

Dynamic Minds Academy Return to School Plan and Health Protocol for Staff and Students- Reviewed 6.11.23

The health and safety of the students and staff at Dynamic Minds Academy is a top priority. We want all families to feel safe including their children in our in-person instruction and therapy. In cooperation with The Hope Source, we have developed this return to school plan with input from family surveys, recommendations from our local health department, and reflection on the unique population of students we serve.

Definitions:

Isolation:

Isolation means keeping sick people away from healthy ones. For COVID-19, this means that the sick person stays in a separate bedroom or separate area of your home and stays away from others. This includes staying home from school and any activities.

Section 1: Health Protocol for Staff and Students

State statute gives public school districts the authority to exclude students who have a contagious disease such as COVID-19 or are liable to transmit it after exposure (IC 20-34-3-9). In addition, the local health department has the authority to exclude students from school and may order students and others to isolate or quarantine (IC 16-41-9-1.6).

Symptoms Impacting Consideration for Exclusion from School

Students and employees should be trained to recognize the following COVID-19-related symptoms:

- A fever of 100.4° F or greater when taken by mouth
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline)
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Diarrhea, nausea, or vomiting, abdominal pain

Students and staff could be excluded from school if they test positive for COVID-19 or exhibit one or more of the symptoms of COVID-19 based on CDC Guidance that is not otherwise explained.

When will isolation be used?

Isolation should be used for individuals with COVID-19 illness to separate them from those who are not infected (even at home)

- At home, anyone sick or infectious should separate from others, stay in a specific “sick room” and use a separate bathroom if available

- Stay home for at least 5 days following the onset of symptoms or a positive test result. Individuals may return after 5 days if symptoms have resolved, and they are fever free for at least 24 hours without use of fever reducing medications.
- Individuals who return on day 6 must follow enhanced precautions for days 6-10.

Screening for COVID-19

Dynamic Minds Academy encourages all families and staff members to self-screen for the symptoms of COVID-19 outlined above before coming to school. Additionally, all staff will receive professional development regarding the recognition of COVID-19 symptoms and screening. Dynamic Minds Academy may take the temperature of students, employees, and visitors on school property on a random basis or in situations where there is reason to believe that the person may be ill. Onsite rapid testing is available for staff and students exhibiting symptoms. Parent permission is required prior to testing any students.

Section 2: Confirmed Case of COVID-19 on School Property

It is important that all staff and families report positive cases to the attendance line for accurate attendance records.

Section 3: Wearing Masks and Other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

New guidance from the Indiana Department of Health does not require masks or physical distancing for vaccinated individuals. Masks are **RECOMMENDED** for students and staff who are unvaccinated in grades K-12 but are **NOT REQUIRED**. Dynamic Minds Academy will not require staff or students to wear masks indoors or outdoors during the 2021-2022 school year. If you would prefer your child to continue to mask, please communicate with the Education Director of DMA so we can develop a plan to support your child's needs.

Section 4: Nurse's Office Space

Should a student or staff member become ill during the school day with COVID-19 related symptoms, no other students or staff members besides the school nurse will be allowed in the nurse's office. Students and/or staff that are displaying symptoms of COVID-19 will remain in the nurse's office for assessment and until the student is picked up. Staff treating the individual will observe strict social distancing and wear appropriate PPE. Students who are ill will be walked out of the building to their parents for pick up. Once the student or staff member leaves the building, the nurse's office will be thoroughly sanitized before any other student or staff member is allowed access.

If there is a student or staff member in the nurse's office that is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, the nurse's office will be closed to other students and staff members. A "do not enter" sign will be posted on the door. Any student requiring medications will meet the school nurse at the nurse's office door. Any student requiring medical attention will be treated in a separate space from the nurse's office.

Section 5: Preventative Measures

Students, staff, and parents will receive information and training regarding appropriate preventative measures that can be taken to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Social Distancing

Social distancing is the practice of keeping space between yourself and other people outside of your home. The Marion County Health Department recommends the distance to keep between yourself and others in the school setting is 3 feet for unvaccinated individuals. The distance increases to 6 feet for unvaccinated individuals between adults in the school building, in common areas, when eating, during activities when increased exhalation occurs (singing, shouting, exercise), and in community settings outside the classroom. Dynamic Minds Academy recognizes that due to our student population and the nature of a school building, social distancing may be difficult to maintain.

Sanitization

Restrooms are cleaned every two hours while students and staff are present. Cleaning solution and towels are provided in each bathroom. High traffic and high touch areas are sanitized when student groups transition to a new location. Classrooms and therapy spaces are fully cleaned and sanitized daily. Staff will have cleaning supplies available in each classroom and hand sanitizer will be available in a safe location within each classroom.

Handwashing

Handwashing and avoiding touching your face, eyes, nose, or mouth are also important steps a person can take to avoid becoming sick or spreading germs to others. Dynamic Minds Academy will encourage employees and students to wash their hands often and if soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol. Students and staff will be prompted at key times to wash their hands or use sanitizer including but not limited to:

- Start of the school day
- Before eating
- After using the restroom
- After blowing nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After using shared equipment

Section 7: Short-term Remote Learning

Short-term Remote Learning

In the event a student is required to isolate due to a positive COVID-19 test, Dynamic Minds Academy can provide remote learning options on a short-term basis at parent request. That student will have access to our online learning systems through Edmentum as well as receive materials related to the standards being covered in class during that time via email. The availability of live lesson through Teams will be dependent upon the number of students participating in remote learning as well as staff availability.

Dynamic Minds Academy will not be offering long-term remote learning options for the 2023-2024 school year.