



## **DWCS STRONG START HEALTH PLAN 2020-2021**



### Recommendations on Infection Prevention and Medical Policies and Procedures.

This document provides specific recommendations for schools to implement from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) and the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) as well as advice and direction from our Regional Medical Director.

We want children to thrive and are concerned that their overall well-being will be eroded by loss of educational, social, therapeutic and nutritional necessities provided by schools. Our overarching goal with this guidance is to provide practical advice for implementation of guidance on how to most safely return kids to in-person school. We cannot eliminate risk, but we can reduce it. We also want to provide guidance and support for families who choose to educate their children virtually.

The advice provided in these pages will change in time, as guidance from professional and governmental organizations changes and will be updated as new evidence becomes available.

We know there will be questions that are not addressed in this document as we are in uncharted territory. We will continue to be available to answer questions as they arise and provide counsel to staff, students and parents. The questions will shape future versions of this document as schools and parents experience the realities of school opening with our children.

All the requirements set forth in this document are meant to provide children, teachers and staff with an environment that promotes safe practices for being in the classroom, moving about the school and during activities and limiting the amount of SARS CoV-2 in the air.

We all want things to go back to normal and for children to be able to take advantage of all learning, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities that schools have to offer. But we all must accept that in order for everyone in our community – both within and outside schools – to stay healthy, major modifications to the school day must occur. Not everything will be as we want it to be, and we will have to accept “good enough” for many months to come. This guidance will be modified based on the level of community transmission with restrictions lessened if transmission becomes lower over time.

THANK YOU,

Miranda Cash RN

*DARBONNE WOODS CHARTER SCHOOL*

## THREE KEY PRINCIPLES



**1** Wash Hands Often



**2** Wear a Face Covering



**3** Practice Social Distancing

### Follow Five Steps to Wash Your Hands the Right Way

Washing your hands is easy, and it's one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of germs. Clean hands can stop germs from spreading from one person to another and throughout an entire community—from your home and workplace to childcare facilities and hospitals.

Follow these five steps every time.

1. **Wet** your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.
2. **Lather** your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
3. **Scrub** your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the "Happy Birthday" song from beginning to end twice.
4. **Rinse** your hands well under clean, running water.
5. **Dry** your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

### How to use hand sanitizer

- Apply the gel product to the palm of one hand (read the label to learn the correct amount).
- Rub your hands together.
- Rub the gel over all the surfaces of your hands and fingers until your hands are dry. This should take around 20 seconds.



## **DWCS Covid-19 Health Guidelines/Policy 2020-2021**



Parents are encouraged to complete a student health screening at home daily before sending students to school. See “Home/School Screening”.

If a child arrives to school and is positive for any of the below symptoms they will be sent home for a 10 isolation.

All students will have their temperature and screening upon arriving at school.

For students K-8, classroom groups will remain static or fixed with the understanding that individual students may come into close contact with one another during the school day.

Everyone on campus must practice social distancing, maintain a physical distance of six feet or more to the maximum extent possible.

Students Grade 3-12 will be required to wear a mask, as able and to the maximum extent possible. If child is unable to wear mask see “Mask Exemption” information below. There will be mask breaks offered to students throughout the day.

Students may consume meals in designated areas other than the school cafeteria to maintain social distancing.

Buses will be required to have the windows open while students are on board when the weather permits.

Schools will be authorized to amend any necessary procedures in order to comply with recommended State and CDC safety guidelines.

If you have questions about coronavirus, please contact the Louisiana 211 Network by dialing 211. Or, you can test the keyword LACOVID to 898-211 for the most current information about the outbreak as it becomes available.



## **Home/School Screening**

Individuals who have a fever of 100.4°F or above, or other signs of illness, should not be admitted to the facility.

