

DREAM Charter School

School Reopening Plan | NYS Department of Health

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to define clear guidance for the reopening of our schools that align with the guidelines and recommendations put forth by New York State Education Department (NYSED), New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as well as the feedback and input of the families, students, and staff of DREAM Charter School. This plan aims to outline the necessary provisions DREAM Charter School will implement, with the health and safety of our scholars, families and staff as our first priority.

While we know that when we return to in-person instruction this school year, it will feel different, we are committed to staying true to our guiding principles to ensure that all of our students continue to receive the same rigorous instruction and support that they deserve and expect from DREAM Charter School.

Guiding Principles

- The **health and safety** of everyone in our learning community - youth, staff, and families - is priority.
- DREAM students will get an **excellent education** - they will learn as much as they would in a typical school year.
- DREAM will continue to invest in our Grow the Whole Child model and attend to students' **social, emotional, and physical development**.

Reopening of In-Person Instruction

Capacity

The plan for the phasing and quantity of DREAM students and staff allowed to return in-person primarily considers the ability to practice appropriate social distance and maintain safe learning spaces. DREAM will practice the following:

- Launching the school year at 50% capacity
- Students will be batched into pods of ~10-14 students
- Students will stay in the same classroom all day
- Students who are in the same pod together will make any necessary transitions together and dismiss together
- Teachers will transition between classrooms to a limited set of cohorts

- Large group gatherings and assemblies will be suspended

Social Distancing

DREAM will follow all commonly recommended practices for in-school participation including but not limited to:

- Visual markers and reminders in hallways for traffic flow, maintaining at least six feet distance, etc.; spacing protocol will be reinforced by staff on site
- Desks will be spaced at least six feet apart and positioned to optimize movement within the room
- Class sizes will be smaller (no more than 10-14 students in a classroom) to ensure that students are spaced at least six feet apart
- Students will be divided into pods that do not mix with students in other pods. This has the effect of reducing the spread within our school community
- Students will have small group recess in their pod
- Handshakes and any other routines that call for physical contact are prohibited
- The use of cafeterias and other congregate settings will be restricted
- DREAM will be limiting access to its sites to all visitors. As a general practice, parents, visitors, delivery staff and contractors will only be permitted in DREAM locations after arrival and before departure and be limited to the lobby.

PPE and Face Coverings

Face coverings will be enforced at all times (except when eating or drinking and for those individuals who cannot medically tolerate face covering) at all DREAM sites. To protect the health and safety of our school community, DREAM will:

- Distribute at a minimum, 5 reusable masks to each student and staff member. Extra disposable masks will be available at each location
- Require staff to wear masks at all times (unless a medical exemption prevents mask wearing)
- Provide gloves for staff to wear when cleaning or touching shared items
- Remind students and staff not to touch their face covering and to wash hands frequently
- Provide guidance around the sanitation of face masks and reuse to all members of the DREAM community

Operational Activity

DREAM will adopt the following daily systems to ensure the health and safety of our students and staff upon school reopening:

- Upon entry to any DREAM location, staff will receive a temperature check and be required to use hand sanitizer
- Student arrival procedures will be modified to ensure physical distancing and arrival time may be extended to accommodate on-site health screenings, such as hands-free temperature checks of all students entering the building. Students will also be required to use hand sanitizer upon entering the building
- Meals will be served in classrooms with social distancing protocols enforced
- Dismissal procedures will be modified to ensure physical distancing of students
- Social work services and related services will require adjustments to the space in which they are offered and how they are provided
- Student bathroom procedures will be specified to ensure a limited number of students, physical distancing and hand washing
- In-class procedures will minimize students touching the same items
- Students and staff will engage in frequent hand-washing and sanitizing
- Students and staff will receive explicit guidance regarding health and hygiene expectations prior to the return to in-person school

Restart Operations

Since closure in mid-March, DREAM sites have undergone the usual level of deep cleaning typically performed during the summer. During this time we also have taken the opportunity to begin furniture removal and rearrangement to allow for social distancing, repurposing of rooms to increase the capacity of in-person instruction, and will install sneeze guards at counters/desks that serve parents and visitors.

Additionally, DREAM's Facilities team will adhere to the guidelines set forth by the NYC Division of School Facilities to ensure the safe restart of building systems, where applicable, as well as the cleaning and disinfection of each site.

