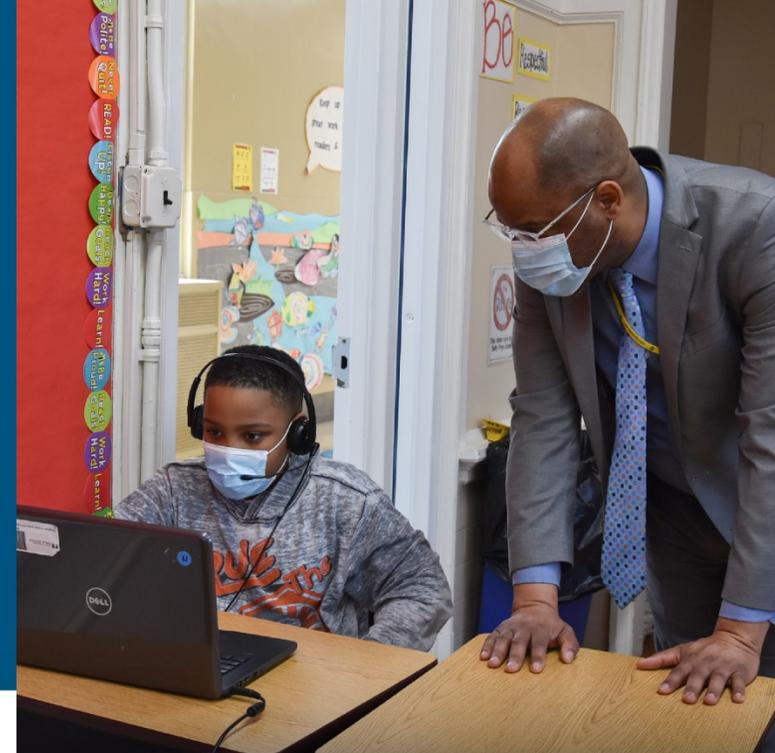


BACK TO SCHOOL

UPDATE

Wednesday, August 18, 2021



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



GOVERNMENT OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

We know that by working together as an entire community, we can make this school year a success.

With **layered safety protocols**, we can successfully reunite our students with their teachers, classmates, coaches, counselors, mentors, and friends.

We expect that throughout the school year, **a range of health and safety protocols will be activated**, and that will mean our systems to protect students, educators, and families are working.



Building On Successful In-Person Programming

Last school year, approximately **15,000 students** experienced some in-person learning at DCPS.

Over the summer, nearly **12,000 DCPS students** participated in in-person summer learning.

5,713 young people participated in in-person DPR programming this summer

5,472 youth participated in the Marion Barry Summer Youth Employment Program throughout the city in schools, community-based organizations, government agencies, and private businesses.



TESTING



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



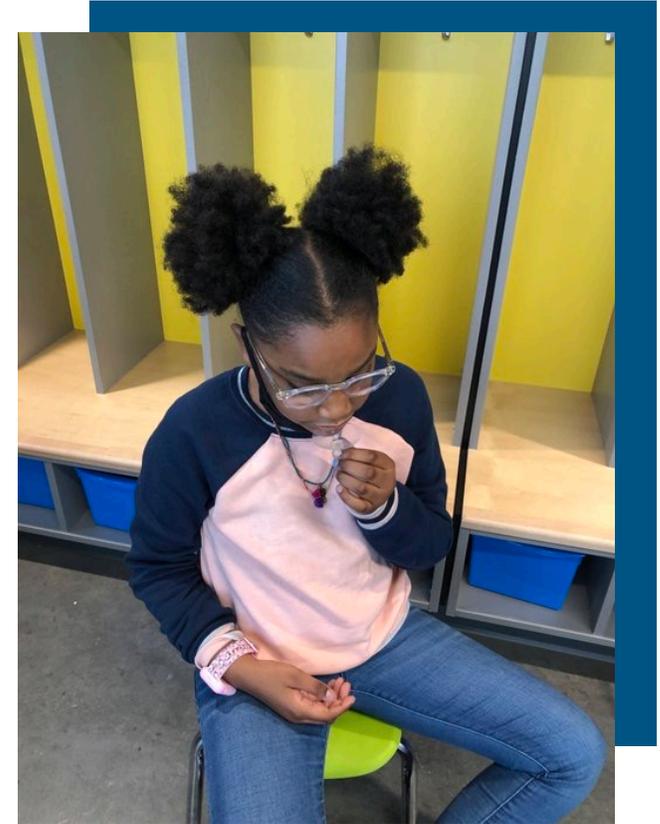
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DC MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

Asymptomatic Testing

This school year, testing at DCPS and participating public charter schools will be done through a **saliva test**.

