

East Dubuque Return to Learn Frequently Asked Questions

Updated August 5, 2020

The questions below represent the most common questions received regarding the beginning of the school year. We know that there will continue to be additional questions. We will work through them as best we can to keep families up to date. By now you have declared for In-Person learning or Remote Learning. If you have not, please contact your child's school to do so.

Does my child have to wear a mask in school?

Yes, every child and every staff member will have to wear a mask while in the building. They can take them off to eat or to play an instrument. Those are the only exceptions. Other health considerations will be discussed, but remote learning may be the best option in those situations. We will plan on taking mask breaks outside throughout the day. Students will be able to take their masks off outside at recess, for outdoor classes, or during breaks.

If I chose one option, can I change my child's plan?

You can opt into remote learning at any point during this first semester. If you chose remote learning, you will have to continue with that plan until the semester is over.

Can the children in my family be on different plans?

Yes, each student is unique and their plan can be different based on their needs.

Will Preschool be remote to start the year?

Yes, we are starting our Preschool program in remote learning as our PreK staff have indicated that they are not comfortable being in-person yet. We will assess this after the first quarter (9 weeks) of school to determine whether we return in-person, remotely, or some hybrid form.

Will my student that is eligible for special education still receive those services?

Yes, all students eligible to receive special education will receive those services. Depending upon whether you chose remote or in-person learning, the plan may look different, but the services will remain. We encourage you to reach out to us at school with specific questions about your child's IEP.

Will school start on August 21st?

It is our intention for school to start on August 21st as planned.

Will I have to take my child's temperature each day or will school be doing that?

Yes, you will have to sign a certification form that you will screen your child for symptoms each day, and that if they show symptoms, you will NOT send them to school. Yes, we will be taking temperatures each day (twice) and be monitoring for symptoms as well. If your child has a temperature or is showing symptoms of COVID, they will be quarantined at school until someone can pick them up to go home.

What happens if my child has symptoms or is sent home with symptoms?

The symptoms for COVID-19 are: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, loss of taste or loss of smell. If your child is displaying any of these symptoms, they will have to quarantine for 10 days. If you have a release from a doctor that the symptoms were based on some other reason, they may be able to return to in-person learning sooner than 10 days.

How long is a child or staff member out if they test positive?

An individual can return after a positive test if they quarantine for 10 days and the last 24 hours of that quarantine is symptom free, or if they have had 2 negative tests in a row that are done 24 hours apart.

Does my child have to quarantine if there is a positive case in their classroom?

Yes, based on the guidelines from the State, a positive case in your child's class will require that the class quarantines for 14 days. We will communicate with families about the start and end of the quarantine for the class and the remote learning plan for the class.

What if there is a staff member that is positive?

We may have to have some groups of students or some classes quarantine if we have a staff member that is positive. The same timeframe will be used for that class or those classes. If we have multiple staff members quarantining and we cannot cover all of our classes with in-person staff, we may have to have that school or the district go to remote learning for a period of time. We will do our very best to communicate with

families in this scenario, but everyone needs to be prepared that we could go remote. Flexibility is not easy, but it is essential in this scenario.

If there are multiple positive cases when will the district decide that everyone needs to go remote, or one of the two schools needs to go remote?

We will follow CDC guidelines and our County Health Departments lead when discussing what to do in terms of going remote as a district. On our part, if we cannot cover the classes that we have in-person, even if teachers are able to teach remotely, then we will make that decision to go to remote learning for a whole school or the whole district. Our plan limits the spread from student to student greatly. We could end up with more adults in close contact which would require them to quarantine even if they are not positive or symptomatic. We feel confident in limiting the spread of COVID at school, but that does not mean that we will not have to go to remote learning throughout the year. If there is a State mandate, we will need to follow those guidelines as well.

How will breakfast and lunch happen?

Each school has a plan for breakfast and lunch. They both have a small group of children that will eat in the cafeterias. Most children will be eating breakfast and lunch in their designated learning space for the day. We have taken into consideration allergies and the ability to clean those spaces during the day so it is safe to eat and then return to instruction in those spaces. This plan helps us eliminate some transitions of students, and students being with larger groups throughout the day.

Will my student be able to ride a bus to and from school?

Yes, transportation will be available. Our guidance is that we can only have one student per seat unless they are from the same family and that face masks must be worn during the bus ride. With the limited number of students on the bus, we will have to have more routes. We are also not able to let students in school early to wait for the day to start, so some routes may not give students time to eat breakfast in the morning. We are planning to pick up the students furthest away from school and have them on time for instruction. If you live in a walk zone (less than a mile and a half from school) then you may need to transport your student or have them walk to be in time for breakfast.

When will we receive our transportation notices that are usually mailed to us?

Our plan is to have transportation notices for families at registration from August 10-14.

If we opted into remote learning, will my child be working with a teacher every day or will it be online work?

Our plan is that your student will be able to work with a teacher or multiple teachers every day. This will look different from elementary school to Junior High and High School based on the courses and the daily schedule, but there will be virtual contact every day with staff members. Grading will be the same regardless of remote or in-person learning.

We will continue to update this document as we receive more questions. We have also included a flow chart so that parents can understand our guidelines for positive cases, symptoms, or close contact to a positive case. We need everyone to understand that we have to be diligent about symptoms. If your child is not feeling well or is showing symptoms, please keep them home. If we have to send them home it is a quarantine situation for at least 10 days most likely. We want everyone to have a healthy and successful 2020-2021 school year. Please help us ensure that!