



WELCOME BACK FAMILIES

School Policies & Protocol

Objectives

- To understand our school policies and protocol to ensure a successful return to in-person learning.



Context



Safety in numbers

Last school year

- ▶ DREAM students and staff have been back in the buildings since October.
- ▶ Infection rates were as high as 9% in NYC overall, and as high as 11% in the communities we serve.
- ▶ **With hundreds upon hundreds of people in our buildings from October through June, there was only 1 case that was transmitted internally.**

Now

- ▶ The vaccine exists, and vaccination rates of those 18+ with both doses in NY is 66% (73% have at least 1 dose)
- ▶ Infection rates in NYC are hovering around 1%, and NYC is open.
- ▶ CDC Guidance emphasizing full school reopening



And yet, the COVID-19 risk remains

Covid News: Biden Calls For New Vaccination Push

Last Updated 30 minutes ago

“Please get vaccinated now,” the president said. Separately, health

- July 6, 2021

The Pandemic Isn't Over. New Yorkers Are Acting as if It Were.

- June 18, 2021



Illness & Exposure

What to do when your child is sick



Definitions

Term	Definition
Test Positive for COVID-19	Laboratory confirmed COVID-19 case
Close Contact of Positive Case	<p>Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (e.g. <i>three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Exception: In the K–12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition <i>excludes</i> students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student where<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting masks; <i>and</i>○ other K–12 school prevention strategies (such as universal and correct mask use, physical distancing, increased ventilation) were in place in the K–12 school setting.
COVID-19 Symptoms	Fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea

Illness & Exposure Policy

- If a student is sick they must stay home and seek medical attention if needed.
 - Any student - vaccinated or unvaccinated - experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms must get a PCR test prior to returning to school
- COVID-19 symptoms
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea



Illness & Exposure Student Scenarios

Anticipated Situation	What happens	
Test Positive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students who test positive for COVID-19 will need to quarantine for 10 days 	If students are well enough to participate in school remotely but need to be home for quarantine, then they would participate in their class via Swivl (akin to joining via zoom)
Close Contact of Positive Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fully vaccinated students do not need to quarantine or test out if they are in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19. They should get a PCR test 3-5 days out from the day of exposure, but do not need to quarantine in the meantime Unvaccinated students that are NOT part of the exception* and who were in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 are required to quarantine for the minimum 7 days and can stop quarantining after 7 days if receiving a negative PCR COVID test result from a test done at least 5 days from the day of exposure. 	
COVID-19 Symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vaccinated and unvaccinated students will be able to return to school upon receipt of negative PCR Covid test. 	

*In the K-12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition *excludes* students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student where both students were engaged in consistent and [correct](#) use of [well-fitting masks](#); and other [K-12 school prevention strategies](#) were in place in the K-12 school setting.



Policies & Protocols



Guiding Principles for 2021-2022

Grow the Whole Child model

DREAM provides youth with opportunities to play, learn, and grow. We will maintain fidelity to the Grow the Whole Child model and continue to invest in **SEL, mental health, athletics, health, & wellness, and family engagement.**

Rigorous & Critically Conscious academic program

Our mission is to level the field by empowering all children to recognize their potential and realize their dreams. DREAM will provide a rigorous and critically conscious academic program that ensures youth are **college and career ready.**

Continued COVID Response

DREAM will work to continue to mitigate risk and **counteract the impact of the pandemic** on our youth and families.



The Why Behind Our Policies & Protocols?

- We've had a dedicated team keeping up with guidance and examining our policies and protocols to see what needs to change and stay the same.
- We aimed to adhere to CDC and NYSDOH guidance by ensuring our policies and protocols are reflective of the preventative measures that have proven effective.
- Ensure that our policies and protocols allow for a safe and successful return for our school community.



Input informing our policies and protocols

- ▶ Medical team advice
- ▶ Legal team advice
- ▶ NYSDOH and CDC guidance
- ▶ Family input from the spring family survey



Mask Policies

Indoors

- ▷ As per NYSDOH guidance, **everyone is required to wear face masks at all times while indoors, regardless of vaccination status.**
- ▷ While indoors, students will be allowed to remove their face coverings to eat or drink.

