

April 9, 2021

Dear DCSD Families,

We sincerely appreciate the flexibility of our DCSD families and staff this year as we navigated the COVID pandemic and moved throughout different learning platforms. We are incredibly grateful to finally have all grade levels back for full, in-person learning five days a week.

However, the COVID case numbers in our community are trending upwards once again. Recently, the Tri-County Health Department has directed some of our middle and high schools to transition to remote learning for 14 days. At this time, Tri-County Health may close a school if there are five or more classroom/cohort outbreaks in a 14-day period (in alignment with the [CDPHE Criteria for School Closures](#)).

We love having our students in classrooms and want to keep them in school for the remainder of the school year. We are also moving forward with plans to host school continuation ceremonies, graduations, proms, and other important milestone events that our students deserve. Here are a few ways that you can help us make this a reality.

Get Your Student (ages 16 and older) on a List for the COVID Vaccine

The fastest way for us to circumvent future health department directed school closures (at the high school level) is for students (ages 16+) to begin accessing COVID vaccinations. This will also help students avoid quarantines, which is especially important for our high school seniors, so they don't miss future milestone events or even graduation due to a quarantine.

- If your child is 16 or older, please consider getting them on a list to receive a COVID vaccination through a local provider such as Kaiser Permanente. [Click here to add your student to the Kaiser Permanente vaccine list](#) (you do not need to be a member of Kaiser).
- The [Tri-County Health Department vaccine web page](#) lists additional vaccine providers.
- [Click here](#) for more information about the COVID-19 vaccine.

Keep Students Home if Showing Even Minor Symptoms of Illness

- PLEASE pay very close attention to individual health and any COVID-related symptoms. If your student is experiencing any health symptoms, please keep them home. Once symptom-free for 48 hours, students can get back to school. We prefer to be overly cautious for a day or two rather than having in-school exposures that may cost numerous kids valuable days of in-person learning or the ability to attend important milestone events such as proms, continuation ceremonies, and graduations due to a quarantine.
 - PLEASE NOTE: We are seeing very mild COVID symptoms in most students who test positive. PLEASE do not dismiss mild symptoms as allergies or general fatigue. If your student has ANY symptoms including fatigue that is more than usual for your child, headache, nausea, sore throat, runny nose, etc. keep them home and consider having your child tested for COVID-19. More obvious symptoms are loss of taste and smell, cough and congestion. Please see the [DCSD Health and Safety Mitigations page](#) for more specific information.

Quarantine Information:

- Quarantine periods begin the day AFTER exposure. We work to get quarantine emails and phone calls out to families as soon as possible upon learning of an exposure in a school.
- If your student is quarantined, please keep them quarantined. This means students should not be visiting with friends and family outside of your home, and they should not be playing sports or any other organized activities. We know this can be difficult for everyone as kids want to move and be free, however, we must do our best to keep everyone safe.

We are incredibly thankful to the many DCSD staff who have received both doses of the COVID vaccine. Staff that are past the two week waiting period do not need to quarantine in the case of an exposure. This has been incredibly helpful in keeping students engaged in learning and reducing our need for substitutes.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Together we can finish the 2020-2021 school year on a strong and positive note for each and every one of our students.

Sincerely,

Corey Wise
Interim Superintendent
Douglas County School District