

DCS Question & Answer Document

1. What are the three plans that the district had to submit?

A. Each school district in NYS was required to submit three models of learning in their reopening plan. The three plans are:

1-In person Learning

2-Hybrid Learning (some days in person/some days remote)

3-Remote Learning.

In order to have students in the school building, there are a set of guidelines that we must follow to ensure the health and safety of our students, staff, and community. That information is also included in our plan. The full plan can be found on our website.

2. Which plan are we using in September?

A. PK-8 Students are In Person 5 days/week and 9-12 Students will be* Hybrid.

Recognizing that there may be reasons that families do not feel that their child(ren) can attend school in the building, parents have the right to request full remote learning for their children.

Students that attend BOCES run Special Education programs, Alternative HS or 7 Valley HS will attend their program in person daily. CTE students will also attend their CTE programs daily. On the days that they are scheduled to be remote at DCS, transportation will be provided for CTE students to/from those programs and home morning, mid-day and afternoon.

The first day of school for students will be September 8th. There will be a 1:00 dismissal the first week of school (9/8-9/11). Full day classes will resume on Monday, September 16th.

3. What will the hybrid schedule look like?

A. Students will be placed into one of two learning groups (A or B). Students in group A will attend school in person every Monday and Thursday. Students in group B will attend school in person every Tuesday and Friday. Wednesday will rotate groups A and B. The days that students are not in the building, they will have work to do at home through google classroom, or other materials sent home by the teacher. A teacher will check in on students daily for support. Attendance will be taken for each student for both in-person and home learning days. The materials for google classroom will be able to be downloaded on the days that students are in school so that they can be used offline while at home. The learning group assignments along with a rotation schedule will be sent home with students schedules from the guidance office later in August.

While we are starting the school year with only 9-12 students being in the hybrid learning model, the model will look similar for all grade levels in the event that we have to move to this model at any point during the school year. Family groups will be placed in A or B rotations together so students from the same household will be in person on the same days.

4. Why aren't all of the students coming in person 5 days per week?

A. One of the guidelines schools are required to follow is that all students must be socially distanced throughout the school day. That classrooms must have enough space that students have 6 feet clearance in all directions around their seats. After carefully evaluating all of our learning spaces, it was determined that we simply do not have enough space in the building to accommodate all of our students and meet the social distance guidelines.

5. If I choose to keep my child home for the first semester, what will their instruction look like?

A. We are still working on this process. There are many details that have to be "ironed" out and we will reach out to families that have chosen this option as soon as everything is in place.

6. Can students move from hybrid to home after a few weeks or home to hybrid?

A. We have asked families to commit to one option or the other for the first semester (until 2/1). This is necessary due to staffing and space requirements/availability.

7. What happens if we get shut down again and we have to go to all remote learning for everyone?

A. In the event that schools are required to shut down in person learning for a period of time on DOH or Governor's orders, we have a remote learning plan in place for the district. There will be scheduled classes through Goggle Meets for students at every grade level on a daily basis, and attendance will be taken every day. The schedule will not mirror the students daily in person schedule but there will be classes for each subject that is taught scheduled into each week. The amount of time spent on Goggle Meets classes will depend on the grade level of the students. Assignments will also be posted and turned in on Google Classroom. We are currently working on what those schedules will look like and will be posting them on our district website as soon as they are available.

8. Will students and staff have their temperature checked daily?

A. Yes. Parents will be asked to take their child(ren)s temperature each morning, and submit an attestation that they do not have a temperature of 100 degrees or higher. We are working on a system to submit and collect that information and more details will follow. If we do not receive verification from a parent, the student's temperature will be taken at school. All staff will also have to take their temperature and answer a series of questions regarding symptoms and submit that information daily.

9. Will all staff and students have to have a COVID19 test?

A. Not at this time. The guidance from the DOH does not recommend that all students or staff are tested. See below for more information on when testing will be done.

10. What if my child has a fever, will they have to be tested?

A. **If your child has a fever of 100 or above, you will need to keep them home.** We recognize that not all children that have a fever will have COVID. A fever is just one of the symptoms of COVID, and your child's primary doctor will help to determine if he/she needs to be tested for COVID. Here are some details from the Department of Health on testing:

Testing – If and when a student presents signs or symptoms of COVID-19 (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>), the individual should be sent home. The parent or guardian of the student should consult with their child's doctor if they should be tested for COVID-19. Staff members who report any symptoms of COVID-19 should contact their primary care primary and discuss whether or not testing is appropriate. If a family does not have a doctor or the doctor is unavailable, individuals should call the Upstate University Hospital's COVID-19 Triage Line at 315-464-3979. For a list of testing sites in the Central New York area, please check out <https://www.madisoncounty.ny.gov/2589/Diagnostic-Testing-Sites-for-COVID-19> .

Please note that when an individual with symptoms is tested for COVID-19, they are asked to quarantine by their healthcare provider until they receive their test result. If the test comes back negative, they are notified by their healthcare provider and no longer need to quarantine and may return to school after symptoms have resolved; unless the individual was placed into quarantine due to an exposure to a positive case. In this instance, the individual will complete the full quarantine period regardless of a negative

test result. If the test comes back positive, they are notified by their healthcare provider and Madison County Health Department will contact them for a case investigation. The individual will be issued an order for isolation for a minimum of 10 days from symptom onset. The Health Department will conduct daily follow up and release individuals from isolation when appropriate.

