

DANSVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
2021-22 Reopening Plan for In-Person
Instruction 5 Days/Week
September 1, 2021



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Dansville Central School District
Reopening Guidelines to Ensure the Safe Operation of Schools for In-Person Instruction
5 Days/Week 2021-22

Dansville Schools provide safe and supportive learning environments for students. Our core mission is to empower all students to reach their full potential in school and in life. COVID-19 cases have been increasing nationally since mid-June, 2021 and more recently in Steuben and Livingston counties driven by the Delta variant. In this environment, Dansville Central School District is responsible for safely returning students to in-person instruction 5 days/week while minimizing the potential risk of transmission and serious illness for students, their families and our employees. The District will closely adhere to CDC [Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in Schools](#).

The CDC categorizes community transmission by county into 4 levels: Low, Moderate, Substantial and High. As of 8/24/21, the Livingston County transmission level was substantial.

Listed below are DCSD strategies and guidelines for reopening our schools based upon CDC guidance.

Vaccinations

Vaccinations are strongly encouraged but not required. As such, the health and safety measures in this plan apply to everyone regardless of their vaccination status.

Testing

The District does not have the capacity to conduct widespread testing at this time. If conditions warrant testing and the District develops the capacity to test in partnership with outside agencies, then student testing would be voluntary and with parent permission only.

Individual testing for symptomatic students and staff is available in each school health office and will be provided by school nurses upon request and with parent permission for students.

Consistent and Correct Mask Use

Indoors. At this time (8/24/21), masking is required indoors and on school buses. The District will provide early learners with fresh masks throughout each day, depending

upon classroom conditions such as temperature, humidity and activity. Acceptable masks include 2 ply cloth and disposable. Gaiters are prohibited as they are thin and further disperse moisture from exhaled breath. If permissible by NYSDOH, the District will consider changing the masking requirement based upon local and regional conditions.

Children are returning from summer vacation where, for the most part, they enjoyed carefree days without masks. Teachers will provide frequent opportunities for students to take safe mask breaks. Mask breaks may be taken outside, in a low traffic hallway, in a well ventilated area of a classroom where the break area is more than 6 feet from others and other large rooms where appropriate. Teachers will need to tell children when it is acceptable to remove masks and prompt them. Teachers may demonstrate safe mask breaks. Teachers of young children are encouraged to use masks with transparent windows so that children can better interpret teachers' facial expressions.

Outdoors. Masks are not required.

Physical Distancing

Classrooms. Students and employees will maintain 3 feet of distance between them and others. Desks may be set up and classrooms may be organized in any structure/arrangement. Students may face one another with masks and 3 feet of distance.

Physical barriers may be used when students and employees are in small groups less than 3 feet apart. Barriers may not be implemented permanently throughout a classroom. Barriers may be used in dedicated AIS and related services settings and in reading centers.

Cafeteria. Students are assigned seats 3 feet apart in consistent groups or at desks 3 feet apart and facing the same direction. Where tables are in use, each group at a table becomes a pod which would be subject to quarantine if there is an exposure.

Grab and go breakfasts will be provided for grades PK-12. The use of share tables, salad bars and other self-service refrigerators and buffets for food and condiments will be suspended. Vending machines may return to service and must be

disinfected like other high touch areas. Food sharing between students is prohibited.

School buses. Students are assigned seats on all school buses. Students will sit 3 feet apart when practicable.

Music. Students singing with masks indoors will maintain 3 feet of distance between them. All instrumentalists will wear proper PPE while rehearsing and performing indoors while also maintaining 3 feet of distance.

Recess and Physical Education. Weather permitting, recess and physical education classes will occur outdoors. Indoors, students will maintain a distance of 3 feet as much as practicable and wear masks. When indoors, teachers may authorize the removal of masks when the activity maintains more than 6 feet of distance between students.

Masking outside is optional but not encouraged. A student may prefer to mask outside or a student's parent may direct the child to do so. Students may not use locker rooms or changing rooms.

Entry and egress. Students and adults entering buses and school buildings will have their temperatures checked using no touch mounted thermometers. Each school will have multiple points of entry and egress.

Shared Materials

Prior to and after utilizing shared materials, all students will use hand hygiene stations. All employees share the responsibility to ensure that shared surfaces and equipment are disinfected between use and that students follow hand washing protocols after use of shared items.

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

All students and staff will be trained to follow COVID-19 protocols safely and correctly, including but not limited to hand hygiene, proper face covering wearing, social distancing, and respiratory hygiene.

All students and staff will be trained on [proper handwashing](#) and [respiratory hygiene](#).

Hand hygiene stations will be maintained, including handwashing with soap, running water, and disposable paper towels, as well as an alcohol-based sanitizer containing 60% or more alcohol for areas where handwashing is not feasible.

Isolation rooms for symptomatic students are no longer used. Should a student become ill and exhibit symptoms, the student will wear a mask and remain in the nurse's office, separated from others by at least 6' until the student is picked up.

Ventilation

School bus windows and roof hatches will be open if the outside temperature is greater than 40 degrees Fahrenheit when there is no precipitation.

Ventilation with fresh outside air will be ensured in all occupied spaces. Teachers will maintain open windows weather permitting and will leave doors propped open to improve air flow. Where rooms are serviced by air cooling/conditioning, fresh air is mixed with filtered recycled air and windows do not need to be open. The Director of Facilities will ensure that all occupied spaces have an operable system to bring outside air into occupied spaces and that those systems are maintained to operate in accordance with the original design.

