminate the risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission, but implementation of several coordinated interventions can greatly reduce that risk.

COVID-19 VIRAL TESTING

Depending on the COVID status in our community, testing of unvaccinated and vaccinated individuals may be required at the discretion of the School.

Athletic testing will follow MDHHS/MHSAA guidelines, though the School reserves the right to implement a testing protocol for athletes if deemed necessary.

FACIAL MASK COVERINGS

The wearing of a face mask on campus is not required, but it is strongly recommended.

However, individuals returning between days 6-10 after testing positive for COVID-19 are required to follow the isolation policy, which includes wearing face masks at all times during that time frame. We have continued to follow OCHD guidance throughout the pandemic, and our policies about face masks remain part of that practice.

DAILY HEALTH SCREENINGS

To help prevent an outbreak of COVID-19 in our community, it is extremely important that all individuals displaying signs of illness remain at home and not be permitted on campus. All members of the school community and invited visitors should assess for any symptoms of illness prior to arriving at school. Students or employees exhibiting symptoms should remain at home and contact the building nurse for appropriate guidance.



ILLNESS POLICY

It is imperative that students and employees remain at home when they are ill. Individuals who are exhibiting symptoms meeting COVID-19 criteria must be evaluated regardless of vaccination status and must contact the building nurse for appropriate guidance.

COVID-19 tests are required for all symptomatic individuals prior to their return to school after illnesses. If an individual chooses not to obtain a COVID-19 test, they are required to remain away from in-person school commitments for 5 days.

CLINICS/NURSE'S HEALTH OFFICES

DCDS has designated clinic locations in each division. These spaces are for non-COVID-19 related illnesses and health issues. Professional nursing staff members oversee the centers and provide medical attention and care for students throughout the school day.

SCHOOL DINING SERVICES

All campuses will resume self-serve dining services during lunch. Individuals will eat their lunches in the cafeteria.

CLEANING, DISINFECTING, AND SANITIZING

All cleaning products used by the School meet CDC standards for effectiveness against COVID-19.

FRESH AIR CIRCULATION

The ventilation (HVAC) systems have been calibrated to provide for the maximum amount of outdoor air circulation in school buildings. All HVAC equipment has been cleaned and inspected by certified technicians to ensure proper air flow and functioning.

HEALTH AND HYGIENE PROTOCOLS

Sinks are available in bathrooms, workrooms, and some classrooms, including all classrooms in the Lower School. Hand sanitizer stations will be provided throughout the school buildings in common spaces, such as hallways and entrances. Individuals are encouraged to use hand sanitizer if unable to wash hands.

Students are encouraged to keep their hands away from their faces and to wash hands or use



sanitizer frequently throughout the school day, especially before and after eating meals and after returning from outside.

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

School counselors are available to provide social-emotional support and care for students in all divisions. Lower School students and families can make appointments by contacting their homeroom teachers or the Lower School Director. Middle School students can make appointments by contacting their advisors or by scheduling an appointment directly with a counselor either by email or in person. Upper School students can make appointments by contacting a counselor by email or in-person.

BEFORE COMING TO CAMPUS

STUDENTS PRIOR TO ARRIVAL

Parents and guardians should monitor their children for symptoms of COVID-19. The presence of any of the following symptoms, including fever (a temperature of 100.4 or greater), cough, nasal congestion or runny nose, sore throat, body aches, headache, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, new loss of taste or smell, or shortness of breath, should prompt the parent or guardian to keep the student home from school and to follow up with their primary care provider and building nurse prior to return to school. Students with a temperature of 100.4°F or greater must stay home and contact their building nurse for further guidance.

By sending their children to campus each day, parents are indicating that their children are symptom-free.

COVID CASE PROCEDURES

POSITIVE COVID-19 CASES

The School will cooperate with the local public health department if a case of COVID-19 is identified within the school community. DCDS will document on the website the presence of any reported cases of COVID-19 within our school campuses and related to any DCDS sponsored activities.

Students and employees with a confirmed case of COVID-19 should only return to in-person



activities after completing the required isolation period communicated by public health officials and the School's nursing department.

ON-CAMPUS COVID-19 ISOLATION POLICY

Individuals who present symptoms of COVID-19 at school must immediately depart campus. Any student or employee who becomes ill with symptoms of COVID-19 and cannot immediately depart campus must wear a face mask and remain isolated while awaiting departure. A member of the school health staff will monitor and supervise the student or employee until he/she departs campus. A parent or appointed family representative will be required to promptly come to campus to pick-up students. The parent or family representative will meet with the School Nurse upon arrival. Once the student is able to leave, the student or employee must depart campus immediately and cannot re-enter school buildings or grounds until the individual receives approval from the School Nurse.

