

CAMPUS REOPENING PLAN

2020-21

Safely Returning to DeSoto School

DeSoto School is committed to the health and safety of our students, faculty, staff, and campus visitors. DeSoto School assembled a task force to conduct a comprehensive assessment of COVID-19 risks and best practices before outlining an actionable plan for the reopening of school on August 6, 2020, unless otherwise directed by state or local government.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) strongly advocates that all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school*. The AAP supports our belief that, whenever possible, in-person learning is best for students' academic progress and social/ emotional well-being. According to the Centers for Disease Control, the available evidence suggests most children do not appear to be at a higher risk for COVID-19 than adults. While some children and infants have tested positive for COVID-19, adults make up most of the known cases to date.

Informed by CDC, national, and state health guidelines, DeSoto's reopening plan consists of updated protocols, policies, and procedures to ensure the welfare of every member of the T-Bird family while providing the best possible learning experience for each student. Campus reopening will be driven by the following priorities to limit the transmission of COVID-19 and other contagious illnesses:

- Educating employees, students, and their families in health hygiene and other preventive measures against infection control;
- Requiring face coverings for students, faculty, and staff;
- Maintaining healthy environments with classroom and campus facility updates, cleaning and sanitizing procedures, and adequate disinfecting supplies;
- Maximizing social distancing and restricting campus visitors;
- Developing a contingency plan for distance learning and/or a hybrid on-site/on-line instruction scenario.



**DeSoto School looks forward to
welcoming students back to campus on
Thursday, August 6, 2020.**

CAMPUS READINESS

Safely Returning to DeSoto School

INVESTING IN SAFETY

To support a healthy environment for our students, employees, and campus visitors, the school has made significant investments in environmental, classroom, and technology updates, including these measures:

COMMUNAL SPACES

Use of communal spaces will be scheduled at staggered times to allow for adequate disinfection between uses. Messaging to promote social distancing and health hygiene will be prominently displayed.

AIR QUALITY

We have also increased the frequency of air exchange in buildings to enhance classroom ventilation.

JANITORIAL SERVICES



The school will be cleaned and surfaces disinfected throughout the day, using updated protocols that include special attention to door handles, bathroom surfaces and high touch areas.

FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS



- Touch free hand sanitizer stations will be installed;
- Temperature kiosks will be installed at the north, south and main school entrances;
- Foldable desk barriers will be provided and used in all elementary classrooms.

INFECTION CONTROL



Frequent and ongoing education for employees and students will emphasize hygienic practices and surface cleaning protocols.

Electrostatic sprayers will be used throughout campus buildings on a regular basis. These will apply an FDA-approved antimicrobial coating that offers prolonged surface protection.

Students will be reminded frequently to wash with soap and water throughout the day and to use hand sanitizer when washing must be delayed.

CLASSROOMS



Classrooms will be stocked with specially-formulated cleaning products and hand sanitizer.

Classroom space will be configured to maximize physical distancing. Outdoor classes, weather permitting, will be encouraged.

ACCESS AND VISITATION

Safely Returning to DeSoto School

TRAVEL GUIDELINES

Employees and students returning from domestic or international travel should follow the CDC coronavirus-related travel guidelines, including the recommended quarantine measures.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-in-the-us.html>

LIMITED CAMPUS VISITATION

Parents will not be allowed to visit their child's class or school-office at this time. If you have to visit the school, please call before for more instructions. We hope to ease these policies as soon as health guidelines indicate that it is safe to do so.

RESTRICTED CAMPUS ACCESS

Despite our best efforts to minimize the transmission of COVID-19 on campus, it is possible that a surge in coronavirus outbreaks could impact on-campus learning and activities. In the event that the school is required to limit or restrict access to campus or parts of campus, DeSoto will transition to distance learning.

Prior to and during any period of temporary distance learning, DeSoto School is committed to:

- Communicating with patrons about the potential of campus closure and about plans for distance learning;
- Establishing protocols for families to retrieve belongings;
- Providing all students a high-quality learning experience.



HEALTH AND WELLNESS PARTNERSHIP

Safely Returning to DeSoto School

Reducing the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses is everyone's responsibility. We implore families to partner with the school by remaining vigilant in observing best practices for handwashing, face covering, surface disinfecting, and social distancing. We recognize that these efforts can be challenging at times; however, the school is committed to doing its part to reduce potential exposure for students and employees during the school day, and we ask that families observe - and thereby reinforce - these practices, as well.