Outdoors

- ▷ Students and staff are not required to wear masks during outdoor activities such as recess.



Proper Mask Wearing

- ▷ Wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin.
- ▷ Make sure that your mask fits snugly against the sides of your face.
- ▷ Do NOT touch the mask when wearing it. If you have to often touch/adjust your mask, it doesn't fit you properly, and you may need to find a different mask or make adjustments.



Proper Mask Wearing



How NOT to wear a mask



Around your neck



On your forehead



Under your nose



Only on your nose



On your chin



Dangling from one ear



On your arm

Mask Recommendations

DO choose masks that



Have two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric



Completely cover your nose and mouth



Fit snugly against the sides of your face and don't have gaps



Have a nose wire to prevent air from leaking out of the top of the mask

DO NOT choose masks that



Are made of fabric that makes it hard to breathe, for example, vinyl



Have exhalation valves or vents which allow virus particles to escape



Are prioritized for healthcare workers, including N95 respirators

Mask Recommendations

Children



Find a mask that is made for children to help ensure proper fit



Check to be sure the mask fits snugly over the nose and mouth and under the chin and that there are no gaps around the sides

Arrival/Dismissal

- Arrival/Dismissal times will not be staggered this year.
- Adults & students must wear a face mask during arrival/dismissal time.



Breakfast/Lunch/Snack Protocol

- All meals (breakfast, lunch, and snack) will be grab and go and will take place in classrooms.
- During meal periods, students will be 6 ft apart and/or use lunch partitions to provide a barrier between them and other students.
- Students will wash their hands before and after meals.



Recess

- Recess will be outdoors whenever weather permits.
 - Adults and students will not be required to wear faces masks during outdoor activities.
- In the event of inclement weather, recess will take place indoors. Please note that face masks will be required to stay on during indoor recess and social distancing will be enforced.



Visitor Policies (DREAM Only Sites)

- Families will now be allowed into DREAM sites for the following purposes:
 - Pre-scheduled meeting with a DREAM staff member.
 - Small group meetings
 - Dismissal
 - Early pick-up
- While entering the building, **face masks must be worn at all times.**
- Please note that at this time, we will not be hosting indoor assemblies or events.



Visitor Policies (DOE Only Sites)

- At this time, all meetings at DREAM schools located in DOE buildings will be conducted virtually.
- Any families picking up their children early will wait by the main desk, and a DREAM staff member will escort your child to the main desk.



Wellness Checks



Updated Wellness Check Policy (DREAM Sites Only)

- For SY 21-22 we will no longer requiring wellness checks at DREAM sites.
 - Please note that if your school is located in a DOE site you will still be required to complete your wellness check.
- ****Please note that schools (Pre-K) located in a DOE building will still be required to fill out their daily wellness check at home prior to arriving to school****



*We will have to follow DOE guidance at our DOE sites

Wellness Check Policy (Pre-K Only)

- All Pre-K families will need to complete a daily health screening prior to arriving to school.
- Families will fill out [DREAM's Wellness Questionnaire](#) indicating whether or not their student is experiencing COVID like symptoms.
- Any families who have not filled out the wellness questionnaire will be required to fill out a paper version in order for their student to enter the building.
- If your student is experiencing any COVID like symptoms, families must refer to our illness and exposure policy.



*We will have to follow DOE guidance at our DOE sites

The Why

- A recent study found that symptom screening that evaluated for all known COVID-19 symptoms and was conducted by health professionals in a hospital setting failed to identify nearly half (45%) of all pediatric patients infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, and 40% of those with COVID-19 symptoms did not have the virus that causes it.
- **Wellness checks are broadly not viewed as an effective prevention strategy**
- **Wellness checks did not serve as a key prevention tool with DREAM families**
 - Only 6% of all student illness and exposure incidents in SY2021 were due to a flagged wellness check form, compared to 42% originating from parents calling the school to inform us and the remainder due to an incident occurring at the school (i.e. student presenting with symptoms).



