

# Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan



**District Name: Dodgeville School District**

**District Contact: Paul Weber, District Administrator**

**Website: <https://www.dodgevilleschools.org/>**

**Phone: 608-935-3307**

**Address: 916 W Chapel Street Dodgeville, WI 53533**

Template Developed by CESA 5



# Table of Contents

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| <b>Introduction</b>   | <b>1</b> |
| <b>Maintaining Health and Safety</b>  | <b>2</b> |
| Overview  | 2        |
| Description on maintaining the safety of staff and students   | 2        |
| Description to continue to provide services regardless of the mode of instruction   | 2        |
| <b>Mitigation Measures</b>  | <b>3</b> |
| Universal and correct wearing of masks  | 3        |
| Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing   | 3        |
| Handwashing and respiratory etiquette   | 3        |
| Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation  | 4        |
| Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments | 4        |
| Diagnostic and screening testing  | 4        |
| Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible  | 4        |
| Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and practices                              | 5        |
| Coordination with state and local health officials  | 5        |
| <b>Continuity of Services</b>   | <b>6</b> |
| Overview  | 6        |
| District response on continuity of services   | 6        |
| <b>Periodic Review</b>  | <b>7</b> |
| Overview  | 7        |
| District response on ensuring periodic updates to its plan  | 7        |
| <b>Public Input</b>   | <b>8</b> |
| Overview  | 8        |
| District response on public input in the development of its plan  | 8        |

# Introduction

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plans (ARP) Act was signed into law. In it, the U.S. Department of Education is providing an additional \$121.9 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER III Fund). This legislation will award grants to state educational agencies (SEAs) for providing local educational agencies (LEAs) with emergency relief funds to address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools across the nation.

Wisconsin will receive \$1,540,784,854 in ESSER III funds from the Act, with 90 percent being awarded to school districts with amounts determined in proportion to the amount of Title I, Part A funds they received in summer 2020 from funds under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The remaining funds will be used for state-level activities to address issues caused by COVID-19.

This plan describes how the LEA or district will provide a safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services for all schools, including those that have already returned to in-person instruction.

# Maintaining Health and Safety

## Overview

The Dodgeville Safe Return To School Plan includes how it will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and LEA staff, and the extent to which it has adopted policies or practices and a description of any such policies or practices on each of the CDC's safety recommendations including the universal and correct wearing of masks; modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding); hand washing and respiratory etiquette; cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation; contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the state, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments; diagnostic and screening testing; efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible; appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies or practices; and coordination with state and local health officials.

### Description on maintaining the safety of staff and students

The Dodgeville School District will begin the 2022-23 school year with a five-day per week, face-to-face instruction & an option for virtual instruction. The in-person instructional followed the following health protocols:

#### Safety Measures:

- publish the COVID-19 pre-screening checklist and strongly encourage students and staff members to utilize the checklist before entering a school facility
- provide sanitizing stations throughout the building
- Face Coverings
  - Support students and staff who choose to wear masks as a preventative measure
    - We suggest using N95 masks for maximum protection.
  - If students or staff are returning from isolation following a positive COVID-19 infection, they are required to mask for an additional 5 days.
    - If a student or staff are unable to mask upon return from isolation, they are required to isolate for an additional 5 days and may return on day 11 with symptom improvement.
    - Students may remove face coverings when eating, drinking, during socially distanced scheduled breaks and at outdoor recess.
    - Students may remove face coverings when engaged in physical educational activities, as determined by the physical education instructor.
  - Bandannas, gaiters and masks with exhaust valves are not allowed as they provide minimal protection for the wearer and those around them.
  - All other rules of the district related to student dress, apply equally to masks and face

coverings.

- Hand Washing and Cough Etiquette
  - Encourage frequent hand washing and use of hand sanitizer
  - Do not touch face covering
  - Cover cough and sneeze
- Social Distancing
  - The school district will encourage students and staff to maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between other students within the school building.
- Anyone with 2 or more symptoms (regardless of vaccination status) should remain at home and monitor for symptoms
- If a student or staff tests positive for COVID-19 they are required to isolate for 5 days from symptom onset or a positive test result (whichever occurs first).