There is an inherent risk that students and/or employees could become infected with coronavirus despite the school's efforts. This risk extends to the families of students, as well as to others with whom the student may have or may have had contact.

Given this risk, **all parents who plan to send their child back to campus for school will be asked to sign a letter of acknowledgment** as part of the required back-to-school forms outlining the School's guidelines for limiting the spread of coronavirus.

FACULTY HEALTH AND SAFETY TRAINING

Before campus is opened to families and students, the faculty will participate in training sessions to learn new policies and procedures, including student arrival and dismissal, use of shared materials, lunch and snack breaks, recess, on-campus events, transportation, and healthy practices for hygiene.

If the School is notified about a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 (student, parent, guardian, employee, or anyone living in the same household), DeSoto School will determine the appropriate course of action, according to the CDC's guidelines, as well as those by state and local health agencies.

THUNDERBIRDS

Measures taken may include contact tracing, a temporary transition to virtual learning, self-isolation, and/or other steps deemed necessary.

WHAT FAMILIES CAN DO

Safely Returning to DeSoto School

We all share the same goal: to return safely to campus for in-person learning. We appreciate your help in minimizing exposure to the coronavirus by observing the practices highlighted below, both while you're on campus or away. We encourage you to discuss these practices with your family now to ensure that healthy habits are formed upon our return to campus.

Both the CDC and common sense tell us that the best way to avoid illness is to avoid exposure to the virus. Simple measures will not only protect you, but everyone in our T-Bird family and beyond. Preventive health measures include:

- Maintain a physical separation of six feet or more;
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds;
- Use a hand sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol when soap and water are unavailable,
- Clean and disinfect frequently-touched surfaces;
- Cover your nose and mouth with a face covering when you are around others and cannot physically distance six feet or more.
- **More detailed information regarding School procedures will be provided during orientation.**

DAILY TEMPERATURE SCREENINGS



All families are encouraged to take their child's temperature each morning before school. If students have a temperature of 100° or higher, don't feel well, have COVID-like symptoms, or have been/might have been exposed to COVID-19, **they must remain at home.** Please report this information to the office.

All students and staff will have their temperature taken by automated temperature kiosk before entering the building each morning and if they have a temperature above 100°, they will remain in a designated isolation room until leaving the school.

K3-2nd grades will enter the building through the north entrance (the double doors located by the kindergarten entrance).

4th - 8th grades will enter the building through the south entrance (the double doors located by the middle school "mall").

3rd grade and all 9th - 12th grade students will enter the building through the main entrance.

WHAT FAMILIES CAN DO

Safely Returning to DeSoto School

continued



FACE COVERINGS

DeSoto School is requiring all faculty, staff, volunteers, vendors and all students in 6th - 12th grades to use personal protective equipment (face coverings or neck gaiter) when in common areas such as hallways, locker areas, entryways, transitioning to and from classes and lunchrooms and during afternoon pickup. K3-5th grade students are not required to wear a face covering, however, may wear face coverings if they choose to do so.

Face coverings may include **cloth, paper, neck gaiter or plastic shield coverings**. **Patrons may choose any style and/or color face covering as long as they are appropriate and in good taste.**

In the event a student forgets his/her face covering, a paper covering will be provided for use.

Vendors and patron volunteers will be also required to wear a face covering when indoors on campus.

We hope to ease these policies as soon as health guidelines indicate that it is safe to do so. Changes to this policy, when applicable, may vary by grade level.