- Communicate to parents the importance of keeping children home when they are sick, the steps being taken to ensure the health and safety of their children and other important information related to limiting COVID-19 exposure. ([https://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/strong-start-2020/school-reopening-guidelines-and-resources.pdf?sfvrsn=c10e981f\\_28](https://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/strong-start-2020/school-reopening-guidelines-and-resources.pdf?sfvrsn=c10e981f_28))

## **COVID SCREENING PROCESS**

1. Symptoms that may require a student to stay home and/or leave school:

a. Any ONE of the symptoms below:

Fever of 100.4F or greater

Cough

Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Active vomiting or diarrhea

New loss of taste or smell

b. At least TWO of these symptoms

Chills

Repeated shaking with chills

Muscle pain

Headache

Sore Throat

Unexplained rash (For additional information about unexplained rashes, go to <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/children/mis-c.html>)

c. **Emergency Warning Signs** get medical attention Immediately

Trouble breathing

Persistent pain or pressure in chest

New confusion or inability to arouse (wake up)

Bluish lips or face

2. All students with the above symptoms will be isolated and provided with the proper adult supervision until the student is able to return home.
3. It will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian to promptly pick up the student from school.
- 4. In the case of a student who tests positive for COVID-19, parents are required to notify and update the school principal of the student's health status.**

### **COVID Student Health Protocol**

- If a student becomes ill at school, or if another person is exhibiting symptoms of COVID19 at school, he or she may be asked to visit the nearest health center for guidance in returning.
- Before returning to school, students will be asked to submit a healthcare provider's note.
- If a student has been diagnosed with COVID-19, he or she may return to school when all 4 criteria have been met:
  1. At least 24hours without symptoms (no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications).
  2. Resolved respiratory symptoms (persistent cough, shortness of breath, etc.).
  3. A minimum of 10 days have passed since first presenting symptoms.
  4. Written clearance from a medical provider to return.
- If a student has symptoms that could be related to COVID-19, the student should assume that he or she has COVID-19 and should not return to school until the four criteria listed above have been met.

### **COVID EMPLOYEE SCREENING AND PROTOCOLS**

1. DWCS employees are to follow the same screening and protocols as students.
2. All employees will be required to notify their immediate supervisor if there is a change in their health status.
3. Affected persons must follow up with a medical provider to obtain a clearance note prior to returning to work/school.
4. DWCS employees will practice social distancing at all times.
5. DWCS employees will wear a mask when having face to face interaction with the public on school property. School employees will be required to wear a mask when interactions with student, the public, and all other employees to the maximum extent possible.
6. Employees will be required to complete Covid 19 Training.

### **COVID Employee Health Protocol**

- If an employee becomes ill at work, or if another person is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 at work, he or she may be asked to visit the nearest health center for guidance in returning to work.

- Employees returning to work from an approved medical leave should contact Human Resource. Before returning to work, employees may be asked to submit a healthcare provider's note.

- If an employee has been diagnosed with COVID-19, he or she may return to work when all 4 criteria have been met:

1. At least 24 hours without symptoms (no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications).
2. Resolved respiratory symptoms (persistent cough, shortness of breath, etc.).
3. A minimum of 10 days have passed since first presenting symptoms.
4. Written clearance from a medical provider to return to work.

- If an employee has symptoms that could be related to COVID-19, the employee should assume that he or she has COVID-19 and should not return to work until the four criteria listed above have been met.

### **COVID Employee or Student Exposure**

In the event of a Coronavirus confirmed positive case. A Contact Tracer from the Louisiana Department of Health may make contact with parents and/or employees to identify those potentially infected. It is important to note that a confirmed positive case is not an automatic trigger to close school. DWCS will be in close contact with the Louisiana Department of Health. The regional administrator's office will give guidance for all incidents related to employee and student exposure to COVID-19 and/or COVID-19 related symptoms. While we all hope to avoid exposure to illness from COVID-19, we need to be prepared for that possibility. If a DWCS employee or student, or someone he or she has been in contact with, has been directly exposed to the virus, our first concern is for the health and safety of those who may be at risk for additional exposure. In this rapidly changing situation, health care providers should have the most up-to-date information from the CDC.

