



Discovery School
Covid-19 Health & Safety Protocols
Effective July 8, 2020

As school reopens this August, the health and safety of our students, families, and staff is paramount. This policy focuses not only on the physical health of our learning community, but the mental health as well. More than ever before, Discovery School will focus on making learning joyful and engaging in a personalized way.

The Discovery School COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocols were collaboratively developed specifically to meet the needs of our unique school. These policies are based upon guidance from the Ohio Department of Education, the Ohio Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control, and the American Academy of Pediatrics. We recognize that this document may be updated throughout the year, in communication with families, to reflect the latest guidance from public health officials.

These Health & Safety Protocols apply to our in-person learning option. Families will still have the option of participating in our distance learning option if they so desire.

This document is divided into the following sections:

1. *Vigilant assessment for symptoms*
2. *Washing and sanitizing of hands*
3. *Cleaning and sanitizing of surfaces and the school environment*
4. *Practicing & promoting social distancing*
5. *Implementing facial coverings*
6. *Arrival/Dismissal Protocols*
7. *Lunch/Recess Protocols*

Section 1: Vigilant assessment for symptoms

- It is essential that all students and staff complete daily health checks prior to entry to school. This includes monitoring for the following symptoms: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle aches, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.
- Anyone with symptoms or a temperature above 100 degrees F should stay home.
- Daily temperatures of students will be taken by staff at entry points and recorded. Parents should disclose if pain medications such as Tylenol (Acetaminophen) or Motrin (Ibuprofen) were administered at home for any reason, as they may have fever mitigating effects. Efforts should not be taken to mitigate a fever in order to gain entry into school.

- Students or staff who develop symptoms or a fever while at school will be separated, given a face covering, and monitored by an adult (wearing PPE and maintaining proper distancing) until such time as parents or guardians can arrive.
- Students or staff displaying symptoms will be referred to health care professionals and/or testing sites. Positive tests and known exposures must be reported to the school.
- For students or staff who have had a fever and/or symptoms, the following criteria are used for the return to school:
 - In the absence of a Covid-19 test, a minimum of 10 school days of quarantine are required (distance learning will be provided.)
 - With proof of a negative Covid-19 test, students or staff may return to school once they are fever-free for 24 hours.
 - With a positive Covid-19 test, students or staff must follow the guidance of their healthcare professional. The school will contact the families of all exposed students. Quarantine of 10 school days will be required for all those exposed (distance learning will be provided.)
- CDC criteria for ending isolation after Covid-19 is available here:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html>

Section 2: Washing & Sanitizing of Hands

- Students and staff will practice frequent hand washing while at Discovery School. At a minimum, washing will occur at the following times: before and after eating, after using the restroom, after recess or outdoor activities, when hands are “dirty”, and before and after “specials.”
- Approved sanitizer will be provided and required at all points of entry.
- Staff will offer instruction and monitoring of proper handwashing techniques.
- Staff and students should avoid touching their mouths, noses, and eyes since the virus enters the body through these membranes.

Section 3: Cleaning and Sanitizing of surfaces & the school environment

- Discovery School staff will clean surfaces frequently, paying close attention to high-touch areas and shared materials.
- Wipes and spray disinfectants specifically labeled for use against Covid-19 (such as Lysol and diluted germicidal bleach solutions) will be utilized.
- All student tables and chairs will be sanitized at least twice per day. Shared spaces such as the cafeteria or specials classrooms will be sanitized between groups of students.
- Restrooms will be thoroughly cleaned at the end of each day, however, door handles, toilet flushers, and sink handles will be wiped frequently throughout the day.

Section 4: Practicing & Promoting Social Distancing

- Discovery School will educate students and offer gentle reminders on the importance of maintaining their own “personal bubble” and respecting that of others during this time.
- We will prohibit visitors from entering the building. Wherever possible, meetings involving people who do not regularly work in our school (i.e. IEP meetings) will be conducted via Zoom.
- Parents should limit their entrance to the school building to dropping-off paperwork, picking-up students outside of the normal dismissal time, and emergencies. Please call ahead if you will need to enter the building. Adults entering the building for any reason will be required to wear a mask.
- School staff and students should try to maintain 6-feet of distance between themselves and others whenever possible. A 3-foot distancing is more realistic once within the classroom.
- Indoor floor and outdoor ground markings will be used to help guide students to proper social distancing when lining-up to transition from space to space.
- Discovery School, through careful planning, will limit classes from interacting with other classes throughout the school day.
- Hallway traffic will be staggered to prevent large numbers of students from moving in the hallways at the same time.
- Wherever possible, one-way traffic will be utilized.
- Outdoor learning spaces will be utilized frequently to allow for freedom of movement of students while being socially distant and in the fresh air.
- Only one student at a time will be permitted into restrooms. Wherever possible, students should use the same restroom throughout the day and avoid using various ones around the building.