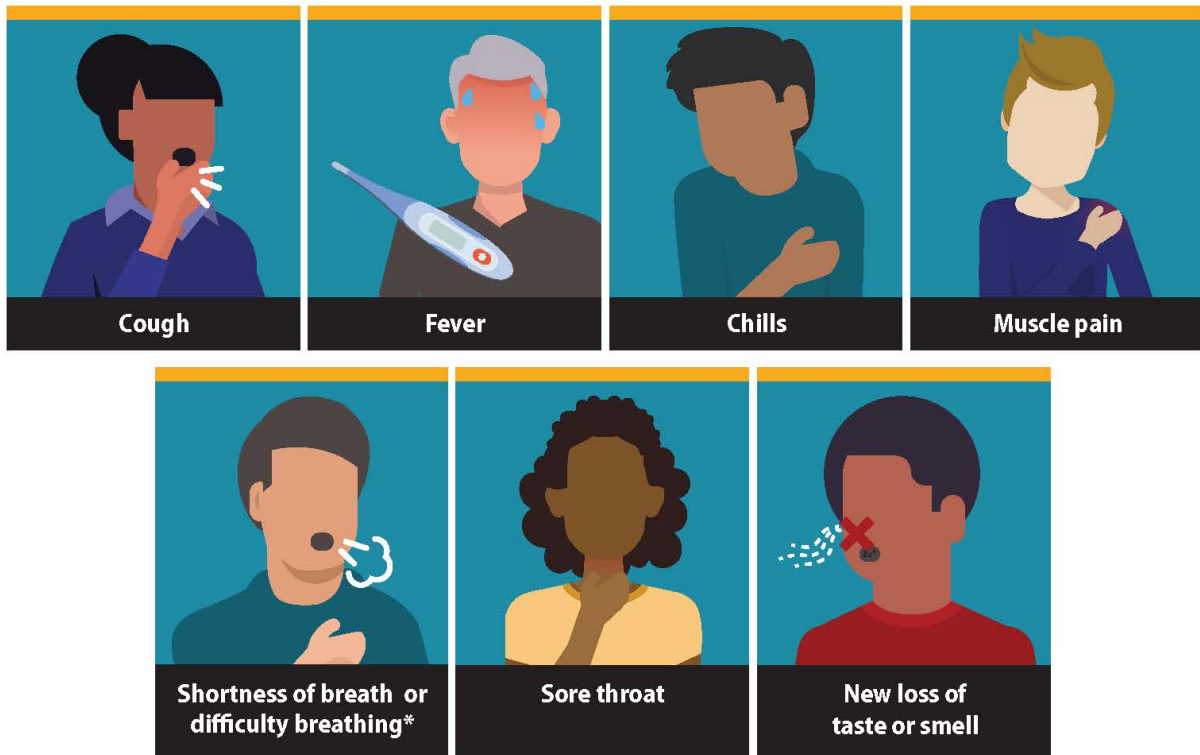
WHAT FAMILIES CAN DO

Safely Returning to DeSoto School

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Symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Know the symptoms of COVID-19, which can include the following:



Symptoms can range from mild to severe illness, and appear 2-14 days after you are exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.

***Seek medical care immediately if someone has emergency warning signs of COVID-19.**

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Bluish lips or face

This list is not all possible symptoms. Please call your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.