#### **Employee exposure protocols may include the following:**

1. Self-quarantine in a specific room away from others in the home.
2. Contact the following to notify them of potential exposure to COVID-19 and follow their instructions:
  - a. The employee's immediate supervisor
  - b. The employee's personal healthcare provider
  - c. DWCS Human Resource
3. The supervisor will work with HR to determine appropriate next steps.
4. In case of an emergency, the employee should call 911 to notify them of potential exposure to COVID-19 and follow provided instructions.

#### **Student exposure protocols may include the following:**

1. Self-quarantine may be required.
2. Parents should monitor students for symptoms and consider contacting a healthcare provider.

**3. In the case of a student who tests positive for COVID-19, parents are required to notify and update the school principal.**

## **COVID EMPLOYEE AND STAFF ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE**

**ISOLATION** is used for anyone that has symptoms of Covid or is Covid positive.

Students who have Covid-19 are required to stay home and remain isolated until they have recovered and have been determined to no longer be infectious by their doctor.

Individuals who were in close contact of the student or staff may be identified and contacted as part of the Office of Public Health (OPH) contact tracing process.

Close contacts will be required to stay home and monitor symptoms for **14 days from day of last contact**. [https://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/strong-start-2020/school-reopening-guidelines-and-resources.pdf?sfvrsn=c10e981f\\_28](https://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/strong-start-2020/school-reopening-guidelines-and-resources.pdf?sfvrsn=c10e981f_28)

Isolation for Covid 19 symptoms or a Positive Covid 19 test are 10 days from start of symptoms.

May return to school from Isolation if you meet all 4 of the following requirements.

1. At least 24 hours without symptoms (no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications)
2. Resolved respiratory symptoms (persistent cough, shortness of breath)
3. A minimum of 10 days have passed since first presenting symptoms
4. Written clearance from a medical provider to return to school or work.

**Quarantine** is used to keep someone *who might have been exposed to COVID-19* away from others. Quarantine helps prevent spread of disease that can occur before a person knows they are sick or if they are infected with the virus without feeling symptoms. People in quarantine should stay home, separate themselves from others, monitor their health, and follow directions from their state or local health department.

**WHO NEEDS TO QUARANTINE?** Anyone who has been in close contact with someone who has Covid-19

### **What counts as close contact?**

- You were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more with or without a mask
- You provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19
- You had direct physical contact with the person (hugged or kissed them)
- You shared eating or drinking utensils
- They sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you

### **Steps to take**

## Stay home and monitor your health

- Stay home for 14 days after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19
- Watch for fever (100.4°F), cough, shortness of breath, or [other symptoms](#) of COVID-19
- If possible, stay away from others, especially people who are at [higher risk](#) for getting very sick from COVID-19

## When to start and end quarantine

You should stay home for 14 days after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19.

**For all of the following scenarios, even if you test negative for COVID-19 or feel healthy, you should stay home (quarantine) since symptoms may appear 2 to 14 days after exposure to the virus.**

See scenarios below to determine when you can end quarantine and be around others.

**Scenario 1:** Close contact with someone who has COVID-19—will not have further close contact

I had close contact with someone who has COVID-19 and will not have further contact or interactions with the person while they are sick (e.g., co-worker, neighbor, or friend).

Your last day of quarantine is 14 days from the date you had close contact.

Date of last close contact with person who has COVID-19 + 14 days = end of quarantine

**Scenario 2:** Close contact with someone who has COVID-19—live with the person but can avoid further close contact

I live with someone who has COVID-19 (e.g., roommate, partner, family member), and that person has isolated by staying in a separate bedroom. I have had no close contact with the person since they isolated.

Your last day of quarantine is 14 days from when the person with COVID-19 began home isolation.

Date person with COVID-19 began home isolation + 14 days = end of quarantine

**Scenario 3.** Under quarantine and had additional close contact with someone who has COVID-19

I live with someone who has COVID-19 and started my 14-day quarantine period because we had close contact. What if I ended up having close contact with the person who is sick during my quarantine? What if another household member gets sick with COVID-19? Do I need to restart my quarantine?



