

SY 2021-22 LEA Health and Safety Plans

LEA Name: DC Scholars PCS

LEA Contact: Jennifer Leonard

LEA Type: Pre-K;Elementary;Middle School

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Background and Purpose

[OSSE's Health and Safety Guidance for Schools](#) is issued for LEAs and private, parochial and independent schools (schools). LEAs and schools must develop and submit to OSSE comprehensive health and safety plans. This plan is intended to provide the public with information on how the LEA will support the safe reopening and operation of school buildings, including guidelines on masking, social distancing, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, and appropriate response to a positive COVID-19 case.

OSSE reviewed each LEA's responses to the questions for clarity, completeness, and compliance with the DC Health and OSSE health and safety guidance for schools and provided feedback to the LEA. Before publication, LEA's were given the opportunity to revise their responses based on OSSE's feedback. LEAs and schools are responsible for incorporating additional or updated public health guidance into their policies and procedures throughout the school year as such guidance is released.

Face Masks

1. Provide the LEA's plan to comply with the requirements to:

- **a. except for specific circumstances (e.g., while eating) articulated in OSSE's guidance, all students, staff and visitors, including those who are fully vaccinated, must wear non-medical face coverings or face masks at all times while on school grounds, on school buses and while participating in any school-related activities, including physical education and sports; and**
- **b. masks must be worn correctly.**

To protect and support the health and safety of the DC Scholars community, all students, staff, and visitors, including those who are fully vaccinated, are expected to wear a non-medical face covering or mask while on school grounds, buses, and at school-related activities. We have developed the following policy:

DC Scholars holds the position that all students, staff and visitors must wear face coverings while on school grounds (including the physical school building, the outer school premises, and vehicles being used for school events) during the school day and during any school-sponsored activity.

The COVID POC (Tiffany Green, Associate Director of Operations), or designee, along with all school-wide leadership team members, will be responsible for ensuring that all students, staff and visitors are aware of this requirement prior to or upon entering the building. Additionally, the COVID POC is responsible for ensuring that all staff, scholars and parents/guardians have received appropriate training in the use of face coverings.

The COVID POC, or designee, along with all school-wide leadership team members will be responsible for addressing any request for an exemption to the requirement to wear a face covering. Any person entering the building will go through security and will not be permitted entry without a face mask. The only exception is during student arrival where we will have multiple entrances and staff posted at each entrance who will be responsible for enforcing our mask policy. Within the building, staff and leadership will enforce our mask policy (see below for our process for responding to individuals who are unable or unwilling to wear their mask).

REQUIREMENTS FOR STAFF

- All staff members are required to wear a face covering while on DC Scholars property except for circumstances outlined below in the "Exceptions" section.
- The usage of/need for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), in addition to face coverings, will be determined by role and consistent across staff. Considerations will include potential level of exposure, in accordance with CDC guidelines and Universal Precautions infection control practices including: optional face shields for staff, gloves for handling food and routine cleaning and enhanced PPE for the isolation room (gown, head covering, face shield)
- All staff will be required to complete training in the use of PPE and face coverings.
- All requests for exemption must be sent to the COVID-19 POC and will be handled according to CDC/OSSE guidelines.

REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS

- All DC Scholars students are required to wear a face covering while on DC Scholars property except for circumstances outlined below in the “Exceptions” section.
- All students will receive instruction in the use of face coverings.
- All requests for exemption must be sent to the COVID-19 POC and will be handled according to CDC/OSSE guidelines.

REQUIREMENTS FOR VISITORS TO DC SCHOLARS

- During this public health crisis, visitors to DC Scholars will be limited and requests will be reviewed by the COVID-19 POC, school director, or designee, on a case-by-case basis.
- Visitors to DC Scholars must wear a face covering and have permission from COVID-19 POC, school director, or designee to be on school property during the school day or any school-sponsored activity. Individuals who have not obtained permission will be refused entry to the school and directed to leave school property.

EXCEPTIONS

At DC Scholars, we recognize that wearing face coverings may not be possible in every situation and/or for all individuals. There are some situations when wearing a face covering may aggravate a pre-existing physical or mental health condition, lead to a medical emergency, or introduce significant safety concerns. Any exception to the requirement of a face covering requires the specific direction or approval of a Director or the Covid-19 POC.

