



DeKalb County
School District

Updates on Mask Wearing Protocols

(As of July 12, 2021)

DeKalb County School District (DCSD) is committed to providing safe learning environments for students and staff. DCSD is excited to bring students back to our buildings so that we can continue our mission to provide equitable educational services to meet students' needs.

The District continues to monitor trends in reported cases, including the recently reported increase in the spread of the Delta Variant among unvaccinated individuals. According to the World Health Organization, the Delta Variant is now the dominant Coronavirus Variant.

The following updated information will provide guidance to ensure a safe return to school, offices, and facilities beginning with recommendations to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our buildings.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) updated guidance as of 7/9/21 recommends schools continue to use the current COVID-19 prevention strategies for the 2021-2022 school year.

Key CDC recommended prevention strategies that are essential to the safe delivery of in-person instruction and to help prevent COVID-19 transmission in schools include:

1. Universal and correct use of masks.
2. Physical distancing to the greatest extent possible.
3. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette.
4. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities.
5. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine.
6. Watching out for symptoms of COVID-19, especially if you've been around someone who is sick. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, you should get tested, stay home, and away from others.
7. Getting vaccinated.

DeKalb County School District will implement the following:

• **All students must wear masks when riding school buses.** This requirement is consistent with the CDC recommendations that all persons should wear masks when utilizing public transportation.

• **Masks are required** for elementary age students due to no availability of vaccines for this age group. Schools will utilize best practices for cafeterias and other areas where it would be difficult for students to wear masks.

- Masks are **required** for middle and high school students as well as for all staff. Although masks for fully vaccinated staff and students (12 and over) are optional per CDC guidance, out of an abundance of caution, masks will be required in all buildings. The district will review effective methods to identify students and staff who are vaccinated and will re-evaluate optional mask wearing. **Parents are strongly encouraged to consult with their health care provider for the best vaccine options for their family.**

- Staff or students that present with symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home away from others and seek care from their healthcare provider.

- Wearing masks are **required** for the After School Extended Day Programs (ASEDP) for activities occurring indoors. Masks are **optional** for activities held outside.

- Masks are **optional** for athletic sports activities. Masks are **required** in lockers rooms, and weight rooms. Athletic teams are required to follow all protocols established by the Georgia High School Association for safety at sporting events.

- Masks are **required** for all clubs that meet indoors. Masks are **optional** for activities held outside.

- Staff will continue to utilize the COVID-19 District Protocol when reporting exposure/positive COVID-19 cases.

Schools and District buildings will continue to exercise all mitigating strategies. The District will continue to monitor cases within the County and the District while reserving the right to update its practices, including the requirement for all staff and students to wear masks.

The District will continue to work with community partners to address vaccination requests, surveillance testing or pool testing based on the most current research, medical consultation and rise in cases.

