

COVID-19 MITIGATION PLAN
The Alexander Dawson School at Rainbow Mountain
Updated: February 25, 2022

Dawson has been open for in-person learning since June 2020 and has continued to evolve its COVID-19 mitigation protocols over the last 21 months to focus on those that are most effective in preventing the spread of COVID-19 on campus.

Vaccination

94% of Dawson employees are “fully vaccinated” and have provided proof of vaccination to the School. As of records received by February 18, 2022, at least 53% of Dawson employees are “up to date” on their COVID vaccines (boosted or second dose within the last five months). The School encourages employees to get vaccinated/boosted and provides paid time off (on top of regular time off allocations) to do so.

The School encourages student vaccination and has asked families to submit proof of vaccination for any Dawson students that have been vaccinated. As of February 22, 2022, the School has proof of vaccination for 40.5% of students in Gr K-5 and 56.5% of students in Gr 6-8. Often, additional proof of vaccination is turned into the School when parents are contacted about an on-campus exposure that impacts their child.

Staying Home When Sick

Employees are encouraged/asked to stay home if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and must take a COVID diagnostic test before returning to work.

Students who report or are observed to be experiencing two or more COVID-19 symptoms must have a negative COVID-19 test result or doctor’s note indicating another cause for the symptoms to return to campus. Alternatively, the student can remain off campus for 5 days if no test result or doctor’s note is provided.

Testing Protocols

The School works with a local testing partner that can provide lab-based PCR test results quickly for symptomatic employees. The School also provides and observes use of employee rapid antigen testing kits after exposures as well as when mild symptoms develop during the school day. Employees who test negative with the rapid antigen tests are encouraged to test again if symptoms develop or worsen.

Among the student population, the School accepts PCR, antigen and home tests for the return-to-campus testing described above.

Unvaccinated employees were tested weekly from late August 2021 through late Feb 2022. In late Feb 2022, the School paused its weekly testing requirement for the 6% of employees who remain unvaccinated until COVID case volume at the school and/or in the local community increases from its recent low levels. Should case levels rise, the School intends to reinstate its weekly testing requirement for unvaccinated employees. The School monitors county COVID-19 metric trends published by DHHS and SNHD in addition to maintaining its own experience data around Dawson students and employees.

Isolation / Exclusion of COVID-19 Positive Cases

Employees and students who test positive for COVID-19 are excluded from campus and provided with CDC guidelines about what it means to “isolate.” They can now return after 5 days of isolation with required masking

days 6-10 (KN95 encouraged for employees), as long as symptoms are improved/improving and they are fever-free without meds for at least 24 hours.

As directed, the School Nurse has pivoted from reporting each individual positive case to just reporting outbreaks to Southern Nevada Health District.

Exposure & Quarantine Determinations

On-campus exposure:

- When a single COVID-19 case occurs in a group on campus, employees and student families with close contact exposure are notified with instruction to monitor for symptoms and a recommendation to wear a mask for 10 days. Employees and students are directed to stay home and get tested if symptoms develop.
- When multiple confirmed cases occur in a classroom or grade, the situation is reviewed to determine whether it meets the definition of an outbreak. See section below on outbreak detection and response.

Off-campus exposure:

The School asks employees and students to report off-campus exposures so that quarantine needs can be assessed.

Quarantine requirements for students and employees who have household exposure to COVID are reviewed on a case-by-case basis with consideration to vaccination and prior infection status, nature of closeness within the household, etc. Depending on those details, the individual may be required to quarantine for five days and wear a face covering for days 6-10 or may be allowed to remain on campus with face covering required for 10 days. In either case, employees will take a COVID diagnostic test after 5 days since exposure.

Quarantine and masking determinations for non-household, off-campus exposure typically mirror the approach described above for on-campus exposure.

Universal Masking

In step with the School's approach of following COVID-19 guidance from state/local officials/agencies, the School ended its mandatory face covering policy when the state mandate was lifted in February 2022. Many School employees continue to wear face coverings indoors when on the school campus despite masking now being optional. The School also provides KN95 masks to employees who would like to wear that type for extra protection now that students no longer are required to wear masks. Students also have the option to continue to wear face coverings.

Anyone who is returning from isolation after a positive COVID test or diagnosis must wear a face covering on days 6-10. Anyone who was required to quarantine after a close contact exposure to COVID-19 must wear a face covering on days 6-10. Masking is recommended to student families and employees in a group for 10 days after a single case is reported. Masking may be required for 10 days if two or more cases develop in a group.

Students and adults must wear face coverings while riding in school buses or airplanes (e.g., during field trips).

Physical Distancing & CoHorting

The School has largely discontinued cohorting or maintaining specific physical distancing while occupying indoor spaces. However, should the School determine that there is an outbreak, we could very easily return to reducing the size of grade or division-level groups to minimize potential exposure.

Ventilation, Cleaning & Disinfecting

The School upgraded its air filters to MERV13 as the standard. Upon request by a teacher (typically when an employee is at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19), portable air filters are added to classrooms.

The School has nightly janitorial service. In an outbreak situation, the School will undergo targeted cleaning and disinfection.

Hand-Washing & Respiratory Etiquette

Sanitization stations are located in common areas including lobbies, entry ways, dining hall, etc. Sinks are included in each classroom, and handwashing is encouraged.

Respiratory etiquette is strongly encouraged and reinforced in the classroom by teaching staff and School Nurse.

Detecting & Responding to Outbreaks

The Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists defines an “outbreak” in an educational setting as two or more laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases among students or employees with onsets within a 14-day period, who are epidemiologically linked, do not share a household, and were not identified as close contacts of each other in another setting during standard case investigation or contact tracing.

Confirmed and probable secondary cases among students or staff in the educational setting are classified as outbreak-associated. Individual cases outside of the educational setting that resulted from secondary transmission from an outbreak-associated case (e.g., a family member of a student or staff) are not included in the outbreak case count.

The School Nurse monitors and reports summary COVID case activity by grade to school leadership daily. Through this data tracking, the School Nurse is able to identify potential patterns and connections between cases in a class or grade.

Should two cases that meet the outbreak definition appear in a lower school classroom, students and teachers will be required to monitor for symptoms and wear face coverings for 10 days. Should three cases that meet the outbreak definition appear in a lower school classroom, unvaccinated students will be quarantined for 5 days and wear masks days 6-10; vaccinated students can remain on campus with masks required for 10 days. Families of students in the impacted classroom as well as employees will be notified of the exposures.

In the middle school, exposure is variable. The School Nurse will analyze three or more cases in a grade or particular group that meet the outbreak definition. If an outbreak is detected, students and teachers will wear masks for 10 days. Should the outbreak grow further, unvaccinated students may be required to quarantine for 5 days and wear a mask days 6-10. Families of students in the impacted groups as well as employees will be notified of the exposures.

An outbreak is considered resolved when no new confirmed or probable COVID-19 cases identified after 28 days (two incubation periods) have passed since the last known school exposure from a case.