Additional Considerations

- We will be enforcing hand washing routines throughout the day.
- All spaces will be clean and disinfected on a daily basis.
- Students will maintain at least 3 ft social distancing in classrooms.
- Social distancing will be enforced in the hallways, stairwells, and elevator.
- Bathrooms and water fountains will be fully accessible.



Vaccine Resources

- Any families interested in vaccine locations can visit <https://vaccinefinder.nyc.gov/locations> to find a location near you.



Q&A





Frequently Asked Questions

QUESTION: Will there be a remote learning option this year?

ANSWER: There is not a remote option for families in the 2021-22 school year. Families may request a medical exception for their child to participate in instruction remotely if their child has one of the following medical conditions: lung disease (i.e. cystic fibrosis) or severe immunosuppression (i.e. genetic condition or taking immunosuppressant medication). Please reach out to your principal if you want to learn more.

QUESTION: Will you do temperature checks?

ANSWER: For the second year in a row, we will not be doing temperature checks for students, staff, or visitors at DREAM sites. Temperature checks have not been found to be an effective prevention strategy.

QUESTION: Will there be daily wellness checks?

ANSWER: For SY21-22 we will no longer require wellness checks at DREAM sites, as they have not been found to be an effective prevention strategy. Please note that if your school (Pre-K) is located in a DOE site, you will still be required to complete your wellness check at home prior to arriving at school.

QUESTION: What should I do if my child is sick?

ANSWER: When students are sick, they should stay home to get the care that they need to get better. That is even more important during this time. Remember, that our actions impact others and it's important that we keep ourselves, our kids, and our community safe. Any student - vaccinated or unvaccinated - experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms must get a PCR test prior to returning to school. COVID-19 symptoms include:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose



- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

QUESTION: Who do I contact if I have questions about illness/exposure policies?

School	Email Address
Pre-K	Komal Bansal: kbansal@wearedream.org
East Harlem Elementary School	
East Harlem Middle School	
Mott Haven Elementary School	Damil Canales: dcanales@wearedream.org
DREAM Charter High School	Joe Colarusso: jcolarusso@wearedream.org

QUESTION: Will there be after school?

ANSWER: Yes, after school will be in person, as our extended-day extended-year model is a critical tool to ensure our students' success. REAL Kids (pre-K-5th grade after school) begins September 27th & DreamBuilders (6th-8th grade after school) begins September 20th.

QUESTION: Is the school schedule the same for all my students who attend different DREAM schools?

ANSWER: The schedules are slightly different depending on the age and grade of the students to match their developmental needs.

Pre-K: 8:00 am - 3:00 pm
Elementary Schools: 7:30 am - 4:00 pm
Middle Schools: 7:30 am - 4:00 pm
High School: 8:15 AM - 3:50 PM

QUESTION: What do I do if my child tests positive for COVID-19?

ANSWER: Please immediately notify your DOO if your child tests positive for COVID-19. Students who test positive for COVID-19 will need to quarantine for 10 days. If students are well enough to participate in school remotely but need to be home for quarantine, then they would participate in their class via Swivl (akin to joining via zoom).



QUESTION: What is the current definition of social distancing?

ANSWER: Students should maintain a distance of at least 3 feet in classroom settings. At least 6 feet of distance should be kept:

- Between adults in the school building and between adults and students.
- In common areas, such as school lobbies and auditoriums.
- When masks can't be worn, such as when eating, and plastic lunch guards may be used when 6 feet is not possible

CDC: "When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, such as when schools cannot fully re-open while maintaining these distances, it is especially important to layer multiple other prevention strategies, such as screening testing."

QUESTION: What is the mask policy?

ANSWER: As per NYSDOH guidance, everyone is required to wear face masks at all times while indoors, regardless of vaccination status. While indoors, students will be allowed to remove their face coverings to eat or drink. Students and staff are not required to wear masks during outdoor activities such as recess.

Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions

QUESTION: What is DREAM's position on the COVID-19 vaccine?

ANSWER: DREAM believes that a vaccinated community gives our community the best chance to keep our schools safe and open with as few interruptions as possible. DREAM will require vaccination against COVID-19 for all staff, both full-time and part-time. DREAM strongly encourages all students aged 12+ to be vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as possible.

QUESTION: Is the vaccine mandated for DREAM staff and teachers?

ANSWER: In line with both the full authorization of the Pfizer vaccine and the City's guidance mandating the vaccine for all Department of Education employees, DREAM will require vaccination against COVID-19 for all staff, both full-time and part-time. This policy applies to ALL DREAM staff—school-based and network—who are now required to receive at least one dose of the vaccine (Pfizer, Moderna, or Johnson & Johnson) by September 27, and their second dose (if applicable) no later than October 31.



QUESTION: Is the vaccine mandated for DREAM scholars?

ANSWER: No, it is not mandated for scholars but we strongly encourage all students aged 12+ to be vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as possible. We will continue to monitor external guidance as the school year progresses.

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Preguntas Frecuentes

PREGUNTA: ¿Habrá una opción de aprendizaje remoto este año?

RESPUESTA: No hay una opción remota para las familias en el año escolar 2021-22. Las familias pueden solicitar una excepción médica para que su hijo participe en la instrucción de forma remota si su hijo tiene una de las siguientes afecciones médicas: enfermedad pulmonar (es decir, fibrosis quística) o inmunosupresión grave (es decir, una afección genética o toma medicamentos inmunosupresores). Comuníquese con su director de escuela si desea obtener más información.

PREGUNTA: ¿Hará controles de temperatura?

RESPUESTA: Por segundo año consecutivo, no realizaremos controles de temperatura para los estudiantes, el personal o los visitantes en los sitios DREAM. No se ha encontrado que los controles de temperatura sean una estrategia de prevención eficaz.

PREGUNTA: ¿Habrá controles de bienestar diarios?

RESPUESTA: Para SY21-22 ya no requeriremos controles de bienestar en los sitios DREAM, ya que no se ha demostrado que sean una estrategia de prevención eficaz. Tenga en cuenta que si su escuela (Pre-K) está ubicada en un sitio del DOE, aún deberá completar su control de bienestar en casa antes de llegar a la escuela.

PREGUNTA: ¿Qué debo hacer si mi hijo está enfermo?

RESPUESTA: Cuando los estudiantes están enfermos, deben quedarse en casa para recibir la atención que necesitan para mejorar. Eso es aún más importante durante este tiempo. Recuerde que nuestras acciones impactan a los demás y es importante que nos mantengamos seguros a nosotros mismos, a nuestros niños y a nuestra comunidad. Cualquier estudiante, vacunado o no vacunado, que experimente cualquier síntoma de COVID-19 debe someterse a una prueba de PCR antes de regresar a la escuela. Los síntomas de COVID-19 incluyen:

- Fiebre o escalofríos
- Tos
- Falta de aliento o dificultad para respirar.
- Fatiga
- Dolores musculares o corporales



- Dolor de cabeza
- Pérdida del gusto o del olfato
- Dolor de garganta
- Congestión o secreción nasal.
- Náuseas o vómitos
- Diarrea

PREGUNTA: ¿Con quién me comunico si tengo preguntas sobre las políticas de enfermedad / exposición?

Escuela	Dirección de correo electrónico
Pre-K	Komal Bansal: kbansal@wearedream.org
East Harlem Elementary School	
East Harlem Middle School	
Mott Haven Elementary School	Damil Canales: dcanales@wearedream.org
DREAM Charter High School	Joe Colarusso: jcolarusso@wearedream.org

PREGUNTA: ¿Habrá programa después de clases (afterschool)?

RESPUESTA: Sí, después de la escuela continuará la programación *afterschool* en persona, ya que nuestro modelo de año extendido y de día extendido es una herramienta fundamental para asegurar el éxito de nuestros estudiantes. REAL Kids (afterschool para grados pre-K-5) comienza el 27 de septiembre y DreamBuilders (afterschool para grados 6-8) comienza el 20 de septiembre.