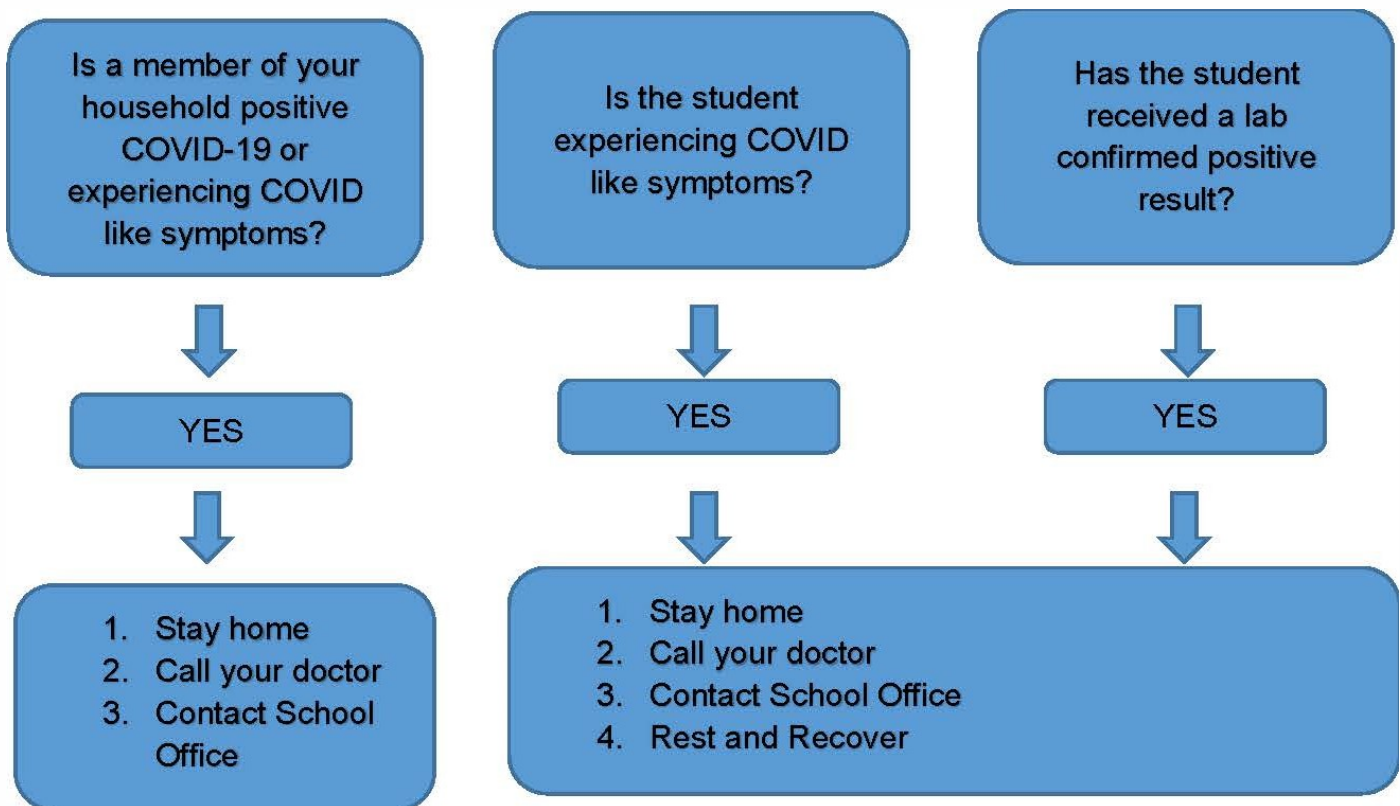
cdc.gov/coronavirus

WHAT FAMILIES CAN DO

Safely Returning to DeSoto School

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Keeping children home from school when they are sick, have been, or may have been exposed to COVID-19 is essential to keeping our school community healthy. Please refer to the following protocols to determine when your child should stay home from school. If you are unsure, please contact the local AR Department of Health (870-572-9028).



During the 2020-21 academic year, the school will observe a more lenient policy for COVID related absences. The school will monitor these absences to inform decisions about changes and restrictions or campus closures due to the pandemic.

Employees and students are encouraged to stay home when they are sick or have been exposed to a contagious illness. We will work with students to make up missed work if absences accumulate.

Parents must alert the school office of absences related specifically to COVID-19 for contact tracing, and instructions pertaining to return to campus.

K3-5th Grade

Safely Returning to DeSoto School

We will spend our first days together on campus teaching health and safety practices, such as proper handwashing, covering coughs and sneezes, and personal spacing. These practices will be reinforced throughout the school year.

Upon arrival, parents are asked to use drop-off lanes and not to walk their children into school. Upon entering the building, students will have temperature checked and proceed to homeroom where teachers will instruct them to wash their hands.

Afternoon pickup procedures will be modified (students will be spaced to allow for social distancing) to align with the school's health and safety protocols. K3-5th grade student pickup will be in the same location as previous years; however, if you are picking up a student in both middle/high school and elementary school, you **MUST** pick up those students in each line. High school student drivers who pick up an elementary student will be allowed to pick up the student and walk straight to their car.

Parents will not be allowed to visit their child's classroom. If parents must visit the school/office, please call ahead for instructions. Arrangements will be made to ensure that our cafeteria will provide a school lunch for any student who arrives at school without a lunch. The parent will be responsible for submitting payment for lunches provided by the cafeteria. Students should bring their own water bottle each morning (filled with water).

While some classroom activities have been modified to minimize the sharing of items, we recognize that developmentally-appropriate activities and free play are critical to age-appropriate skill building and relationship building. Handwashing opportunities will be frequent, especially following recess and PE.

The school is providing foldable, plastic desk barriers for K3-5th grade classrooms.



MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

Safely Returning to DeSoto School

We will spend time in the first week of school instructing Middle & High School students on health and safety practices, such as proper handwashing, covering coughs and sneezes, personal spacing, and wearing a face covering while transitioning classes or in close proximity to others. These practices will be reinforced throughout the school year.

Parents will not be allowed to visit their child's classroom. If parents must visit the school/office, please call ahead for instructions. Arrangements will be made to ensure that our cafeteria will provide a school lunch for any student who arrives at school without a lunch. The parent will be responsible for submitting payment for lunches provided by the cafeteria. Students should bring their own water bottle each morning (filled with water).