GRADES PK3-12 ISOLATION POLICY

- Individuals, regardless of vaccination status and symptom status, who test positive for COVID-19 must isolate for *days 0-5*.
 - Day "0" is the day on which the individual's positive COVID-19 test was reported to the School or when the individual's symptoms were communicated to DCDS.
- Individuals may return to school between **days 6-10** if they are fever-free for 24 hours without use of fever-reducing medication and any COVID-19 symptoms are greatly diminished.
 - Individuals who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms *after* day 5 must remain at home until fever-free and asymptomatic.
 - Individuals should maintain social distance during lunch or snack times when the mask must be removed to eat and/or drink.
 - No COVID-19 positive individuals will be allowed to return to school before completing 5 full days of isolation.
- Individuals returning between days 6-10 after testing positive for COVID-19, are required to wear a face mask at all times. Those who are unwilling or unable to wear a mask must remain at home until after day 10.

HOUSEHOLD CLOSE CONTACTS



- Individuals who live with a person who has COVID-19 must wear a mask for a minimum of **10 days**. (Day "0" of the mask requirement starts at the end of COVID-19 person's day 5 of isolation.)
- Individuals with household exposure who are unable or unwilling to mask will quarantine at home for 10 days. (Day "0" of quarantine the mask requirement starts at the end of COVID-19 person's day 5 of isolation.)
- Individuals with household exposure must monitor for symptoms for 10 days and test 3 - 7 days after exposure or if symptoms develop.
- Individuals should avoid unmasked activities and maintain social distance during lunch or snack times when the mask must be removed to eat and/or drink.

SOCIAL DISTANCING AND CAMPUS DENSITY

SCHOOL EVENTS AND COMMUNITY MEETINGS

The School plans to support social events and gatherings for students and/ or community members during the school year. The status of any such events will depend on COVID-19 conditions at the time and will be subject to changes or possible cancellation.

SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS AND OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS

The wearing of face masks is optional. However, individuals returning between days 6-10 after testing positive for COVID-19 and individuals with household exposures are required to wear a face mask at all times.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

The School will provide bus transportation to/from campus. The wearing of a face mask on school provided transportation is not required, but it is strongly recommended.

Weather permitting, windows may be kept open while the vehicle is in motion to increase air circulation, if appropriate and safe.

FIELD TRIPS AND STUDENT TRAVEL

Local field trips will be allowed in all divisions with approval from administration. Additionally,



long distance trips and overnight trips, which includes international travel for our global programs, will also be allowed during the 2022-2023 school year as long as health conditions are suitable for travel.

ATHLETIC, ARTS AND NON-ATHLETIC TEAM PROGRAMMING

The School plans to offer its full range of athletic, arts, and non-athletic offerings in all three divisions.

The School will continue to seek guidance from the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) and will follow recommendations from MHSAA and State and local public health authorities regarding the participation in and structure of athletics during the 2022-2023 school year. In the event athletics and arts are suspended, altered, or postponed during the fall, winter, and/or spring seasons, the School may adapt our requirement policies accordingly.

The School has returned to its pre-pandemic schedule of athletic programs in all divisions throughout the school year. This includes Jr. Jackets in the Lower School and interscholastic competition in the Middle and Upper Schools.

Performing Arts events will be held in-person and/or streamed online for the school community.

SPECTATORS

Spectators are expected to follow School policies and procedures at all times. If State or local health departments impose restrictions on capacity, the School will accordingly alter their policies to reflect that guidance.

STUDENT LIFE PROGRAMMING

ADVISORY/HOMEROOM PROGRAM

The School will continue to emphasize building relationships and making personal connections with students and families through the advisory and homeroom structures.

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING PROGRAM

The school counselors will provide educational opportunities for students, parents and faculty by



hosting sessions, providing teachers with age appropriate mini-lessons and workshops, and sharing external resources that address social and emotional learning and wellness. Advisory and homeroom meetings will include opportunities for students to learn and practice self-care, balance, and wellness as they navigate school and their lives outside of it. Understanding of the challenges and stress the pandemic might have on our students, teachers and advisors are prepared to recognize early signs of distress and/or trauma and will follow established protocol for referring students to our school counselors.

PARENT PARTNERSHIP

The success of our COVID-19 Plan directly depends on the strength of the partnership between our families and the School. Families signed the COVID-19 Plan agreement form, acknowledging their acceptance of and preparedness to adhere to the conditions in the plan.

**Detroit Country Day School reserves the right to amend any and all parts of this plan at any time.*