

Death Valley Unified School District 2021- 2022 Reopening School Plan



Mission Statement

Death Valley Unified School District

To provide a safe learning environment in which all students are given the opportunities they need to help them reach their highest academic potential.

Strategic Reopening School Plan Introduction

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Death Valley USD schools transitioned on March 17, 2020 to Distance Learning, continued for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year as well as the 2020-2021 school year. As a result, Death Valley Unified School District provided academic instruction via Distance Learning. There were many decisions faced by our small district: bandwidth, Chromebook deployment, curriculum, grading, graduation, meal distribution, and safety guidelines. Death Valley Unified staff responded with a determination to provide our families and students with support, meals and an ongoing instructional program.

While there are many unknowns surrounding the future of educational institutions, we are preparing for reopening for the upcoming fall semester. Reopening will incorporate recommendations of our local health department, state of California's guidelines as well as CDC guidelines.

California Department of Public Health (CDPH) guidelines released on June 5, 2020 stated that "All decisions about following this guidance should be made in collaboration with local health officials and other authorities." Those guidelines issued a year ago will help us stay focused on student, staff and family safety as we move down the path to a full reopening.

We know that this plan is subject to change as federal, state and CDC guidelines may change before our August 30, 2021 first day of in school instruction. We will keep parents, students and staff updated should plans change.

Classroom Instructional Model

100% of Students and Staff Return with Appropriate Restrictions and Guidelines

- Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms.
- Digital, no contact thermometers are available for each school site.
- Masks will be available and will be worn by all students and staff. (Protective shields will be provided to staff by request.) Masks are recommended for grades TK-2 and in lieu of face masks these students can wear face shields.
- Daily cleaning procedures to sanitize the interior of all buses will be enforced and monitored. These will include fogging before every bus run
- Chromebooks will be individually assigned to students for daily in class use.

- ❑ A full distance learning option will be available for those families choosing to remain on a 100% distance learning model instead of returning to the site in-person.

Death Valley Unified School District School Site Reopening Safety Plans

Cleaning and Disinfection

Death Valley Unified School
District will:

- Post standards, and a schedule for regular and deep cleaning sanitizing needs
- Using state and local guidelines, high touch site sanitizing rounds will be made daily in high traffic areas.
- Deliver and maintain Environmental Protections Agency (EPA) approved cleaning and disinfecting supplies along with personal protective equipment to each school site and district office buildings as required.
- Maintain inventory of cleaning and disinfecting supplies, and Personal Protective Equipment
- Ensure that schools are cleaned utilizing soap and warm water, appropriate disinfectants as well as a sanitizing agent applied with a fogger.
- Ensure that custodial staff has been trained on how to properly use EPA approved cleaning/disinfecting products.
- Ensure proper daily cleaning of offices, restrooms and classrooms will be conducted to control bacteria, odors, and the spread of viruses at all district locations.
- Cleaning protocols will include the continual wiping down of all touch points utilizing the district approved germicidal disinfectant at least once daily. (Touch points include but are not limited to the following: Doors, door handles, door frames, window sills, light switches, marker boards and trays, student desks, teacher desks, chairs, tables, computers, keyboards, monitors.
- Wash play equipment with properly diluted disinfectant cleaner.
- We will utilize the following check off lists to monitor cleaning schedules.

RESTROOM CLEANING CHECKLIST

(Times are approximate and as needed)

RESTROOM		8:30 AM		11:30 AM		2:30 PM
Fog/Wash/Disinfect Sinks & Fixtures						
Fog/Wash/Disinfect Urinals & Toilets						
Fog Partitions & Walls						
Clean Mirrors						
Wipe Down Handles						
Refill Soap Dispensers as needed						
Refill Paper Dispensers as needed						
Wipe Down Paper Towel/ Soap Dispensers						
Empty Waste Receptacle						
Empty Sanitary Napkin Receptacle						
Wet Mop Floor						

CLASSROOM CLEANING CHECK OFF LIST

(In addition to daily/evening cleaning; Times are approximate and as needed)

CLASSROOM		9:30 AM	12:00 PM	2:30 PM	
Wipe Down Desks					
(Teacher/Student)					
Wipe Down of Door Handles					
Wipe Down of Door Frames					
Wipe Down of Light Switches					
Wipe Down of Thermostats					
Wipe Down of Markerboards					
Empty Trash Receptacles					

OFFICE CLEANING CHECKLIST

(Times are approximate and as needed)

OFFICE	7:00 AM	11:30 AM	4:30 PM
Wipe Down Door Handles/Door Frames			
Wipe Down Light Switches			
Wipe Down Thermostats			
Wipe Down Walls			
Wipe Down Desks			
Wipe Down Tops of File Cabinets			
Wipe Down Tables			
Wipe Down Countertops			
Wipe Down Phones			
Wipe Down Copiers/Fax Machines/Printers			
Empty Waste Receptacle			

Entrance, Egress and Movement within the School

In order to minimize the number of people on campus, and to best ensure minimal contact of those that are on campus, DVUSD staff, students, vendors and visitors will implement and adhere to the following:

- Follow established protocol for delivery personnel both private companies and DVUSD staff
- Use protocol for families on campus for IEP meetings, picking up students, etc. which would include hand sanitizer
- Identified entrances will be utilized.
- Breaks and lunch periods will be staggered to limit crowding due to limited seating areas.
- Visitors must check in at the entrance desk and wear facial coverings. Disposable facial coverings will be available.
- Employees are prohibited from allowing visitors to enter the school building except as per this guidance and District policy.

