

Greetings DPS parents and families,

DPS would like to welcome our students and families back for the 2021-22 school year. As we prepare for the start of the new school year, we wanted to provide some guidance to our parents on how best to navigate health and immunization requirements, the management of students with medical conditions, and COVID-19 health and safety guidance in accordance with recommendations from the CDC, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, and the Durham County Department of Public Health.

### **COVID-19 Safety Requirements**

We will continue to follow our COVID-19 protocols in an attempt to minimize and contain the spread of the virus. This includes but is not limited to:

- Face coverings will be required for all students five years of age and older, teachers and staff, and visitors in accordance with recommendations of the CDC, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, and the Durham County Department of Health
- A child who has tested positive for COVID-19 should be kept at home and must follow the health department's guidance on isolation requirements.
- A child who has been exposed to an individual with COVID-19 at home should be kept at home and follow the health department's guidance on quarantine requirements.
- Parents should keep all sick children at home, and any student who becomes sick while on campus will be sent home.
- The siblings of sick children should also be kept home. The siblings of sick children will be sent home if a student becomes sick while on campus.
- Parents will have three options for *sick children* to return to school whether they were kept home or were sent home from school:
  1. A negative COVID-19 test result AND symptom-free for 24 hours *without the use of fever reducing medication, or*
  2. A doctor's note with an alternate diagnosis AND symptom-free for 24 hours *without the use of fever reducing medication, or*
  3. If the parent is unable to exercise the options above, then the student will not be allowed to return for 10 days as DPS assumes the student could have COVID-19.
- Parents will be notified if their child has been identified as a close contact to an individual who has COVID-19 at school.

### **Immunization and Health Assessment**

All students entering Kindergarten are required by state law to have an [NC Health Assessment](#) completed by a North Carolina health care provider within 30 days. This provider must be a physician, nurse practitioner, or a physician assistant. All students entering kindergarten, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grades are also required by state law to have proof of updated immunizations within 30 days of the start of the school year. [NC Immunization Requirements](#) provides a list of all immunization requirements for

kindergarten, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Please contact your school or school nurse with any questions regarding immunizations or health assessments.

### **Medication Administration**

If a student has a medical condition that requires medication administration during school hours, this can be done with the completion of DPS's [Medication Administration Form](#) by the student's health care provider. Please note that a parent signature on the back of the form is required. The completed form should be provided to the school along with the medication in its original container.

### **Medical Management**

If a student has a medical diagnosis that requires management during school hours, please notify your school immediately to schedule a meeting with a DPS school nurse to discuss the diagnosis and medical needs of the student so a plan can be implemented.

Parents are strongly encouraged to discuss and reinforce COVID-19 safety protocols such as wearing face coverings, handwashing, and social distancing with their students prior to the start of school. Please also ensure that your contact information and emergency contacts are updated and correct.

As we continue to navigate the 2021-22 academic school year, we are focused on the health and safety of our students and our staff. We look forward to partnering with our families to make this a successful school year.