



DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HYBRID LEARNING:

WHAT TO EXPECT RETURNING TO CLASSROOMS

Dedham Public Schools have begun welcoming students back into classrooms in-person for a new Hybrid learning model. As we teach our students, we will try new things and learn from them. Please be patient with us over the coming weeks as we make this new format as safe and efficient for all involved.

AROUND THE SCHOOL

Schools will look and feel very familiar to students in some ways. In others ways, they will seem very different with new COVID safety measures in place:



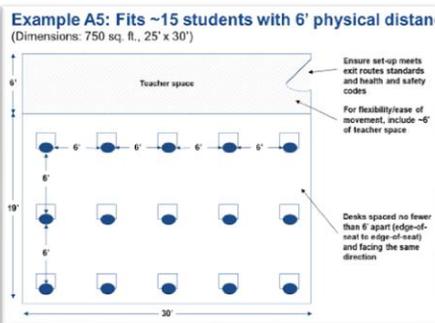
- Many school hallways are now one way and floors are marked with colored tape to indicate direction and traffic movement.
- Hallways are marked with 6ft increments in some places, so students are reminded to stay distant while traveling through the school.
- Water fountains are closed and not to be used. Students are encouraged to bring their own filled water bottles.
- School hallways contain frequent -age appropriate - signs and reminders encouraging students to practice good COVID hygiene, social distancing and reminding them to stay aware of any symptoms.
- When entering, students will use designated doors and entrances.
- In general, students will not be assigned Lockers or hallway storage/cubby spaces. All student belongings will remain with students.
- Outdoor spaces will be marked to help students maintain appropriate distances. Shared playground equipment may not be available or may be limited.

IN THE CLASSROOM

Given the need to maintain safe social distancing in all of our classrooms, familiar arrangements like story-rugs, shared workspaces and varied seating options have undergone the most dramatic changes:



- All tables, desks and group workstations have been arranged to allow for 6ft of distance.
- In some classrooms, desks are spaced 6ft apart. In others, students will sit at every-other desk, to create the necessary distance.
- Rugs and other porous surfaces like bean bag chairs have been removed as they are not able to be sanitized properly to ensure safety.
- Sanitizing stations are in every classroom. Students will be asked to sanitize hands upon entering and departing the classroom. Supplies are also available for wiping desks and materials as needed.
- Teacher desks may have plexiglass partitions - so students can safely approach to ask questions.
- Each classroom will have an air purification system running during the day. Windows will be opened as weather permits.
- Students will not share materials with other students. Workbook, supplies and provided school materials should be brought to school or will be kept at school for individual student use. Online document sharing tools will be used often to avoid paper sharing.



WHAT TO EXPECT RETURNING TO CLASSROOMS

TEACHING & LEARNING

The format for the day will feel very similar to students, as the creative, engaging ways students have been interacting with teachers online - will be carried over into the classroom format.



- Because distance needs to be maintained, teachers will need to limit movement and won't be able to move around the room to closely interact with students, as was common before.
- Teachers will spend the vast majority of teaching time at the front of the classroom maintaining at least six feet of distance from students.
- Teachers will be balancing in-person and remote student learning at the same time. Videos and displays will try to be optimized for best use by both groups and may change over time as teachers adapt to this new model.
- Students in-person and online will be able to ask questions during the lessons by raising hands or indicating a question to the teacher online as directed. Some teachers may develop specific protocols for 1:1 assistance.
- Students learning in-person will continue to use various technology tools and learning platforms, as they have been at home. These were common in our classrooms before COVID and will continue to be integral learning tools for our students in hybrid and fully in-person formats.
- Handout materials will be coordinated by schools, and every effort is being made to utilize online classroom sharing spaces to minimize paper sharing.
- During "break" times or "lunch" – students learning in school buildings will remain in their classrooms, or have a designated outdoor location.
- The evolution to a Hybrid format will not be without a learning curve for both students and teachers. Please be patient as we all work together to create the best learning spaces possible.

HEALTH & SAFETY

In order to limit student groups, create appropriate distance and to ensure we can adequately track contacts outside of class connections:

- Bathroom usage will be limited and monitored by staff to ensure proper distancing, privacy and records are maintained.
- Students exhibiting symptoms of COVID will be referred immediately to the school nurse for evaluation. Separate waiting spaces have been created and students needing to return home will need to be picked up within 30 minutes.
- All buildings, classrooms, restrooms and shared spaces are equipped with sanitizing stations. Students will be encouraged to "pump-in/pump-out" when entering or exiting all shared spaces.
- Masks are required to be worn by all students and staff.
- Visitors to school buildings will be significantly limited.

FEELING SICK?

Please **STAY HOME** if you have any of the symptoms listed:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Headache
- Muscle or body aches
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Fatigue with other symptoms
- Nasal congestion or runny nose with other symptoms

Note that some symptoms of COVID-19 are the same as the flu or a bad cold; please do not assume it is another condition. If staff or students have any of these symptoms they must get a test for active COVID-19 infection prior to returning to school.

WHEN IN DOUBT, STAY HOME.

LEARN MORE



Each Dedham school has prepared additional, detailed materials and virtual presentations to help families and students better prepare for returning in-person.

- Check your school website to view updated protocols, virtual tours and learn more about your student's school day.
- Contact your school principals or the main school office with questions. We are happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

www.dedham.k12.ma.us