Section 5: Implementing Face Coverings

- **Face coverings are REQUIRED for school staff and any adult who enters the school building.**
- Staff members must furnish their own masks and are permitted to remove them during times when they are alone (in a room where no one else is.)
- Our school nurse, and anyone caring for individuals with symptoms, will be provided appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) including face shields, gloves, and disposable gowns.
- **Discovery School students are NOT required to wear masks to school.** It is recommended that students in grades 3 and up wear facial coverings, however, the decision about who does wear them and who does not is one that we are leaving to families.

Section 6: Arrival & Dismissal Protocols

- There will be no before-school childcare provided.
- The K-6 building will begin school at 8:20am and the Early Learning Center will begin school at 8:30am. All tardy students are required to check-in through the front office.

- Students should arrive at school at their appointed time and enter at their assigned location according to the following:

Morning Drop-off	Entrance location:	Admission Time Block:
Kinder	front loop- enter by Kindergarten Room	8:15-8:20
K/1	front loop- enter at Ms. Parsons Door	8:10-8:15
2	front loop- enter at Main/Front Door	8:05-8:10
3	back loop- enter at door near gym rear	8:15-8:20
4	back loop- enter at Library Door	8:10-8:15
5/6	back loop- enter at Library Door	8:05-8:10
PS/PK	walked-in - Vandine/Voytko at front, Rachel at side	8:30-8:40

- We recognize these time blocks are restrictive. Feel free to arrive sooner, if necessary, and wait in your vehicle until it is your child's assigned time to enter the line. If you miss the assigned time to enter, your student should enter through the front office.
- Upon arrival, students will be temperature checked by staff at their appointed entrance, asked to sanitize their hands, and then welcomed directly into their classrooms.
- End-of-day dismissal is at 3:20pm for the K-6 building and 3:30pm for the Early Learning Center. Parents should remain in their cars.
- Students in grades K-2 will be picked-up in the front of the building and will remain in their classrooms until their parent car is in the pick-up area. They will be brought to the car by a staff member.
- Students in grades 3-6 will be picked-up in the back of the building. They will be spaced in the following locations to watch for parent/guardian arrival: Grade 3 in Art Room, Grade 4 on walkway outside of back gym doors, Grades 5 & 6 on back patio outside of Library.
- Aftercare will be provided until 5:30pm each day. This group will be **limited to 10 students or less, per day**. Arrangements must be made in advance so that plans may be created to safely accommodate students and maintain proper distancing.
- No afterschool club activities will be offered during the 1st Trimester.

Section 7: Lunch & Recess Protocols

- Students in the Early Learning Center (who attend full-day classes) will eat lunch in their classrooms.
- Students in grades K-6 will eat lunch with only their classmates (and adult helpers) in one of our two lunchroom spaces (not in their classrooms) according to the following schedule:

Lunch/Recess Schedule:	11-11:30	11:30-12	12-12:30	12:30-1:00
Kinder			Cafe A	recess
K-1			Cafe B	recess
Second		Cafe A	recess	
Third		Cafe B	recess	
Fourth	Cafe A	recess		
Fifth/Sixth	Cafe B	recess		

ELC		eat (in classrooms)	recess	
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- Cafe spaces will be thoroughly sanitized between classes.
- Milk and juice will still be offered to our students.
- **No pizza Friday will be served.**
- Multiple recess locations have been established to allow for continued separation of classes. Classes will rotate through the various recess fields to keep things fun and appropriate for their ages according to the following schedule:

M/W- Playground T/Th Soccer field (alternate Fridays on playground)
M/W-Soccer field T- Gym, Th- Playground (alternate Fridays on playground)
M/W- mud kitchen/ELC T- Playground, Th/Fri- Gym

- Recess equipment such as hoops, balls, jump ropes, sand toys etc. will be sanitized routinely.

Helpful Resources:

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/schools/K-12-Schools-Guidance.pdf>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/>

Appendix A: Plan Correlation to the Ohio Public Health Advisory System
(effective July 24, 2020)

Ohio COVID-19 Risk Level Guidelines for the Public			
LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4
Public Emergency Active exposure and spread. Follow all current health orders.	Public Emergency Increased exposure and spread. Exercise high degree of caution. Follow all current health orders.	Public Emergency Very high exposure and spread. Limit activities as much as possible. Follow all current health orders.	Public Emergency Severe exposure and spread. Only leave home for supplies and services. Follow all current health orders.

- Level 1 (Yellow): We will follow our Covid-19 Safety Protocols. Students may attend in-person or via distance learning.
- Level 2 (orange): We will follow our Covid-19 Safety Protocols. Students may attend in-person or via distance learning.
- Level 3 (red): We will follow our Covid-19 Safety Protocols. Students may attend in person or via distance learning. However, in person students **in grades 3 and above MUST wear masks.**
- Level 4 (purple): We will close school and all students will participate in distance learning.