



**The Mission of the Dunklin R-5 School District:**

Educating Today for a Better Tomorrow

**The Vision of the Dunklin R-5 School District:**

Dunklin R-5 School District will demonstrate excellence in leadership, the development of character, and achievement for ALL students.

**The Core Values of the Dunklin R-5 School District:**

Respect, Responsibility, Integrity, Compassion, Perseverance

# COVID-19 Response for the 2021-2022 School Year

**This Document is Subject to change as more information  
regarding COVID-19 is made available.**

**BOE APPROVED 4-19-2022**

## Introduction

As the COVID-19 pandemic continued through the summer of 2021, the Dunklin R-5 School District worked to create this “COVID-19 Response Plan” for the 2021-2022 school year that will allow as many students to physically and safely return to in-person learning. The District utilized the Back at it Blackcat Committee made up of over 45 faculty and staff members to work through the many processes and procedures for the 2021-2022 school year.

The plan and procedures listed below will be periodically reviewed and revised when necessary. Updates will be provided to the community via letters, social media, and public Board of Education meetings throughout the school year.

Our children benefit from in-person learning, and safely returning to in-person instruction in fall of 2021 is a priority for Dunklin R-5 District Administration. Our schools are designed to educate students through social, face-to-face interactions, in relatively close spaces and in large groups. The benefits of this approach to education are well accepted. With an increased number of the population being vaccinated as well as new guidance from the CDC we are able to make changes to our reopening plans from the previous year. We also know our community prioritizes student and staff safety and expects a thoughtful COVID response plan. We will continue to monitor new information on the COVID-19 pandemic and make changes as needed based on cases in our schools and community and new research as it becomes available.

Our primary goal is to keep kids in the classroom as much as possible while maintaining a safe environment for all students and staff.

**A layered strategy that uses multiple prevention and mitigation practices together is the most successful way to minimize viral transmission. Key components of this layered strategy includes:**

- Vaccination of eligible individuals.
- Disinfecting High Touch Areas
- Frequent Hand Washing.
- Routine Cleaning.
- Facial Coverings as needed

The Dunklin R-5 School District will be accessible to all students both online and in-person. Research over the course of this past year has clearly shown us the overwhelming benefits to in-person instruction. Therefore, there will be a process for any student who chooses to apply to attend courses virtually.

## Virtual Blackcats

The application process for Virtual Blackcats, our online education option, will begin at the building where your child/children are enrolled in school. Enrollment procedures can be found on each school's website. Students who are not showing success in the Virtual Blackcats program, will be required to return to in person enrollment.



## General Guidelines

The Dunklin R-5 School District is offering the following guidance based on local leadership decisions, which have been derived from guidelines established by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This is a “working document” and is subject to change, as new information is obtained and regulations evolve at local and regional levels.

If an individual receives a positive test for COVID-19, at that time they will be asked to quarantine. It is important to note that while the District will make every effort to provide a safe and healthy environment for our students and staff, **there are inherent risks** with participation in group activities during this time. Therefore, the District cannot guarantee that your child will not be exposed to the virus or those who may have been affected; but the District will continue to prioritize the safety of your child. We have come a long way since our first case in March of 2020. Our community is stronger, and safer because of what we have learned.

## **General Parameters:**

### **The District will:**

- ✓ Parents will be allowed to visit the school on special occasions.
- ✓ Have procedures in place for staff or students when they become or are sick.
- ✓ Continue to practice mitigation strategies that research has shown to be effective.

## **Staff**

### **The District will:**

Ask staff not to report to work should they have any symptoms of COVID-19.

To maximize protection from the COVID 19 virus and prevent possibly spreading it to others.

People who are fully vaccinated do NOT need to quarantine after contact with someone who had COVID-19 unless they have symptoms.

## **Screening-Students**

**The District will:** Implement a health screening for all students reporting to school.

- ✓ The District will provide a protocol for parents to screen their children before sending them to school. This will include screening questions.
  - o [Link to questions](#)

## **When Someone Is Sick**

Encourage staff and students to stay home when they are feeling ill. This message will continually be communicated to staff, parents, and students.

### **CDC [COVID Isolation](#)**

Students who are fully vaccinated do NOT need to be isolated after contact with someone who has COVID-19 unless they have symptoms.