Staying Home when Sick, Getting Tested & Returning to School

Students, their parents and staff are reminded that they must stay home if they are exhibiting symptoms and call the school and their doctor or pediatrician for next steps.

The District will accept the results of the following tests from bonafide providers when considering the safe return of post symptomatic children to school:

- PCR or Binax results from a medical practice or pharmacy
- Binax from a DCSD health office, LCDOH or pharmacy

Parents are encouraged to have their symptomatic children tested at LCDOH, at pharmacies and in our health offices before they leave for the day or when they are post symptomatic. Upon learning that the parent of a post symptomatic child who has not been tested wishes to return the child to school before the 10th day from the onset of symptoms, the school nurse will:

1. invite the parent and child to school as early in the day as possible.

2. perform a Binax test with parent permission.
3. admit the negative post symptomatic student to school.

A doctor's clearance will not be required with a negative test. Furthermore, the District will no longer require a negative PCR as the only acceptable negative test for early re-admittance to school. Lastly, the District will not accept home test results.

Symptomatic students and employees may return to school/work by providing an alternate diagnosis from their doctors, documentation of a chronic condition or a negative test. In addition, the individual must be symptom free before returning.

Contact Tracing, In Combination with Isolation and Quarantine*

The District will continue to refer COVID-19 transmissions, positives and close contacts to the Livingston County Department of Health and will continue to assist the Department with contact tracing.

Quarantines. The keys to keeping students in school and employees at work are to minimize transmission, reduce exposures and prevent quarantines. Individuals who are close contacts of a person at school who is positive will be quarantined by the health department.

Close contact means 15 or more cumulative minutes within 6 feet of a positive indoors where one or both of the individuals does not properly wear a mask over a 24 hour period. Importantly, individuals who consistently and properly wear masks and maintain 3 feet of distance will not be quarantined. This is another reason why masks are required by all students, employees and visitors indoors.

In schools, the close contact definition (cumulative total exposure of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time.

People who are fully vaccinated do NOT need to quarantine after contact with someone who had COVID-19 unless they have symptoms.

Fully vaccinated people should get tested 3-5 days after their exposure, even if they do not have symptoms, and wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until their test result is negative.

Cleaning and Disinfection

The District will adhere to hygiene, cleaning, and disinfection guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Students will be trained on the developmentally appropriate disinfecting of personal equipment (e.g., desk, workstations, supplies) at intervals throughout the day as designated by school staff members. All employees share the responsibility to ensure that shared surfaces and equipment are disinfected between use and that students follow hand washing protocols after use of shared items. The immediate area(s) occupied by a symptomatic or positive student or staff member will be disinfected as soon as possible after identification.

Water fountains may not be used. Water bottles may be refilled at refill stations.

Remote Instruction

The District has prioritized the safe return for all students to in-person instruction 5 days/week. Students who are medically exempt from in-person instruction may be provided with remote instruction from an outside service if such service is available through BOCES.

Students who are quarantined by DOH will be offered up to ten hours of remote tutoring per week. Teachers may not invite quarantined students into their classrooms virtually.

Additional Considerations

- **Disabilities or Other Health Care Needs.** Additional arrangements and safeguards for persons with disabilities or other health care needs will be accommodated according to the student's or adult's individual needs.
- **Visitors.** Scheduled visitors to any school or school facility must adhere to District safety protocols. Visitors are not permitted to enter the schools during arrival/dismissal times and must have scheduled appointments or scheduled events. Visitors will complete a questionnaire upon entry.

- **Sports and Other Extracurricular Activities.** Dansville CSD is committed to ensuring the safe participation of students in extracurricular activities and athletics. Masks are not required for outdoor activities or outdoor athletics. Masks are required as tolerated for indoor sports.

Field trips will be considered on a case by case basis. Outdoor field trips do not require masking. Clubs and activities are permitted.

Asymptomatic spectators with masks are permitted to attend indoor contests.

- **Emergency Closures.** If required to close any or all schools or individual classrooms due to COVID-19 transmission rates, the school, schools or classroom teacher will transition to remote learning the following school day. Teachers will have emergency learning activities available for immediate implementation. The District will assist families who need wifi-hotspots in the event of a long term closure or classroom quarantine.

Summary

Vaccinations	USFDA approved vaccinations strongly encouraged, not required.
Testing	Tests are available in each school health office for symptomatic students and staff. Parent permission is required for students to receive a test.
Consistent and Correct Mask Use	Masking is required indoors and on school buses.
Physical Distancing	Students and employees are to ensure 3 feet of distancing as practicable. Students will be cohorted as practicable.
Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette	The District advises frequent handwashing, use of hand sanitizers and covered mouth and nose upon sneezing, coughing or vigorous exhalation.
Ventilation	The District will ensure proper ventilation in all occupied spaces.
Staying Home when Sick and Getting Tested	Students and staff must not report to school/work if symptomatic regardless of vaccination status.
Contact Tracing, In Combination with Isolation and Quarantine	The District will assist local health departments with contact tracing as needed. Those who properly and consistently wear masks are less likely to be quarantined for close contact.
Cleaning and Disinfection	The District will clean and disinfect daily and repeatedly in bathrooms and on high contact surfaces.
Remote Instruction	DCSD is open for in-person instruction for all students. On very rare occasions, a doctor may require home instruction for a medically exempt student.

The likelihood of having to quarantine is substantially diminished for those who are vaccinated, wearing a mask, and physically distanced.