



## COVID-19 Policy

Last updated: August 21, 2024

\*\*Note that this is a living document and is subject to change as guidelines are updated. We are following CDC guidelines at minimum but reserve the right to impose stricter guidelines.\*\*\*

### General Policy

D.E.L.T.A. STEAM Academy is committed to protecting the health and well-being of our students, staff and community as we continue to navigate a world in which Covid-19 has become a norm. Administration will stay abreast of current trends in transmission rates and rises in cases within our school community and our larger community. If our current transmission rates rise to an unsafe level according to CDC guidelines, multiple staff members are affected by COVID-19, multiple classrooms are affected by COVID-19 exposure or there is a government mandated shutdown, DSA will move to an instructional delivery model that will be safe for our students to continue learning while also minimizing spread. This could include, but is not limited to:

- 100% virtual learning platform
- Hybrid model of teaching – some students in-person, some virtual
- Phased re-entries after extended school breaks (Fall, Thanksgiving, Winter and Spring Breaks, etc)
- Alternative Learning Days – asynchronous assignments with virtual office hours

We will provide parents 48 hours' notice prior to making an instructional delivery change when possible. Please note that in some emergency cases, this will not be possible. Our goal is to maintain the integrity of the quality instruction we provide daily while also ensuring the safety and well-being of our school community.

### Quarantine, Testing and Notification

Any student or staff member displaying symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, coughing, shortness of breath, etc) will be required to leave campus. Parents will need to **pick up students within 60 minutes of notification**. While waiting for pickup- students will be isolated at school. Staff members will leave campus immediately.

### Common Language Definitions:

- **Symptoms:** symptoms of Covid-19 include, but are not limited to: cough, sore throat, runny nose, fever, body aches, headache, new loss of taste and/or smell, vomiting, diarrhea, etc
- **Quarantine:** keeping someone who has been exposed to Covid-19 away from others
- **Isolation:** keeping someone who is infected with Covid-19 away from others, even in their home.
- **Close Contact Exposure:** someone who is within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24 hour period.

### Notification:

Parents are **required to notify the school** via phone (470-729-2692) and in writing (email: [covid19@deltasteamacademy.org](mailto:covid19@deltasteamacademy.org)) if their child or a person in their immediate household has been directly exposed to COVID-19 or has tested positive as soon as they are aware. Exposure is defined as within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes. Parents are also required to provide the positive test results for contact tracing purposes if a student has tested positive.

Staff are **required to notify the Principal** if they have direct exposure to COVID-19 or test positive for COVID-19 as soon as they are aware.

Families in affected classes will be notified by email as follow-up and transparency for the school community.



## Quarantine Procedures:

### Students:

Upon notification to the school that a student has been **directly exposed to COVID-19** outside of school or exposed within the school, exposed students will be strongly encouraged to get tested. A rapid antigen test is acceptable for exposure cases when the student is asymptomatic. Students displaying symptoms post exposure, will be sent home until symptoms subside without the intervention of medication.

### If a student him/herself tests positive for COVID-19, they must quarantine as follows:

- **7 days** from the date of the positive test, regardless of whether the child is asymptomatic or not.
- Positive test results must be sent via email to [covid19@deltasteamacademy.org](mailto:covid19@deltasteamacademy.org).

The school reserves the right to quarantine whole classes or grade levels as necessary during an outbreak. An outbreak is defined as more than 3 students in a class setting displaying similar symptoms and exposed to the same initially affected person(s) OR several students in multiple classes on the same grade level displaying similar symptoms after having had contact with an affected person. (ex. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade science teacher has covid and has seen all of his/her classes the day of diagnosis)

### Staff Members:

Upon notification to the school that a student has tested positive for COVID-19, the homeroom teacher and any other staff that interact with the child will be notified. If these adults have been in direct contact (within 6ft for more than 15 minutes), they will be strongly encouraged to get tested.

If a staff member is displaying symptoms, but tests negative for COVID-19, he/she will be **required** to wear a mask at work until symptoms subside or 5 days have passed, whichever is sooner. A staff member may be exempt from wearing a mask if he/she has been diagnosed with some other ailment (allergies, asthma, etc) as evidenced by a doctor's note that may present with similar symptoms to Covid-19.

If a staff member is displaying symptoms, but chooses not to get tested, Principal Grier reserves the right to send the staff member home for the safety and well-being of all members of the school community.

If a staff member him/herself tests positive for Covid-19, they are required to notify the Principal and send positive test results to [covid19@deltasteamacademy.org](mailto:covid19@deltasteamacademy.org). Additionally, staff members are required to quarantine **5 days** from the date of a positive test. Upon return to work, they are **required to wear a mask until 10 days have passed** from the date of the positive test result.

### Quarantining at School:

Parents who notify the school that a student has been directly exposed to COVID-19 while the student is at school, must immediately make arrangements to pick up the child. Students will be placed in isolation until they are able to be picked up. They will be supervised by school staff during this time. **Parents are expected to pick children up within 60 minutes of notification.** If the parent is unresponsive, does not communicate and does not arrive within 60 minutes, we will begin our child abandonment protocol, which could result in medical personnel being contacted up to a report for child neglect being filed.

### Instructional Impact:

When select students are quarantined (because of personal diagnosis or exposure), parents will need to reach out to the teacher for make-up work. Students will be permitted 1 day per day of absence to complete any make-up work. (ex. a child that missed 5 days will have 5 days to complete their make-up work)



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When whole classes are quarantined, virtual instruction will take place via google classroom. The instructor of the class will be the teacher provided he/she is well and able to teach. Otherwise, a substitute teacher will provide instruction or students will join an existing in-person class virtually via zoom.

If it becomes necessary to quarantine the whole school due to an outbreak, we will transition to remote learning no later than 24 business hours after closure has occurred. Virtual learning will continue throughout the closure.

### **Disinfecting/Sanitizing:**

In all cases where COVID-19 exposure or confirmed cases occur at school, the area will be thoroughly sanitized and disinfected. The ongoing practices of sanitization at DSA will remain in effect at all times (sanitizing every 30 minutes, frequent handwashing, wiping down surfaces between class transitions, etc).