Yes. You will have to restart your quarantine from the last day you had close contact with anyone in your house who has COVID-19. **Any time a new household member gets sick with COVID-19 and you had close contact, you will need to restart your quarantine.**

Date of additional close contact with person who has COVID-19 + 14 days = end of quarantine

**Scenario 4:** Live with someone who has COVID-19 and cannot avoid continued close contact

I live in a household where I cannot avoid close contact with the person who has COVID-19. I am providing direct care to the person who is sick, don't have a separate bedroom to isolate the person who is sick, or live in close quarters where I am unable to keep a physical distance of 6 feet.

You should avoid contact with others outside the home while the person is sick, and quarantine for 14 days after the person who has COVID-19 meets the [criteria to end home isolation](#).

Date the person with COVID-19 ends home isolation + 14 days = end of quarantine

Last Updated Aug. 3, 2020

Content source: [National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases \(NCIRD\)](#), [Division of Viral Diseases](#)

## **FAQ**

### **Q. Who will have to wear a mask? What kind of mask can be worn? Will a mask be provided?**

A. All students who ride the bus will be required to wear a mask while riding. Once in the school, masks are required for 3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade and staff. K-2<sup>nd</sup> masks are optional. An exemption form must be filled out by a doctor if there is a health condition that prohibits someone from wearing a mask. Encouraged to do virtual learning if unable to wear a mask for your child's health safety. Masks must be of solid color or may have name or school logo. Please put child's name on the mask. Masks must be cleaned daily. A mask that is torn, wet or visibly soiled will not acceptable. One cloth mask will be provided to everyone on the first day of school. DWCS will have extra disposable mask in the case someone comes in without a mask or their mask is damaged or soiled during the school day. Masks must adequately cover both mouth and nose. No bandanas, scarves or neck gaiters and No masks with valves or N95/KN95 masks. We will allow "mask breaks" throughout the day when students are spaced and it is safe to do so.

### **Q. Will I be notified if a student tests positive for Covid-19 in my child's class?**

A. You will be notified if your student is considered Close Contact with an infected student. Close contact is defined by the CDC and LDH as being closer than 6 feet for 15 minutes with or without the use of a mask. If your student is considered close contact, the CDC and LDH recommend your student quarantine at home for 14 days. We will follow the recommended guidelines.

### **Q. What if my child tests positive for Covid-19?**

A. If a child tests positive, the CDC and LDH requires students and staff to isolate for 10 days. The student or staff member may return to school once they meet DWCS return to school criteria. The parent is required by the state of Louisiana to notify DWCS of a Covid positive result.

### **Q. When will student temperatures be checked?**

A. It is recommended by the CDC that screening and initial temperature check be done at home before the student enters the building. Once the student is in the building they will be screened and temperature checked within 10-15 minutes of entering. This is due to student's temperature readings varying depending on the temperatures outside.

### **Q. If student is sent home for symptoms of COVID but is diagnosed with approved Alternative Diagnosis do they still have to isolate for 10 days?**

A. If staff or student is diagnosed with something that explains the symptoms they were sent home for, and is part of the Alternative Diagnosis approved by the LDH. Then the person would only stay home until they are ***symptom free*** without medication for 24 hours. Example would be sent home for sore throat and fever. Diagnosed with Strep Throat, they would then follow regular health guidelines for returning. (They must be on an antibiotic for 24 hours and be fever and symptom free for 24 hours for strep throat.) A diagnosis of Upper Respiratory Infection without a Negative Covid test would not

be acceptable and the student would remain in isolation for their allotted 10days and 24 hours symptom/fever free. (Please refer to Decision Tree on DWCS website under Strong Start Health Plan.)

**Q. A Student showing Signs/Symptoms has been tested and waiting for results. Should the siblings of the student be sent home to quarantine until test results are received or should they be allowed to come to school until results come back?**

A. The siblings do not need to quarantine unless the student tests positive or they develop symptoms. The exception to this is if the student develops signs/symptoms and they are a known contact of a case. In this situation, we would recommend that the close contacts of the student (their siblings) quarantine for 14 days.