



Thursday, Aug. 13, 2020

## Parent/Staff Update

We are looking forward to the opening of schools on an alternative day schedule beginning on August 25. In anticipation of that opening, the following information will assist families and staff in preparing to start the school year.

While we recognize that practicing good hygiene, wearing cloth face masks, and maintaining six feet physical distance is a departure from the norm, by working together, we provide not only protection to ourselves and others, but we also provide a path to opening school on a traditional five-day schedule, something we all desire. We are in this pandemic together and our collective actions will have a significant impact on restricting the spread of COVID-19.

## Dashboard

As has been the nature of this pandemic, research and information is constantly evolving. We will examine several indicators relative to the virus both in our state, county, and district. As new information becomes available, the District will examine all relevant information as well as the status of COVID-19 in surrounding school districts. Specifically, the trend of COVID-19 (increases or decreases) will be closely examined for each metric. The following markers will be examined and published to make up the dashboard:

- State and Davis County percentage of positive tests.
- State and Davis County percentage of cases per 100,000.
- Positive cases of students and staff in Davis District schools.
- Quarantines of students and staff in Davis District schools.

The dashboard will be published in early to mid-September. This information will be updated each Friday. Data from this dashboard will help guide the District in consultation with the Davis County Health Department in the decision-making process toward potential changes in school schedules.

## Face Coverings

Face coverings are required of all students, employees, and visitors due to the [Public Health Order](#) issued by the Utah Department of Health on July 17, 2020. This order provides for exemptions for very specific reasons. For those parents who believe that these exemptions are applicable to their children, here is the [Mask Exemption Form](#). Employees can access their [Mask Exemption Form](#) here. The request must be completed by a licensed physician and then presented to a committee of representatives of the Davis School District Risk Management and Nursing Departments for approval. This committee will ensure that the request is within the scope of the Public Health Order. Prior to approval of the exemption request, the individual in question must wear a mask when in a school building.

Those who receive an exemption may be more susceptible to both COVID-19 spread and potential quarantine as that student will not have the same level of protection as those who wear face mask.

## High Risk Self-Identification

Davis School District recognizes the potential impact of COVID-19 on certain individuals who have pre-existing health concerns. To provide targeted contact tracing and communication for these individuals, students and employees can enter a designation of high risk. A letter going out on Friday, Aug. 14 will outline how parents via MyDSD and employees via

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Encore can enter that designation.

Additionally, the form will identify conditions which either individually or collectively may make the individual at higher risk for COVID-19. It will not require the parent or employee to specifically identify any specific health condition. If or when there is a positive COVID-19 case, those individuals who have provided this information will be the first to be contacted by the Davis County Health Department.

### **COVID-19 Outbreak and Quarantines**

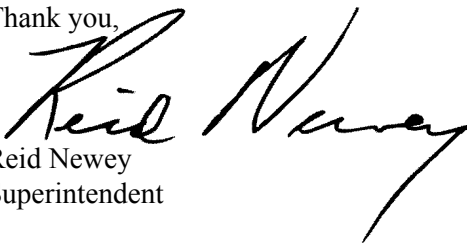
The Utah State Board of Education has provided guidance for school opening. You can access that document by clicking on this link. [https://coronavirus-download.utah.gov/School/COVID-19\\_School\\_Manual\\_FINAL.pdf](https://coronavirus-download.utah.gov/School/COVID-19_School_Manual_FINAL.pdf)

Specific to that guidance are the parameters for identifying a “COVID-19 Outbreak.” In a classroom, if there are 3 or more positive cases who are connected by the same setting, exposure, and 2-week time period, no one in the whole class can go to school for 14 days from the last date of exposure. In a school, if there are 15 people tested positive for COVID-19 across multiple settings in the school (more than one classroom) and are connected by the same time period, no students can go to school for 14 days from the last day of exposure.

This determination of a “COVID-19 Outbreak” will be made by the Davis County Health Department and communicated with the Davis School District.

We are excited about seeing our students once again in classrooms starting on Tuesday, August 25. As the situation and data changes, as it has throughout the Pandemic, the District will remain nimble and be positioned to react appropriately. While there will be challenges, those challenges represent an opportunity to improve and provide excellent support to our students, families, and employees. As always, we are strongest when we work together. Thank you for working to make this a unique, effective, and outstanding school opening.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Reid Newey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Reid Newey  
Superintendent