Saliva-based PCR testing:

- 1 - 1.5 mL of saliva is collected in a small test tube
- Supervised by trained staff deployed by testing vendor **OR** trained staff at the school



Testing

Asymptomatic testing:

- 10-20% random sample of students weekly, targeting unvaccinated students
- All unvaccinated staff weekly
- All students and staff must provide active consent to be tested

Symptomatic testing:

- Available to all students and staff, regardless of vaccination status, who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 while in school and have signed consent on file

RESULTS AND NEXT STEPS:

- Results available to families and staff via secure portal in average 6-8 hours
- School leaders also notified of any positive cases to facilitate communication with family, close contacts, and DC Health





SCHOOL-BASED COVID-19 TESTING CONSENT FORM

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends offering coronavirus (COVID-19) testing in schools. COVID-19 testing helps schools identify cases of COVID-19 quickly and reduce the risk of COVID-19 infections at school. **For the 2021-22 school year, your student's school is participating in a citywide COVID-19 school-based testing program available to DC public and public charter schools.**

To opt in for your student (or you, if you are a student 18 years of age or older) to participate in school-based COVID-19 testing, you must fill out and return this consent form to your school.

Further information on the testing program is available beginning on page 4.

STUDENT LAST NAME	STUDENT FIRST NAME	DATE OF BIRTH
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By signing below, I attest that:

- I have signed this form freely and voluntarily, and I am legally authorized to make decisions for the student named above (or for myself, if I am a student 18 years of age or older).
- I consent for my student (or for myself, if I am a student 18 years of age or older) to be tested for COVID-19 infection:

PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:

- Check here to consent for routine asymptomatic COVID-19 testing
- Check here to consent for COVID-19 testing if your student is identified as a close contact of an individual with COVID-19 in the school setting
- Check here to consent for symptomatic COVID-19 testing
- My consent is valid for the 2021-22 school year unless I notify the designated contact person from my student's school in writing that I revoke my consent.
- I have read and understand the information provided in the Overview of School-Based COVID-19 Testing Program handout.
- I understand that my student's test results, and other information may be disclosed as permitted by law.
- I understand that if I am a student age 18 or older, I may legally consent for my own health care, and references to "my student" refers to me. I understand that I may sign this form on my own behalf.
- I understand and agree that the District, the school, its employees, and agents shall be immune from civil liability for acts or omissions relating to the District's citywide COVID-19 testing program, except for criminal acts, intentional wrongdoing, gross negligence, or willful misconduct.
- I understand that the District, the school, its employees and agents may not be held liable for COVID-19 infection of the identified student resulting from on campus attendance.

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT SIGNATURE (IF STUDENT IS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE) DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)

SIGNATURE OF STUDENT (IF 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER) DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)

Families should complete the testing consent form **as soon as possible.**

Forms will be available at schools and at

bit.ly/COVID-19testform



QUARANTINE



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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When there is a positive case in a school, schools will follow the DC Health guidance for quarantine.



Positive Cases

ANY CHILD OR ADULT WHO TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

-  should not attend school and
-  should **isolate for at least 10 days** and show improvement of symptoms, including no fever for 24 hours

Close Contact and Quarantine Guidance

If an unvaccinated student or staff member is a close contact to someone who tests positive for COVID-19, they will be required to quarantine for at least 7 days. Students and staff may return to the classroom after 7 days if they take a COVID-19 test on or after day 5 and receive a negative result. Students and staff who do not take a test must quarantine for 10 days.

Vaccinated students and staff who are in close contact to someone who tests positive for COVID-19 do not need to quarantine if they are not showing symptoms but are recommended to take a test between 3 and 5 days after they are exposed.



Close Contacts

Based on the latest guidance from DC Health, a student in a school setting is considered a close contact if they are within 6 feet of an infected person for more than 15 minutes within a 24-hour window within 2 days prior to illness onset or positive test result.

Per CDC and DC Health guidance, students are **NOT considered close contacts** if they are within 3-6 feet of a fellow infected student if:

- Both students are consistently wearing well-fitting masks, and
- Other mitigating factors are in place (physical distancing, increased ventilation, etc.)