11. If my child has a fever and their doctor determines that they do NOT need to be tested, what do we have to do in order for them to return to school?

A. A note from the doctor indicating that the child does not need to be tested for COVID and/or has been diagnosed with another ailment, and the child has been fever/symptom free for 24 hours without the aid of fever reducing medication they may return to school.

12. What happens if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID 19?

A. We received the following guidance from the Department of Health: If/when a student or staff member tests positive for COVID:

The **Madison County Health Department** will be **responsible for all contact tracing** as they would any positive case of COVID-19 in Madison County. They will work closely with the school district and family to identify all close contacts (those who came within six feet of the positive case for at least 10 minutes). Those individuals will be notified and issued quarantine orders. They will receive daily follow up from Madison County staff to monitor symptoms and ensure compliance.

In addition, the Madison County Health Department will provide the school district with guidance related to cleaning and disinfecting as well as additional testing of students or staff. **School buildings of the positive case should be shut down for at least 24 hours for cleaning and disinfecting, and so that contact tracing can be done.**

If we need to shut down for cleaning/disinfecting due to a positive COVID case parents will be notified using our automated School Messenger system. The announcement will also be placed on our school website, and local TV stations as it would with any emergency closing day.

13. Will my child have to wear a mask all day?

A. Students will not have to wear masks every minute of the day. They will have to wear them at all times on the bus, in all common areas of the school such as hallways, bathrooms, in the cafeteria line etc. When in a classroom and socially distanced, students will be allowed to remove their masks

14. Will we amend the Dress Code to include masks? Are shields allowed?

A. Wearing a mask in above mentioned areas is REQUIRED. Per CDC guidelines, face shields are allowed to be worn in addition to a mask, but not in place of one.

15. Will my child be able to eat in the cafeteria?

A. The cafeteria will be used on a very limited basis due to social distancing guidelines.

Elementary students will have breakfast in their classrooms, and students will eat lunch in the cafeteria. They will be assigned seats that adhere to social distancing.

The majority of 6-12 students will have breakfast in their first period classes. Morning BOCES students and students with first period classes in the annex will eat in the cafeteria. Lunch for 6-12 students will be in assigned classrooms. Due to social distancing guidelines, there will be no 'open gym' recess during 6-12 lunch periods.

16. What will the classrooms look like?

A. Each classroom will look different, but all will have the following in common: desks or table seating will be set up so that each student has 6ft of space in all directions with students facing in the same direction. Many extra furniture, such as small group tables, chairs and carpets will have been removed from the rooms in order to accommodate social distancing

17. Will my child still be able to use the playground?

A. Yes. The PK-5 students will have a recess schedule by grade level. Students will wash/sanitize their hands before going outside for recess, and upon coming back in. The playground will be cleaned and disinfected routinely.

18. Will my child still have PE?

A. Yes, students will still have PE classes. Social distancing guidelines will be followed so the activities may look different than what the students are used to. The PE teachers are working hard to revise their curriculum to ensure that students are still able to learn and enjoy their PE classes.

19. Will my child still have music classes? What about lessons and band?

A. Yes music classes are still going to be offered, but much like PE the types of activities may look different in order to adhere to the social distancing guidelines. This includes instrumental lessons and performance groups such as choral ensembles and bands.

20. Can I go to my locker in between classes?

A. In order to adhere to social distancing guidelines, students will have access to lockers, but not all students will be able to go to lockers at the same time. Locker access will be scheduled and students will be provided with that information on the first day of school.

21. What time can our children be on campus/dropped off in the morning?

A. Students (drop off or walkers) can arrive on campus at 7:50 AM. There will be a process in place to ensure that students have the opportunity to have breakfast, put their belongings away etc. Students should not arrive at school before 7:50 due to lack of supervision. Students should report directly to their classroom/first period class when arriving at school. The small and large gyms will *not* be open. Students attending BOCES and other off site programs should report to the cafeteria. Breakfast will be provided for students to eat in their classrooms/first period class upon arriving at school.

22. Will visitors be allowed in the building?

A. For the health and safety of our students, staff, and community visitors will not be permitted in the building for the 2020-2021 school year.

If you need to pick up your child for an appointment or because they are ill a staff member will escort them to meet you at the Security Window in the main foyer. Staff will be available in the morning to assist elementary students get to their classrooms as needed. Parent/guardian meetings will be held virtually.

23. When will fall sports practices begin?

A. The NYSPHSAA has postponed all public school sports practices until at least 9/21. When we receive further guidance from that organization as the date approaches, we will inform students and their families.

24. If sports open up on 9/21 how will students in 9-12 get back to school for practices if still on hybrid model and parents are still at work?

A. When sports practices begin, we will work on a process for athletes to attend practices.

25. Will students still go on field trips?

A. No, students will not be going on field trips this year.

26. Can I take out books from the library?

A. Yes, students will still be able to check out books from the DCS library.

27. Will there be events like dances, concerts etc?

A. At this time, there will be no large gathering events held on the DCS campus. If/when the guidelines for this type of event change, we will reevaluate and determine if we are able to accommodate those events and still keep our students and staff safe.