Classrooms will be configured to optimize social distancing. During lunchtime, students must social distance and faculty will monitor and enforce distancing guidelines. Students will wash hands before and after lunch.

Afternoon pickup procedures will be modified (students will be spaced to allow for social distancing or must wear face coverings if social distancing is not possible) to align with the school's health and safety protocols. Middle/high school student pickup will be in the same location as previous years, however, if you are picking up a student in both middle/high school and elementary school, you **MUST** pick up those students in each line. High school student drivers who pick up an elementary student will be allowed to pick up the student and walk straight to their car.



OTHER ASPECTS OF THE SCHOOL DAY

Safely Returning to DeSoto School

LUNCH

Space planning will maximize distancing in common areas. Weather permitting, some meals may be taken outside. The cafeteria staff will be responsible for cleaning all eating areas with EPA-approved cleaning supplies.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers will be required to wear a suitable face covering while on campus. Volunteers will also be subject to temperature screening.

LARGE GATHERINGS

Social distancing will be observed and reinforced throughout the school day. Use of common spaces (lobbies, foyers, hallways, gyms, auditoriums, libraries, etc.) will be restricted or times will be staggered to discourage students from convening in large groups. Breaks will be similarly structured to minimize prolonged gatherings.

FIELD TRIPS AND BUS TRANSPORTATION

Many field trips and activities requiring bus transportation may be canceled this year. Field trips will be approved and evaluated on a case-by-case basis with consideration to the health and safety of employees and students.

ATHLETICS

The school is following the MAIS guidelines for returning to athletics. This plan aims to minimize the spread of illness while allowing our athletes to resume activities safely and will be reviewed and updated as deemed necessary by MAIS.

College and Academic Counseling

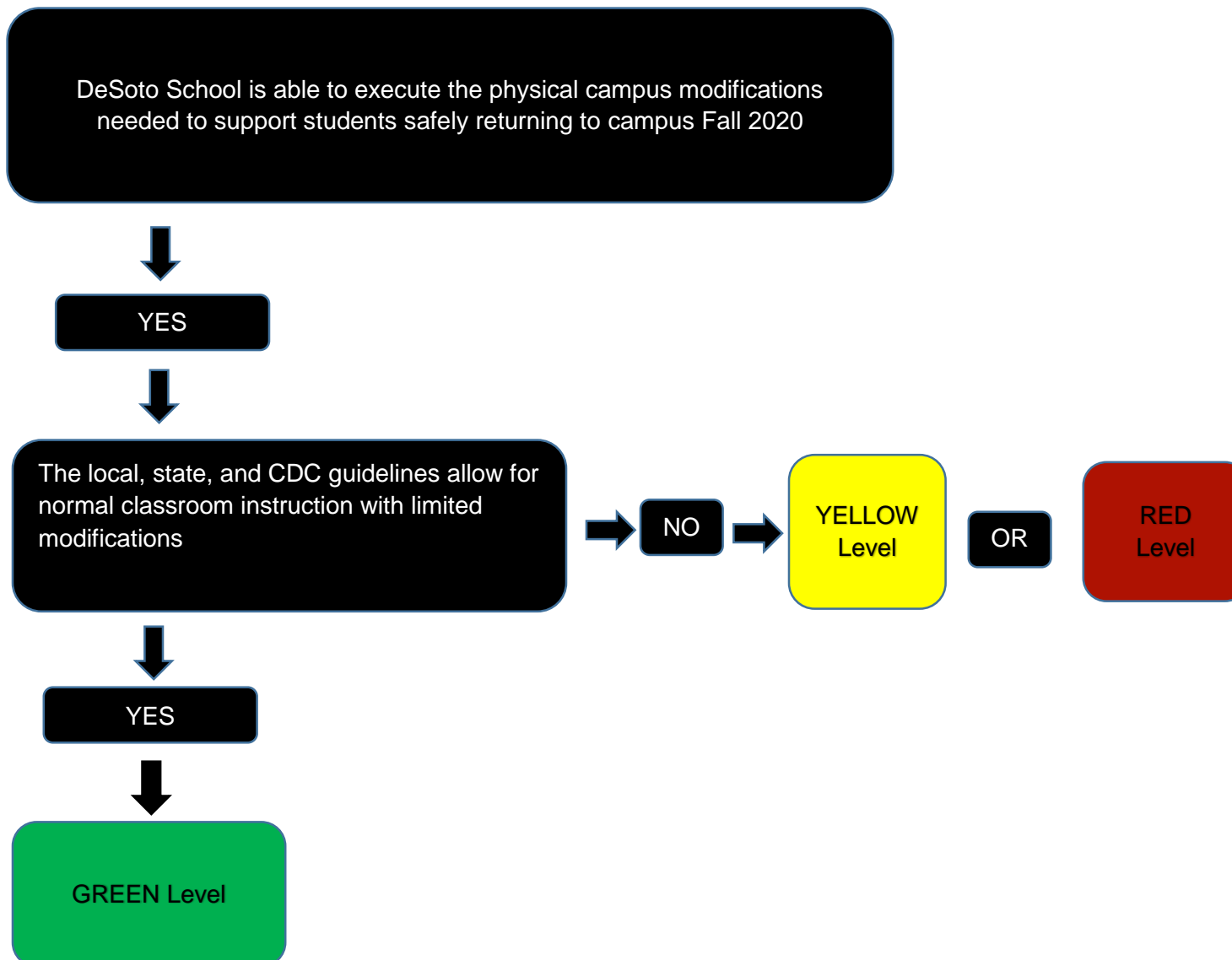
Senior students who attend classes at PCCUA will adhere to PCCUA policies regarding COVID-19. Additional information may be found at <https://www.pccua.edu/about/coronavirus-disease>