GENERAL GUIDANCE



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Staying Home If Sick

Students must stay home if:

Presenting **ONE** of these red flag symptoms:

- New or worsening cough
- Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
- New loss of taste or smell
- Fever (measured or subjective)

OR at least **TWO** of the following symptoms:

- Chills
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Nausea or vomiting
- An unusual amount of tiredness
- Runny nose or congestion
- Diarrhea

**Please note: Schools should follow their existing infectious disease protocols for exclusion, regardless of the number of symptoms experienced. This list is provided solely for the purpose of COVID-19 symptoms and individuals should be excluded from school for illness, as appropriate outside of COVID-19.*



Sports



All participants must wear masks at all times except for when actively playing (regardless of vaccination status) and maintain physical distance of at least 6 feet from other people as much as possible when participating in higher risk activities indoors.

Risk by type of sport:

Higher risk sports: sports that involve close, sustained contact between participants and high probability that respiratory particles will be transmitted between participants (examples: wrestling, football, basketball, boxing, hockey, lacrosse, martial arts, rugby, soccer, cheerleading, racquetball, squash)

Moderate risk sports: sports that involve close, sustained contact, but with protective equipment in place that may reduce the likelihood of respiratory particles being transmitted between participants OR sports with intermittent close contact (examples: flag football, volleyball, ultimate frisbee, crew, water polo, field hockey, baseball, softball)

Low-contact/lower risk sports: sports that can be done with social distancing or individually without sharing of equipment (examples archery, badminton, bowling, cycling (outdoor), fencing, golf, gymnastics, horseback riding, ice skating, skiing, swimming, tennis, and track & field.

In general, people do not need to wear masks when outdoors. However, particularly in areas of substantial to high transmission, CDC recommends that people who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated.





Travel outside of the region is discouraged while school is in session.

Unvaccinated individuals who travel outside of the DC-Maryland-Virginia area are **recommended to self-quarantine upon return**. Three to five days after returning, individuals should get a COVID-19 test. If the test is negative, the self quarantine can end after the seventh day. If no test is performed, unvaccinated individuals should self-quarantine for 10 days.

Travel will be disruptive to your child's education, could put the rest of their class/teammates at risk, and should be avoided as we work together to keep schools open.

DC PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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DCPS has a layered mitigation strategy for the fall that is based on **three key pillars:**

1

PREVENT

2

SCREEN

3

INFORM

PREVENT



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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Universal Masking

All students, staff, and visitors will be required to always wear a face mask on school grounds.

Consistent with DC Health's latest guidance that encourages masks when outside in crowded areas, we will continue to require masks outside during recess, during before and after school care, and for other school day activities.

Masks can be removed for eating, drinking, and during nap time for Pre-K students.

If anyone does not have a mask, one will be provided upon entry to the school.

August 18, 2021



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Required Immunizations and the COVID-19 Vaccine

Staff are required to provide **proof of COVID-19 vaccination** by September 19 or take a weekly COVID-19 test.



Students must be in compliance with routine pediatric immunization requirements by their 20th school day or they will be prohibited from attending.

The COVID-19 vaccine is currently not required for students, but we **highly encourage** all eligible students and community members to get vaccinated as the best way to stop the spread of the virus.

DCPS will not be able to disclose the vaccination status of individual staff or students.

Physical Distancing and Student Interaction



Desks will be **physically distanced** to the greatest extent possible within classrooms.

- To the extent feasible, 6 feet of spacing will be maintained between adults and students.

Student cohort interactions will be limited to the extent feasible, particularly at the elementary school level.

Schools are encouraged to utilize outside learning spaces where possible.

To help determine who is a close contact, assigned seating will be utilized in classrooms where students are seated within 3 feet of each other.

Lunchtime Guidance

Students in Pre-K and Kindergarten will eat lunch in their classrooms.
Students in grades 1st -12th grade may eat in the school cafeteria.



Masks may only be removed while students are actively eating or drinking.



Cafeterias will be set up to allow the greatest amount of distance between students and student seating will be assigned.

Where possible, schools are encouraged to utilize outside eating areas.

All schools received two large HEPA filters designed to support large spaces. One of these large HEPA filters will be placed in the cafeteria of each school.



DCPS will continue to limit visitors to schools.

All visitors must be pre-approved, confirm completion of a health assessment, and wear a mask at all times on school grounds.

Student Arrival and Dismissal

Families are not allowed to enter the building for student drop-off and pick up, except for students with a parent/guardian escort as a component of a written safety plan.



