

FAQ – IN-PERSON AT SCHOOL

School Opening and Closure

- 1. Has DMUSD decided whether to begin the school year in-person or remotely? If not, when will a decision be made and families notified?**

The current county public health order mandates that schools in San Diego begin the year by providing instruction via remote learning unless they are exempt based on an approved waiver.
- 2. Will DMUSD file for a waiver to open school on August 24th if schools in San Diego County are not permitted to open? Will parents and staff be involved in the decision to file for a waiver to reopen?**

The Governor has provided a provision for districts within counties on the monitoring list to apply for a waiver to reopen. We will work with public health, physicians, teachers, and parents as we move through the planning process to reopen our schools as soon as we are able to do so.
- 3. Are there situations that would require a school to close after opening?**

Classrooms or cohorts will be closed and quarantined if there is a confirmed positive case of COVID-19. A school may be closed if multiple cohorts or classrooms within a school are required to quarantine.
- 4. In the event of school closure, will students transition to Launch distance learning?**

In the event of school closure, students will be taught remotely by their classroom teacher. Remote classrooms may be necessary as part of in-person learning. Launch is the yearlong distance learning program and separate from in-person classrooms.
- 5. Are in-person teachers receiving professional learning to help them successfully facilitate remote classrooms?**

All teachers have the opportunity to participate in Leading Edge Certification to support their skill as remote classroom teachers. Teachers will also receive professional learning in i-Ready Assessments and i-Ready Learning to support math and language arts instruction in a remote classroom setting.
- 6. If a vaccine becomes available, will Launch classes be held in-person at school sites?**

Launch is a yearlong distance learning option for parents. In order to maintain continuity for student learning and staff, Launch will continue for the entire year. Families selecting Launch should be prepared to remain in distance learning for the entire school year.
- 7. When will parents find out who their child's teacher is?**

Student enrollment and staffing is still being finalized. Prior to the start of school, families will receive information about how to access their child's teacher assignment.
- 8. How will parents find out information about the new school year at their child's school?**

School principals will provide information to all families prior to the start of the school year. This information will be provided in a variety of *formats such as websites, written communication, and video.*
- 9. Will new family orientations be held in person?**

Under the current county public health order, gatherings are not permitted on our school campuses. Principals are working with site teams to determine the best way to welcome our new families to each school.

Health and Safety

Face Coverings

- 1. Are students required to wear face coverings while at school? If so, are students also required to wear a face covering during recess and P.E.?**
All staff and students are required to wear face coverings at all times except to eat snacks and lunch.
- 2. What type of face coverings are acceptable?**
Any cloth face covering, cloth or disposable face mask is acceptable.
- 3. Are there exceptions to students wearing face coverings? What if my student is unable or unwilling to wear a face covering?**
According to the current county public health order, individuals who are unable to wear a mask due to medical conditions or a disability, are exempt.
- 4. What if I don't want my child to wear a face covering all day?**
Launch distance learning is available for families who don't want their child to wear a face covering during the school day.

Physical Distancing

- 1. Are class sizes small enough to allow for physical distancing?**
Class sizes will be reduced to provide for physical distancing.
- 2. Is 6 feet between students required?**
It is not required for students to maintain a distance of 6 feet from other students. However, students will be expected to maintain a distance of 6 feet as much as practicable. Throughout the school day and in all school settings, students will be distanced to the extent practicable. Use of indoor and outdoor spaces will be maximized to allow for distancing.
- 3. What will happen during lunch and snack when children have to remove their face coverings?**
Students will eat outside when possible and will maintain distancing while their face coverings are removed to eat snacks and lunch.
- 4. Will students be able to work together in pairs or groups despite the need to physically distance?**
Students will be able to work together in small groups while distancing. If students in small groups are unable to maintain distancing, clear dividers will be used.
- 5. Will physical distancing be enforced during recess, lunch, and P.E.? Will playgrounds remain open and will play equipment be provided?**
Face coverings will be required at all times during the day with the exception of eating snacks and lunch. Playgrounds will be open, distancing will be maximized, and students will have play equipment available.
- 6. Can Del Mar Hills Academy safely absorb Del Mar Heights K-3 students and maintain physical distancing within classrooms?**
Del Mar Hills Academy has the classroom and outdoor spaces to safely absorb Del Mar Heights k-3 students and maintain physical distancing. Currently, it is projected that Del Mar Hills Academy will have

a total of approximately 423 students. With the addition of four temporary classrooms, the use of outdoor space adjacent to each classroom, and the addition of tents on the field for each classroom, there will be sufficient space at Del Mar Hills Academy.

7. If seated in groups at tables, will students be separated by clear dividers?

When students are working in small groups with the classroom teacher and physical distancing cannot be maintained at an acceptable distance, clear dividers will be used.

Cleaning, Sanitation, and Safety Procedures

1. What cleaning and sanitation procedures will DMUSD implement in classrooms, bathrooms, and around school sites?

One additional custodian is being hired for each school site in order to address cleaning of high touch areas and restrooms throughout the day. This staff member will clean door knobs, light switches, sinks, and other high-touch areas around the school on an ongoing basis. In addition, all rooms will be sanitized each evening.

2. Will DMUSD require daily temperature checks for students and staff?

Yes, the protocol for temperature checks will be written into each school site Safe Reopening Plan.

3. Will DMUSD utilize outdoor learning spaces? If so, how much outdoor space will each classroom have and how much time will students spend per day in the outdoor space?