Non-Vaccinated Students will need to isolate for 5 days and may return on day 7 with a lab confirmed negative test or 48 hrs symptom free. These students must wear a mask through day 10.

**The District will:** (when someone is identified with symptoms):

- ✓ Remove the individual immediately if NOT vaccinated.
  - If it's a staff member, that individual will be sent home immediately.
  - If it is a student, they will be removed from the classroom until arrangements can be made for them to be picked up by a parent or guardian.
- ✓ The person should be advised to contact a healthcare provider if they exhibit symptoms or answer YES to any screening question/s.
- ✓ The healthcare provider will be able to determine whether the symptoms are a result of COVID-19 infection or if there are other health issues.
- ✓ Contact one's local health agency.
  - They will assist when it is acceptable for the person to return to work or school.

## **Food Service**

### [Food Service Procedures](#)

## **Facial Coverings**

### **How to use a mask to protect yourself from COVID-19**

**The District will:**

- ✓ Mask are optional as of February 16, 2022
- ✓ Vendors and Repairmen will be required to wear masks if they are in the building while students are in attendance.
- ✓ Students who are in a high-risk group (previous health concerns, immune deficiency, etc.) will be highly encouraged to wear a face mask at all times.
- ✓ Remove any student from the classroom who exhibits symptoms of COVID 19.

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Board of Education, will make modifications to the District's 2021-2022 COVID Response Plan, which promotes the safety of all employees and students. Changes to the plan will be considered based on the totality of the metrics monitored by the District. Those metrics include positive student cases, student transmission rate within our schools, community transmissions, and CDC guidance.

COVID-19 Vaccines have been available for several weeks for those in the age range of 5-11 years old. The COVID 19 vaccines are effective at protecting you from getting sick. Based on [what we know](#) about COVID-19 vaccines, people who have been fully vaccinated can do things that they had stopped doing because of the pandemic.

In general, people are considered fully vaccinated:

- 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or
- 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine

Effective February 16, 2022 the Dunklin R-5 will be a mask optional school district, as everyone who has wanted to be vaccinated has had the opportunity to do so. In addition the Dunklin R-5 School District will be following our Board Policy EBB in regards to communicable diseases.

### **Hand Washing- Staff and Students**

[Elementary Lesson for Handwashing](#)

[Middle/High School Lesson for Handwashing](#)

### **Water Fountains-Staff and Students**

**The District will:**

- ✓ Avoid groups congregating around water fountains waiting for access.
- ✓ Students will be encouraged to bring a water bottle from home.

### **Student Restrooms/Usage**

**The District will:**

- ✓ Limit the number of students in the restroom.
- ✓ Administer at least one deep cleaning a day and clean/wipe down high touch surfaces throughout the day.
- ✓ Implement scheduled restroom breaks so each grade/class can go at a specific time and avoid mixing students from different classes.
- ✓ Mark spaces outside restrooms to provide visual cues to ensure social distancing while waiting.

## Continuity of Services

The Dunklin R-5 School District students have had access to fully in-person learning, five days per week since the fall of 2020. During the 2021-22 school year, should there be any interruptions of in-person learning, the District will provide for the academic needs for students in the following manner:

- **Hardware:** Dunklin R-5 students in grades 6-12 are issued a Chromebook. In grades K-5 Chromebooks are available for checkout to be used at home during an unexpected school closure
- **Internet Access:** Dunklin R-5 students who do not have access at home have already been given or will receive a HotSpot device free of charge for internet access.
- **Learning Management System:** All students in K-12 will use the Google Platform including Google Classroom for lesson delivery and communication between school and home.
- **Software Applications:** Dunklin R-5 students will have access to any necessary applications necessary to deliver the learning goals of the lesson. Teachers may also use the Google Meet platform for classroom discussions, meetings, etc.

## **Building Plans for the 2021-2022 School Year**

[Herculaneum High School](#)

[Senn Thomas Middle School](#)

[Pevely Elementary School](#)

[Taylor Early Childhood Center](#)

**We greatly appreciate the cooperation of our students, staff, and community as we continue to implement layered mitigation strategies for our 2021-2022 School Year.**