Enhanced Air Filtration & Cleaning

In addition to system-wide HVAC upgrades, every classroom has a small filtration unit with a medical-grade HEPA filter to clean the air within that space.

Schools will continue to implement **enhanced cleaning procedures** with CDC and EPA-approved supplies. Deep cleaning will continue to occur during scheduled school breaks and as needed, per DC Health guidance, related to any COVID-19 exposure.



SCREEN



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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Daily Health Screenings

COVID-19 Daily Student Health Screening Guidance for DCPS Families

ASK • ASK • LOOK

*Heading back to school for an in-person learning activity?
Parents and Guardians are expected to complete a health screening for their child.*



1. Ask your child about the following symptoms consistent with COVID-19*:

- Chills
- Cough
- Congestion
- Diarrhea
- Fatigue
- Fever (100.4+)
- Headache
- Muscle or body aches
- Nausea or vomiting
- New loss of taste or smell
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Sore throat
- Or otherwise feeling unwell.

**If symptoms are related to a chronic medical condition and your healthcare provider has submitted written or verbal documentation that the symptoms are not COVID-19-related, the student should not be excluded from school because of those symptoms.*



2. Ask whether your child has been in close contact with anyone who has COVID-19.

Have you or your child traveled to a high-risk state or country for non-essential activities in the past 10 days?

** Please keep in mind that the travel quarantine exceptions that may apply:*

- If an individual has had COVID-19 within the last 90 days, completed their isolation period and does not have COVID-19 symptoms.
- Any individual who is fully vaccinated and does not have COVID-19 symptoms.



3. Look for signs of illness

Visually inspect your child for signs of illness. Signs can include flushed cheeks, rapid breathing or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity), fatigue, or extreme fussiness.



- If your child has answered "yes" to either question, or you observe signs of illness: **STAY HOME.**
- Contact your healthcare provider or DC Health.
- Follow your school's attendance reporting protocol.



- If your child has answered "no" to both questions and shows no signs of illness: **STUDENT MAY ATTEND SCHOOL THAT DAY**

Upon arrival to school, each student will:

- Use the hand sanitizer station,
- Receive a face mask if they do not have one, and
- Go through another wellness check by school staff.

Students who pass the health screening can proceed into the building and report to class.

Any student who is visually displaying signs of illness will be escorted to the Health Isolation Room until safe pickup by family or guardian or sent home immediately if they are able to safely travel independently.



Asymptomatic Testing

10 percent of students will be randomly selected each week for COVID-19 testing, with written consent. Families are strongly encouraged to provide consent for their unvaccinated student to participate. All unvaccinated staff will receive a weekly COVID-19 test.

Submit your child's **testing consent form** the first week of school.



INFORM



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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Notifications About COVID-19 Cases Within Your School

Families will receive a notification

if someone tests positive for COVID-19 within their student's classroom and when there is a case within their school.

Families will not be informed

which individual tested positive, but they will know if the positive case was in the classroom vs. in the school.



Quarantine and Classroom Instruction

If a teacher is unable to provide in-person instruction, DCPS will first employ substitutes to continue in-person learning for the class.

Students who are required to quarantine will be provided with a DCPS device for learning at home. Course content will be available via Canvas for students learning at home. Instruction may be fully virtual, a mix of simultaneous in-person and virtual instruction, or self-guided, depending upon the number of students quarantining and the availability of the teacher. Families will be informed about when and how virtual instruction will be provided.



Devices for Students



All students in grades 3 and up will be issued their own technology device. For students in Kindergarten through 2nd grade, there will be a 3 to 1 ratio of students to devices.

All students who need to quarantine will be provided a device by their school.

Quarantine Attendance Policy

Students should stay home if they have COVID-19 symptoms, are a close contact of a positive case, or as required based on the travel guidance.

For students who are required to quarantine but not at the direction of DCPS (e.g., because a family member tested positive for COVID-19 and they were contacted by a contact tracer), the parent/guardian will need to provide written documentation of the quarantine. The written note must include the date of COVID-19 exposure; the length of time the student has been directed to quarantine by a medical professional or contact tracer; and the name, organization, and contact information of the medical professional or contract tracer.

Students required to quarantine at the direction of DCPS (e.g., because a teacher tested positive for COVID-19) do not need to provide documentation.