The District has contracted with a company to provide tents that will be placed on the fields at every school site. Each classroom will have the use of tent space specifically for their class, and each classroom's tent will be spaced from neighboring tents. The amount of time spent outdoors will be dependent on the learning occurring throughout the day. In addition, lunch tables with umbrellas for shade are being moved to locations outside classrooms allowing for effective use of outdoor space in close proximity to classrooms.

Possible Exposure and Positive COVID-19 Protocol

1. Will DMUSD notify families of a positive case or possible exposure?

Yes, any student or staff that was exposed to a person with a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 will be notified and quarantined.

2. Will in-person learning transition to remote learning in the event of a positive COVID-19 case within a class? What is the threshold of cases that would require the transition to remote learning?

If anyone within a cohort or classroom is confirmed to have a positive COVID-19 case, the entire cohort will quarantine and transition to remote learning which will be taught by the classroom teacher.

3. If a student is required to quarantine due to possible exposure, being symptomatic, or being confirmed positive, when may the student return to school? Is a negative COVID-19 test required to return to school?

A negative test is not required to return to school, but students must quarantine for 14 days following a confirmed exposure.

4. How will learning continue when students are required to quarantine?

If the entire class is quarantined, they will access remote learning taught by the classroom teacher. If a single student needs to quarantine, that student will be provided with instruction via independent study.

5. **Are families required to notify DMUSD if the student, friend, or family member tests positive for COVID-19?**
Families will be asked to inform the district if a child is quarantined.
6. **Will teachers and staff be regularly tested for COVID-19?**
The District is examining the process for conducting periodic COVID-19 testing of staff.

Class Size and Cohorts

1. **What are the anticipated class sizes for all grades?**
In-person class sizes for kindergarten through third grade will average 15-19 students and fourth through sixth grade will average 18-21 students.
2. **Is a class the same as a cohort?**
A class refers to a group of students assigned to a teacher. A cohort may refer to a class, or group of students different from their class assignment. For example, an entire first grade may be considered a cohort. A group of students in after school care may be a cohort of students and different from classes during the school day.
3. **May families request that their student be grouped with specific students?**
If so, how many requests can a family submit? Due to the complicated nature of creating balanced classes, we are unable to accommodate requests for students to be grouped together.

School and Class Schedule

1. **Is DMUSD staggering school day start and end times and drop-off and pick-up times?**
If so, what are the schedules? At this time, school sites are able to accommodate the arrival and dismissal of all students through multiple entry and exit points, without the need for staggered start and end times.
2. **How will drop-off and pick-up work when parents are not allowed on campus?**
Site-based plans are being developed by school site committees. These committees include staff, parents, and the principal. Procedures will allow for maximum physical distancing and will be communicated by individual school site principals.
3. **Will recess and lunch be staggered?**
Site-based plans are being developed by school committees to allow for staggered recess and lunch, so that students can be physically active while maintaining physical distancing. These plans will be communicated by individual school sites.
4. **Will my child have the opportunity to move around the room or will they be required to sit at their desk all day?**
Students will have the opportunity to move throughout the classroom and school with their class while maintaining physical distancing.

Extra-Curricular and After School Programs

1. **Will DMUSD offer enrichment or after school programs? If so, what health and safety precautions will be taken within the programs?**

Currently, there are no plans to offer in-person enrichment. Enrichment options will be available once the current public health orders are modified to allow districts to offer these types of programs. We are currently exploring options to provide after school care and these options will be communicated once the plan is finalized.

2. **Will DMUSD offer childcare options for working parents?**

In accordance with the current public health order, we are exploring available childcare options for essential workers.

Hybrid and Remote Learning

1. **Why isn't DMUSD offering a hybrid learning model?**

Reduced class sizes, use of outdoor learning spaces, and the implementation of health and safety protocols allow for the safe return to school five days each week. When students are not in school with their class, they are often in childcare situations which increases their exposure and the exposure to the rest of the classroom and school staff upon return to school. Reduced school days for students results in reduced learning. Many districts with large class sizes must consider implementing a hybrid schedule due to the district's inability to effectively reduce class sizes low enough for adequate distancing.

2. **How does remote curriculum compare to in-person curriculum?**

The core district curriculum will be used to instruct students remotely. In addition, new supplemental programs to support mathematics, language arts, and English language development have been purchased for teacher and student use. These new programs support a remote learning classroom.

3. **Does remote learning offer in-person P.E.? If so, will facial coverings and social distancing be enforced?**

According to the current county public health order, in-person P.E. cannot be offered.

4. **Will students have access to the school library?**

Under the current county public health order, the library will not be available to students.

5. **Why do I have to commit to one year of in-person learning?**

In order to maintain continuity for student learning and staff, families must select the learning option that best fits their current need. Families may elect to move into Launch, and may do so based on space available after the start of the school year.

6. **May students enrolled in in-person learning at the beginning of the school year transition to Launch distance learning during the school year?**

Parents should be prepared to commit to the option they select for one year. If it is necessary for a student to transfer out of in-person learning, enrollment in Launch will be based on space available.

7. What technology devices does my student need for remote learning?

All students will need access to a technology device and a reliable wifi connection to participate in daily learning. Parents may choose to have their child use a personal technology device or one may be borrowed from the Del Mar Union School District. The following technology devices will be available through DMUSD:

- K and 1st Grade: iPad
- 2nd-6th: Chromebook

7. What digital platform will be used to support my student's learning?

Teachers will use Google Classroom to house and facilitate learning resources, communicate student learning outcomes, and provide feedback on assignments. Students and families may also be directed to other digital learning programs.

8. What IT/Tech support will be provided for remote learning and who may I contact for tech support?

Help guides as well as an email and phone contact for tech support will be provided.