Hygiene, Cleaning, and Disinfection

This overarching category includes the physical modifications, installations and purchases DREAM will make to improve hygiene and promote cleanliness to protect the health and safety of our students and staff. These include but are not limited to:

- Signage posted to serve as frequent reminders of needed protocols, including reminders for students and staff to wash hands often, wear facemasks, and practice social distancing
- Each site will be regularly and thoroughly cleaned with solvents that eliminate 99% of bacteria, with an emphasis on highcontact
- surfaces and high-traffic areas
- Each site will be stocked with needed supplies for good hygiene, including soap,

hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol (for staff and students who can safely use hand sanitizer), paper towels, tissues, disinfectant wipes, cloth face masks

- Each site will maintain stock to last at least 90 days
- Each classroom and all high-traffic areas will have an installed hand sanitizer machine
- Sneeze guards will be installed in relevant locations

Extracurriculars

There will be no field trips, concerts, or extracurricular activities including but not limited to team sports until it is deemed safe to resume such activities by NYSDOH and other governing bodies.

Before and Aftercare

DREAM will follow the same guidelines for exposure prevention - masks, social distancing, limited cohorts of students - as followed during the school day to the extent possible as recommended by the NYSDOH.

Vulnerable Populations

DREAM will make all reasonable provisions to protect the health and safety of vulnerable students and staff during the school year. These actions include affording families the opportunity to opt to have their student(s) continue remote learning once school commences in the fall and evaluating all staff accommodation and exception requests.

Transportation

DREAM will rely on NYCDOE Pupil Transportation to ensure that school bus companies and personnel follow all appropriate guidelines for safety as recommended by the NYSDOH.

Food Services

Breakfast, lunch, and snack will be served in classrooms to ensure healthy, safe meals, and the least amount of disruption to the instructional day. School lunch crews will take appropriate steps to prepare foods using proper PPE and meal serving will occur in socially distant manner. Students will be reminded not to share food and remain seated at all times while eating.

Mental Health, Behavioral, and Emotional Support Services and Programs

DREAM will meet the social and emotional needs of students in response to COVID-19 by providing universal, targeted, and clinical and therapeutic supports.

- Universal supports include:
 - Relationship building and social supports
 - Culture building structures
 - Emotional processing opportunities
 - Comprehensive screening and referral
- Targeted supports include:
 - 1:1 check-ins
 - Small group intervention and supports
- Clinical and therapeutic supports include:
 - Clinical supports offered in-house
 - Referrals to external clinical supports as needed
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Communication

Information will be communicated through various means to ensure that we are reaching the maximum number of families, students, and staff within our DREAM community. Bilingual DREAM staff or the DOE Language Line are utilized to ensure that all families are communicated with effectively in their preferred language.

Monitoring

At a minimum, DREAM will incorporate the following protocols and procedures to track health conditions at each site:

- Reminders to students and staff before arrival to the building to check for fever/symptoms before departure
- Arrival temperature scanning of students and staff and hand sanitizing
- Training of staff to refer students who feel ill directly to the nurse
- Isolate students if they become sick or demonstrate COVID-like symptoms in a separate and dedicated isolation room
- Consult with our assigned NYCDOH nurse to determine which students and staff presenting symptoms should be referred COVID-19 tests. COVID-19 testing is available across New York City and unless determined otherwise by NYCDOH, students and staff will continue to use their own doctors or clinics/hospital of their choice
- DREAM will monitor state and local disease statistics, health recommendations/orders, and our own judgment to determine if/when protocols need to be changed

Containment

DREAM's containment strategies will include but are not limited to:

- Isolation and collection: Any student suspected of having COVID-19 will remain in the isolation room socially distanced from an adult monitor. Sick students will remain in the isolation room until picked up by a parent or guardian
- Adults who are suspected of having COVID-19 will be instructed to leave the building and substitute coverage will be arranged, if applicable
- Suspected COVID-19 infections will be directed to seek testing
- Confirmed COVID-19 infections will necessitate tracing to identify who the infected student or staff member may have come into contact with. Those identified people will be asked to quarantine for 14 days and monitor symptoms. Instructions will be given to the cleaning staff to disinfect all items the student or staff member may have come in contact with
- Communication will be provided to individuals who may have come in contact with an infected person with information provided influencing the potential day(s) of contact and spaces

Closure

Closure triggers will be determined in conjunction with future guidance provided by state and local authorities and could include but be limited to current NYCDOE guidance:

- 1 confirmed case; close pod and transition to remote learning for 14 days
- At least 2 cases linked together in school, same pod; close pod and transition to remote learning for 14 days
- At least 2 cases linked together in school, different pods; close school building and transition to remote learning
 - Pods of each case remain closed and quarantined; additional school members are quarantined based on where the exposure was in the school
- At least 2 cases linked together by circumstances outside of school; close school building and transition to remote learning
 - School opens post investigation, pods remain closed for 14 days
- At least 2 cases not linked but exposure confirmed for each outside of school setting; close school building and transition to remote learning
 - School opens post investigation, pods remain closed for 14 days
- Link unable to be determined; close school building and transition to remote learning for 14 days