NEXT STEPS



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PUBLIC SCHOOLS



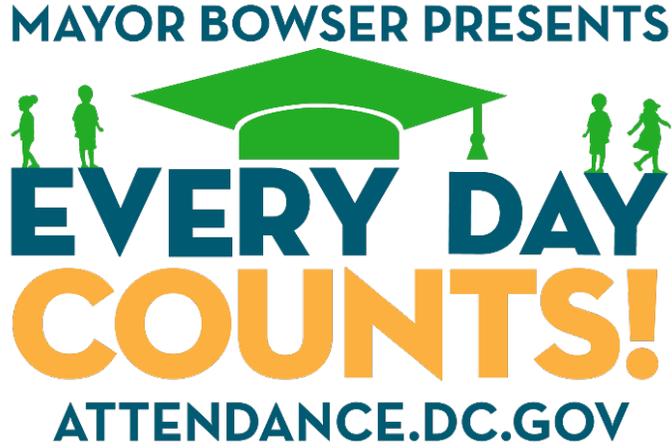
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Back to School Health Checklist

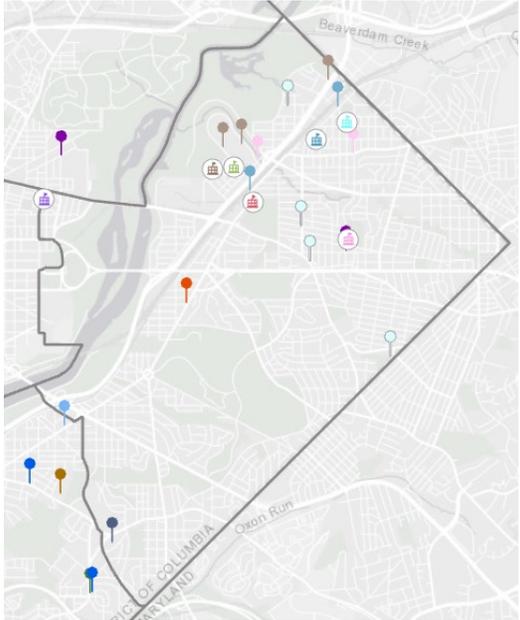
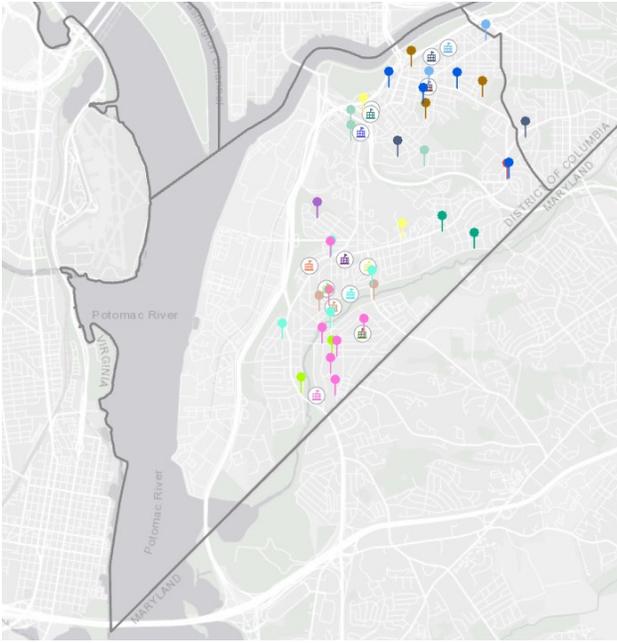
- ✓ Complete **testing consent form**
- ✓ Get all required **immunizations**
- ✓ 12+ get **COVID-19 vaccine**



Every Day Counts



Make a plan for getting to school each day.



24 New School Shuttle Routes Launching in Wards 7 and 8, participating schools will contact families about availability

August 18, 2021



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Take the Stronger Together Pledge



Wear your mask and ask visitors to your home to wear their mask



If eligible, get vaccinated



Limit or skip travel



Limit your family's activity



If sick, stay home



MAYOR MURIEL BOWSER PRESENTS

Banneker High School Community Celebration

Join Mayor Muriel Bowser, Chancellor Lewis D. Ferebee, and community members from across the city for food, fun, and giveaways to celebrate the modernization of **Benjamin Banneker Academic High School!**

Plus, get ready for school with free on-site COVID-19 vaccinations. **#TakeTheShotDC**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 28

11:30 AM - 3:00 PM



925 Rhode Island Avenue, NW



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