PREGUNTA: ¿El horario escolar es el mismo para todos mis estudiantes que asisten a diferentes escuelas DREAM?

RESPUESTA: Los horarios son ligeramente diferentes según la edad y el grado de los estudiantes para que coincidan con sus necesidades de desarrollo.

Pre-K: 8:00 am - 3:00 pm
Escuelas primarias: 7:30 am - 4:00 pm
Escuelas intermedias: 7:30 am - 4:00 pm
Preparatoria: 8:15 AM - 3:50 PM

PREGUNTA: ¿Qué hago si mi hijo da positivo en la prueba de COVID-19?



RESPUESTA: Notifique inmediatamente a su Director de Operaciones (DOO) si su hijo da positivo por COVID-19. Los estudiantes que den positivo por COVID-19 deberán estar en cuarentena durante 10 días. Si los estudiantes están lo suficientemente bien como para participar en la escuela de forma remota pero necesitan estar en casa para la cuarentena, entonces participarían en su clase a través de Swivl (similar a unirse a través de zoom).

PREGUNTA: ¿Cuál es la definición actual de distanciamiento social?

RESPUESTA: Los estudiantes deben mantener una distancia de al menos 3 pies en el salón de clases. Se deben mantener al menos 6 pies de distancia: Entre adultos en el edificio de la escuela y entre adultos y estudiantes. En áreas comunes, como vestíbulos de escuelas y auditorios. Cuando no se pueden usar máscaras, como al comer, y se pueden usar protectores plásticos para el almuerzo cuando no es posible usar 6 pies

CDC: "Cuando no es posible mantener una distancia física de al menos 3 pies, como cuando las escuelas no pueden reabrirse por completo mientras se mantienen estas distancias, es especialmente importante aplicar varias estrategias de prevención, como las pruebas de detección".

PREGUNTA: ¿Cuál es la política de mascarillas?

RESPUESTA: De acuerdo con las pautas del NYSDOH, todos deben usar máscaras faciales en todo momento mientras estén en los interiores de un edificio, independientemente del estado de vacunación. Mientras estén adentro, a los estudiantes se les permitirá quitarse las cubiertas de la cara para comer o beber. No se requiere que los estudiantes y el personal usen máscaras durante las actividades al aire libre, como el recreo.

Preguntas Frecuentes Sobre Vacunas

PREGUNTA: ¿Cuál es la posición de DREAM sobre la vacuna COVID-19?

RESPUESTA: DREAM cree que una comunidad vacunada le da a nuestra comunidad la mejor oportunidad de mantener nuestras escuelas seguras y abiertas con la menor cantidad de interrupciones posible. DREAM requerirá la vacunación contra COVID-19 para todo el personal, tanto a tiempo completo como a tiempo parcial. DREAM recomienda encarecidamente a todos los estudiantes mayores de 12 años que se vacunen contra COVID-19 lo antes posible.

PREGUNTA: ¿La vacuna es obligatoria para el personal y los maestros de DREAM?



RESPUESTA: De acuerdo con la autorización completa de la vacuna Pfizer y la guía de NYC que exige la vacuna para todos los empleados del Departamento de Educación, DREAM requerirá la vacunación contra COVID-19 para todo el personal, tanto a tiempo completo como a tiempo parcial. Esta política se aplica a TODO el personal de DREAM, en la escuela y en la red, que ahora deben recibir al menos una dosis de la vacuna (Pfizer, Moderna o Johnson & Johnson) antes del 27 de septiembre, y su segunda dosis (si corresponde) no después del 31 de octubre.

PREGUNTA: ¿La vacuna es obligatoria para los estudiantes de DREAM?

RESPUESTA: No, no es obligatorio para los estudiantes, pero recomendamos encarecidamente a todos los estudiantes mayores de 12 años que se vacunen contra el COVID-19 lo antes posible. Continuaremos monitoreando la orientación externa a medida que avance el año escolar.