Face Coverings and Other Essential Protective Gear

DVUSD staff, students, vendors and visitors will adhere to clear mask requirements on school grounds.

- Applies to all staff (including visitors & vendors)
- Applies to all students 3rd grade and up
- Strongly recommended for students in TK-2. In lieu of face masks these students can wear a face shield.
- Certain medical conditions would exempt individuals
- Unless otherwise directed, staff and students will need to wear a facial covering/mask at all times when working, whether indoors or outdoors, and regardless of whether in the physical presence of others.

Health Screening for Students and Staff **Guidelines for daily wellness checks for staff**

- All staff participate in mandated training (specific to COVID-19 safety and prevention in the work environment).
- Employees are required to self-assess daily to determine if they are experiencing signs and symptoms prior to coming to work each day. Employees must not report to work if the temperature is 100.4 degrees or higher.

- If a self-assessment indicates the employee is experiencing signs and symptoms related to COVID-19, including having a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher, the employee must stay home and immediately contact their supervisor.
- Any employee who displays signs and symptoms related to COVID-19 after reporting to work, shall report this directly to their immediate supervisor.
- Signage will be prominently displayed in work locations reminding employees of wellness protocols.

Entering Campus (students and staff)

- At the guidance of public health officials, combine both active and passive screening:
 - Passive Screening: Prior to students leaving for school families are being asked to check that temperatures are below 100.4 degrees, observe for symptoms outlined by public health officials, and keep students home if they exhibit symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or have had close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19.
 - Active Screening: Engage in symptom screening prior to entering campus and buses, which may include:
 - Visual wellness checks
 - Use of a no-touch thermometer for temperature checks
 - Ask the individual about COVID-19 symptoms in the last 48 hours and whether anyone in the home has COVID-19 symptoms or a positive test.
- Wash or sanitize hands when entering campuses or buses.
- If an individual is symptomatic upon entering, or develops symptoms during the day, isolate from others right away.
- Sick individuals are not to return until they have met CDC criteria to discontinue home isolation.

Healthy Hygiene Practices

Handwashing protocols

- Posting state and local handwashing guidance in all restrooms and breakrooms.
- Frequent handwashing with soap and water and scrubbing for a minimum of 20 seconds.
- If a sink is not in proximity, please utilize the hand sanitizer stations.

- Staff will determine placement of hand sanitizer pump stands and replenish when necessary.
- Students and staff will have opportunities to meet handwashing frequency guidance in accordance with CDPH by:
 - Access to handwashing and sanitizer stations, including portable stations.
 - Access to fragrance-free hand sanitizer near all workstations and on buses
- Staff and students receive direction on proper handwashing techniques as follows:
 - Scrub with soap for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer if soap is not available.
 - Use paper towels for drying.
- Wash hands when: arriving and leaving home, arriving at and leaving school, after playing outside, after having close contact with others, after using shared surfaces or tools, before and after restroom use, before and after eating and preparing foods, and after blowing nose, coughing, and sneezing.
- All staff and students:
 - Use a tissue to wipe the nose and cough and sneeze inside the tissue.
 - Avoid touching face or face covering

Identification and Tracing of Contacts

Following the recommendations of the CDC and in coordination with the local public health officials, the superintendent or designee will notify students, staff and families about cases and exposures at the school consistent with FERPA and HIPAA guidelines. Information will be disseminated through Aeries Communication when we are instructed to do so by the Inyo County Department of Public Health. Mr. Hill will be the point person to support contact tracing, such as creation and submission of lists of exposed students and staff to the local health department, and notification of exposed persons.

Physical Distancing

Physical distancing will be required for all personnel, along with other adaptations.

- Current requirements are that all staff must be at least 6 feet apart from each other, as practicable.
- This applies to workers at school even when students are not present.
- When students are present, staff and student desks must be at least three feet apart, as practicable. Students should be at least six feet apart whenever practicable.
- Utilizing CDC and CDPH guidance ensures that desks, tables and activity stations are a minimum of 6 feet apart minimizing face to face contact.
- Use of developmentally appropriate activities that model and reinforce good hygiene and social (physical) distancing practices.
- Rearrange furniture and play spaces to maintain separation when possible. Limit the use of shared materials.

- Students and staff should wear face coverings at bus stops, when entering or exiting a bus and while riding.
- Seat students from the rear of the bus forward. Students who are dropped off first in the afternoon will board last to the front of the bus.
- Students and staff maintain 6 ft distance at all times.
- Have lunch and/or meals in supervised and appropriately distanced settings.
- Remind students not to share or touch anyone else's food or beverage.
- Consider strategies to limit physical interaction.

Staff Training and Family Education

Staff will be trained at weekly staff meetings about the application and enforcement of the plan. Community forums will be held at each school where the principal will review the plan and share with families how the plan will be enforced.

Testing of Students and Staff

All staff will be tested every week.