Questions regarding safety and isolation protocols should be directed to Nurse Kate at [knichols@draschools.org](mailto:knichols@draschools.org)

**Description to continue to provide services regardless of the mode of instruction (for example, health and food services if the LEA must pivot to virtual or hybrid instruction)**

The Dodgeville School District will offer in-person learning five days a week according to the Board adopted 2022-2023 Academic Year Calendar. On a case by case basis, students will be provided the option of virtual learning due to COVID 19. The district reserves the right to determine the method and term of virtual learning.

Regardless of the mode of instruction, the Dodgeville School District will continue to provide meals under the community provision as long as USDA continues the allowance. Meals will be provided for summer school attendees as well as all eligible youth during the school year. If school is closed due to a pandemic, the district will provide meals.

The Dodgeville School District employs one full-time school nurse and an assistant who will continue to offer health services. The school district also partners with Oregon Mental Health to provide mental health support for families.

# Mitigation Measures

## Universal and correct wearing of masks

- If students or staff are returning from isolation following a positive COVID-19 infection, they are required to mask for an additional 5 days.
  - If a student or staff are unable to mask upon return from isolation, they are required to isolate for an additional 5 days and may return on day 11 with symptom improvement.
  - Students may remove face coverings when eating, drinking, during socially distanced scheduled breaks and at outdoor recess.
  - Students may remove face coverings when engaged in physical educational activities, as determined by the physical education instructor.
- Bandannas, gaiters and masks with exhaust valves are not allowed as they provide minimal protection for the wearer and those around them.

All other rules of the district related to student dress, apply equally to masks and face coverings..

## Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing

Mitigation measures such as proper signage, water accessible to all students and staff, and the promotion of social distancing have been implemented at each facility. Individual schools will determine the cafeteria service that best suits the needs of their students. Cafeterias and/or classrooms may be used as settings for student meals.

## Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette is taught to students with high emphasis in the primary grade levels. Signage is posted throughout buildings as reminders of handwashing and respiratory etiquette.

In addition, hand sanitizing stations/liquids are available in all classrooms.

## Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

### *Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

The Dodgeville School District has engaged in practices that ensure health and safe facilities. These practices include:

- Daily cleaning and disinfecting of rooms, cafeteria, bathrooms, offices and other high traffic areas within the building
- Providing disinfectant spray solution to all staff members for use in their classrooms throughout the day
- Purchase of disinfectant “fogging machines” for use in contaminated rooms
- Accessible, free masks for all students and staff
- Hand sanitizing stations in each classroom, in hallways, offices and other strategic areas within each school building
- HEPA 13 air filtration machines were purchased in September 2020. A unit has been placed in each classroom and other areas where students gather in the buildings.
- Poly-ring air filters were purchased for the air handling systems in each building. The new filters guarantee a tighter fit, allowing less air “leakage” around the edges of the filter. The poly-ring filter ensures a greater percentage of the air flow is filtered in comparison to a box filter.
- Air handling systems have been set to run 24 hours per day, 7 days per week in all district buildings. By providing a constant flow of fresh air into the buildings the potential air-borne spread of the virus is diluted.

## Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments

The Dodgeville School District will no longer contact trace during the current school year. If a student or staff tests positive for COVID-19 they are required to isolate and notify the school district.

The Dodgeville School District will guide parents/students, employees, and contractors on screening protocols for the daily pre-screening process, which all parties should complete before entering the campus/building. Each school will continue to provide current health information to staff, students, and families about the signs and symptoms of COVID-19, when they should stay home, and when they can return to school. Procedures for daily pre-screening process can be found on the district website.

**Diagnostic and screening testing**

The Dodgeville School District recommends students and staff get tested for COVID by their medical provider or a local pharmacy. The turnaround time for results has been reduced to within 24 hours. Students and staff may also test for COVID on an at home rapid test.

**Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible**

All staff and students are encouraged to receive the COVID-19 vaccine and/or booster.

**Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and practices***Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

When circumstances require specific policies or procedures designed to protect the health and safety of students, 504 and IEP teams will determine if modifications and/or reasonable accommodations are needed for individual students with disability-related issues.

**Coordination with state and local health officials**

The CDC recommends that all decisions about implementing school-based strategies should be made locally, collaborating with local health officials who can help determine the level of transmission in the community. The Dodgeville School District continues to work with the Iowa County Health Department to implement mitigating strategies for the safety of students and staff.



# Continuity of Services

## Overview

Districts must describe how the LEA will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.

### District response on continuity of services

**The District will provide for continuity of services as follows:**

#### **Student Academic Needs**

The Dodgeville School District has implemented a summer school program to assist all K-12 students with academic recovery. The District plans to continue full-time, in-person instruction beginning the Fall of 2021. Exceptions are given to families who've indicated a desire for their child(ren) to participate in a virtual option. Additional Specialists are available to support teachers and learners in ensuring that all students have an opportunity to close any gaps in their learning and continue to achieve at grade level or above.

#### **Student Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs**

Outside counseling staff have been made available to both staff and students to address any potential social and emotional job related or learning needs (Oregon Mental Health Services).

#### **Other Student Needs (which may include student health and food services)**

Food services will continue to provide meals under the community provision as long as USDA continues the allowance. Meals will be provided for summer school attendees as well as all eligible youth during the school year. Any students choosing Virtual Education are also eligible for free meals; these meals are either delivered or picked up by families when requested. The USDA free meals program will end in the Dodgeville District on June 3, 2022.

#### **Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs**

The District has provided staff with opportunities for social and emotional support through post-school hour meetings with the counseling staff and nursing staff. The staff's social, emotional, and mental health needs may also be addressed through the Employee Assistance Program provided through the District insurance program.

#### **Other Staff Needs**

The District will provide staff resources and opportunities for wellness planning through the district's health provider (Dean Health and EMC Insurance Group). Additional presentations through a local doctor (Dr. Kent Kramer) on the topics of wellness, COVID, and maintaining physical and mental health will be offered.

# Periodic Review

## Overview

Districts are required to review and, as appropriate, revise their Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan at least every six months through September 30, 2023, including seeking public input and taking such input into account in determining whether to revise the plan and, if revisions are determined necessary, on the revisions it makes to its plan.

### District response on ensuring periodic updates to its plan

The Dodgeville School District will periodically review and, as needed, revise the plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. The plan will be reviewed at least every six months through September 30, 2023 and the school system will seek and take into account public input during the review process. Plan revisions will address updated CDC and County Public Health guidance on safely reopening schools if any are issued.

# Public Input

## Overview

The ARP Act requires that school districts make their Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan available to the public online and that the plans be in an understandable and uniform format; to the extent practicable, are written in a language that parents can understand or, if not practicable, orally translated; and upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability, provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent. Before making its plan publicly available, school districts must seek public comment on the plan and develop the plan after taking into account public comment.

### District response on public input in the development of its plan

The Dodgeville School District has taken the following steps to make its plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at <https://www.dodgevilleschools.org/>
- The plan is available in Spanish and English languages through the use of our web provider powered by Google Translate.
- The plan was sent to parents, students, and employees via social media and Infinite Campus. This mailing included a brief survey that provided an opportunity for families to make comments and ask questions regarding the plan.
- The plan was shared at the Dodgeville School District Board of Education meetings on January 17, 2022. An opportunity for public comment was available during the January 17, 2022 meeting.
- Upon request, a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA may be provided with the plan in an alternative format accessible by contacting our district office.

Submitted - DPI in October, 2021

School Board Approved - January, 2022

Updated - April, 2022

Updated - November, 2022

Updated- March, 2023