

Dynamic Minds Academy Return to School Plan and Health Protocol for Staff and Students- Revised 7.15.21

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:

Close Contact:

An individual is considered a close contact if **any** of the following is true:

- You were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more. This could be a single encounter of more than 15 minutes or multiple encounters within a single day that add up to more than 15 minutes.
- You provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19
- You had direct physical contact with the positive person (hugged or kissed them)
- You shared eating or drinking utensils with the positive person
- The positive person sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you

These close contact criteria apply regardless of mask use, face shields, or physical barriers, such as Plexiglass or plastic barriers.

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.

Quarantine:

Quarantine means separating people who were exposed to someone who was sick. Since people who were around other sick people are more likely to get sick themselves, quarantine prevents them from unintentionally spreading the virus to other people even before they realize they are sick. Usually people who are in quarantine stay at home and avoid going out or being around other people. This includes staying home from school and other activities.

Enhanced Precautions for Early Return (Unvaccinated Individuals):

Asymptomatic individuals who return after 7 or 10 days of quarantine must follow these enhanced precautions on days 8-14 or 11-14.

- Masked at all times on bus and during school day, no exceptions.
- Distance of at least 3 feet from others when inside the classroom, forward facing and receiving instruction during the school day.
- Lunch to be eaten separately from others as mask will be off when eating. Remain 6 ft. from others, no exceptions.
- Prioritize hand hygiene.

- Symptom monitoring daily by parents/self and if needed by school staff during the school day.

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 quarantine and isolation be used?

Quarantine should be used for students, teachers, and staff who might have been exposed to COVID-19. Close contacts, identified through contact tracing, should quarantine unless they are fully vaccinated, or have tested positive in the last 3 months, and do not have any symptoms.

- All fully vaccinated individuals who remain asymptomatic (even if a close contact) do not need to quarantine but should monitor for symptoms throughout the 14 days following their exposure.
- Close contacts who are unvaccinated **MUST** quarantine.

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 10 days following the onset of symptoms or a positive test result. Individuals may return after 10 days as long as symptoms are improving, and they are fever free for at least 24 hours without use of fever reducing medications.

Please see the “Return to School After Exclusion Guidance” below on when an individual may return from quarantine or isolation.

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. Students and staff exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 without being otherwise explained, are prohibited from coming to school, and if they do come to school, they should be sent home immediately. Please see the section "Return to School After Exclusion" for guidelines on when students may return.

Return to School After Exclusion

Once a student or employee is excluded from the school environment, they may return if they satisfy the recommendations of the Indiana State Department of Health.

Currently those guidelines are:

If a student, faculty or staff member is symptomatic (according to the above definition), **NOT** tested for COVID-19 and **NOT** a close contact of a COVID-19 positive person:

- The individual must remain at home for at least 10 days from the start of symptoms, be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications and show improvement of symptoms. Siblings and household contacts should be considered close contacts and quarantine for 14 days (10 days if asymptomatic). Students do not need a note for return to school and should be allowed to return at the end of the recommended isolation.
- Individuals with an alternate diagnosis (such as an ear or urinary tract infection) do not need to isolate but will need a note from a healthcare provider saying "student may return to school on [date] and his/her illness was not related to COVID-19" or "Cleared to return to School." No diagnosis should be listed, as that is a HIPAA violation.

Symptomatic according to the above definition and tested **NEGATIVE** for COVID-19 and **NOT** a close contact of a COVID-19 positive person:

- The individual must be 24 hours fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medication and show improvement of symptoms. The individual does not need an alternate diagnosis.
- Close contacts do not need to quarantine.
- Student must provide documentation of the negative test to school.

Symptomatic and tested **POSITIVE** for COVID-19 (whether or not a close contact):

- The individual must isolate at home for at least 10 days, be 24 hours fever-free without the use of fever reducing medications and show improvement of symptoms.
- Siblings, household contacts and other close contacts need to quarantine for 14 days after the last exposure to the positive person (10 days if asymptomatic).
- Repeat testing is NOT recommended for deciding when people can return to work or school.

Symptomatic and **NOT** tested for COVID-19 and **IS** a known close contact of a COVID-19 case:

- The individual must quarantine for 14 days after the last contact with the COVID-19 positive person. If the exposure is to a household member and the case cannot properly isolate away from others at home, the last date of contact may be the last day of isolation for the case.

- The individual must also isolate at home for at least 10 days from the onset of symptoms, be 24 hours fever-free without the use of fever reducing medications and show improvement of symptoms.
- The criteria for both must be met prior to the person returning to school.
- Siblings, household members and other close contacts must quarantine.

Symptomatic and tested **NEGATIVE** and **IS** a known close contact of a COVID-19 positive person:

- The individual must quarantine for 14 days after the last contact with the COVID-19 positive person. If the exposure is to a household member and the case cannot properly isolate away from others at home, the last date of contact may be the last day of isolation for the case.
- The individual must be 24 hours fever free without the use of fever-reducing medications. An alternate diagnosis is not required.
- The criteria of both need to be met before returning to school.

No symptoms and was **NOT** tested for COVID-19:

- May attend school.

NO symptoms and tested **NEGATIVE** for COVID-19 and **IS NOT** a known close contact of a COVID-19 positive person:

- May attend school.

NO symptoms and tested **POSITIVE** for COVID-19 and whether or not a close contact of a COVID-19 positive person:

- Must isolate at home for 10 days after the date the sample was collected.
- Siblings, household members, and other close contacts must quarantine for 10 days from the last date of exposure before returning to school if no symptoms develop. Individuals should continue to monitor symptoms through days 11-14 and must wear a mask at all times in the building. If symptoms develop see *“Symptomatic and **NOT** tested for COVID-19 and **IS** a known close contact of a COVID-19 case.”* If the exposure is a household member and the case cannot properly isolate away from others at home, the last date of contact may be the last date of isolation for the case.

NO symptoms and tested **NEGATIVE** for COVID-19 with a PCR test on day 5, 6, or 7 and **IS** a known close contact of COVID-19 positive person:

- Asymptomatic close contact may return after Day 8 with negative PCR on day 5, 6, or 7. Continue enhanced precautions Days 8-14.

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

It is important that all staff and families report positive cases to the DMA Education Director. Dynamic Minds Academy has a duty to report positive cases to the Marion County Health Department within 24 hours as well as close contacts within the school building to the positive case. Anyone considered a close contact will be notified by the school and will receive follow up communication from contact tracers.

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 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. Student 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 quarantine, Dynamic Minds Academy will provide remote learning options on a short-term basis. 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 2021-2022 school year.