Communication

The school will notify patrons about important COVID-19 updates which affect the school. Messaging will include updates and reminders about prevention practices, significant policy or schedule changes, announcements about campus outbreaks, or impending school closure. **Please check your Jupiter account settings regularly to ensure you receive text or email messages.**

Although it is our goal to have all students on campus, we recognize that the dynamic nature of this pandemic may create interruptions to on-campus learning during the school year. DeSoto School is prepared with contingency plans for continuity of learning to ensure that our students will continue to receive the highest quality education in any scenario.

Plan of Operation:



PLAN OF OPERATION

Safely Returning to DeSoto School

- Green Level: Open with limited restrictions (on-campus learning for all students). Normal student activities will be allowed with proper social distancing measures in place. Health and safety procedures will be emphasized.
- Yellow Level: Open with heightened restrictions (hybrid learning blended with on-campus learning). Our approach to instruction during a yellow level event are outlined below.
 - K-5th grade will meet on campus 4 days per week; Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
 - 6th-12th grade will be divided into 2 groups to reduce exposure.
 - Group A is 6th - 8th grades and will meet on Monday and Tuesday.
 - Group B is 9th - 12th grades and will meet on Thursday and Friday.
 - No student will come to campus on Wednesday to allow for thorough sanitation of the entire campus.
- Red Level: Open to essential personnel only (virtual learning for all students). Virtual learning includes all instruction and interaction via the internet. Live lessons and recorded lessons will be available for students. Our School will use the following technologies:
 - Google classroom
 - Zoom
 - Jupiter/JUNO
- **If any patron has questions or concerns regarding our Campus Reopening Plan, email covid19support@desotothunderbirds.com**

Frequently Asked Questions

Safely Returning to DeSoto School

1. When will students be sent home from school?
 - ❖ Parents will be notified to pick up any student having a fever 100° or greater.
2. When can my child return back to school after being sent home with fever?
 - ❖ If a physician does not recommend testing for COVID-19, the student can return to school 3 days after being sent home or with a written doctors note and free of fever for 24 hours.
3. When can my child return to school after testing positive for COVID-19?
 - ❖ The student cannot return to school until 1 negative result is issued and documentation is received from his/her physician. DeSoto School will adhere to CDC guidelines. Student may not be on campus or at any school event while in a quarantine period.
4. Are face coverings required for all students and staff?
 - ❖ Face coverings/neck gaiters are only required for 6th-12th grade students and all staff. Any employee in charge of handling food or food-related items are required to wear gloves in addition to a face covering/neck gaiter.
5. Will the school take temperatures of all students and staff upon arrival at school each day?
 - ❖ Yes, daily temperature checks will be obtained on all faculty, staff and students.
6. Will I be notified if someone at the school tests positive for COVID-19?
 - ❖ Information will be shared as necessary while maintaining the privacy of individuals.