- Such an exception may be made only when safe to do so and when students are appropriately distanced, such as when eating and drinking, or when exercising under the supervision of DC Scholars staff .
- In the event the parent/guardian, student or school official believes a student’s health condition, communication impairment, or disability requires an on-going exemption from the face covering requirement for some portion of face-to-face instruction, this request must be reviewed and approved by school officials, including the student’s teacher and the School Director, who may permit the exemption only where sufficient public health protections can be implemented without unreasonably interfering with the instructional program.
- Any student seeking an exemption from the face covering requirement must provide a physician’s statement confirming that not wearing a face covering is necessary. The statement does not need to specify the underlying medical condition or diagnosis.
- Upon receipt of a physician’s statement or automatic exemption without a physician’s note the Covid POC will review the [ADA Face Mask Accommodations Policy](#) to assess our ability to implement mitigating measures during the school day and determine under what conditions the student’s face covering exemption can be implemented safely and effectively while at school and/or during transport, if applicable.
- Staff requesting an exemption from wearing a face covering while on DC Scholars property shall be directed to submit a physician’s statement that not wearing such a face covering is medically necessary and make a request for accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act due to a medical condition to Human Resources.

2. Provide the LEA's policies and procedures in the event that a student, staff member, or visitor is unable or unwilling to wear a face mask at all times.

For students who are unable or unwilling to wear a face covering at all times, the following procedure will be followed: If students who are not exempt from the face covering requirement are unwilling to wear a mask, DC Scholars will take steps to educate the student on safety compliance, implement positive behavior interventions, and if possible, recommend alternative face coverings (such as a face shield instead) and, when appropriate, consult with the student's parent or guardian. Only as a last resort will a student who is unwilling to wear a mask be excluded from in-person instruction. If a student is excluded, DC Scholars will provide the student with the opportunity to receive educational services virtually during the exclusion and then return the student to in-person instruction when the student is able to comply with the mask guidelines. Students who are unable to consistently wear a face covering due to sensory, behavioral, or other disabilities will not be disciplined or denied access to in-person educational services.

In line with DC Health [guidance](#) staff or visitors who are unable or unwilling to wear a face covering will not be allowed in the building. There may be some limited exceptions related to specific student needs or personal emergencies. DC Scholars will have a supply of disposable masks in the office for any visitors who arrive without one, in addition to other personal protective equipment (PPE), as discussed later.

3. Provide the LEA's policies and procedures to support physical distancing between individuals and within and across groups, including in classrooms, common spaces, during arrival and dismissal procedures, and during extracurricular activities.

Each classroom will be organized to support students seated and standing approximately 3 feet apart from one another (head to head). Teachers will remain approximately 6 feet from students and each other when feasible. The school will not hold in-person assemblies until health guidance allows for this and will limit school gatherings where student cohorts would be in the same space. During activities outside the classroom (such as PE, recess, arrival, and dismissal) the school will continue to have signage reminding students and staff to stand 6 feet apart. Staff and leadership will monitor and reinforce expectations around physical distancing. More specific policies and procedures are outlined below:

- Desks will face in the same direction to reduce transmission caused from virus-containing droplets (e.g. from talking, coughing, sneezing).
- If the room is equipped with tables, we will only sit students on one side of the table with appropriate distance in between. Use visual cues and signage to illustrate where participants may sit to adhere to social distancing.
- Tape or other markings will be used on the floor to designate the furniture arrangement necessary for maintaining maximum social distancing.
- Carpets and excess furniture will be removed from all spaces except in ECE classrooms. Additional carpets will be used to maximize student distancing.
- We will not be providing dividers between individual student spaces per recommendations from DC Health.
- To the extent feasible, DC Scholars will encourage and support meetings to take place via video or

- teleconferencing with individuals who are not typically on school grounds (e.g., external stakeholders).
- DC Scholars will set aside several meeting spaces and conference rooms for staff use. Staff are expected to maintain six feet of distance in these spaces.
- The 1st floor staff lounge may be used solely to store/retrieve food.
- The 3rd floor staff lounge will be used for staff members to consume meals. It is an open and well-ventilated area. Staff will maintain (6) ft of distance if feasible.
- No other rooms may be used for meeting or work spaces unless the Associate Director of Operations has provided approval.
- Large spaces can be made available for student use with the approval of a Director or the Covid-19 POC, as long as social distancing guidelines are in place and cleaning procedures are followed.
- Recreational activities (e.g. outdoor play) will be designated among our 4 available spaces and be staggered to prevent social interactions between groups.
- Multiple cohorts will be allowed to participate in outdoor events at the approval of school leadership, but the cohorts must not mix, must maintain greater than 6 feet of distance between each other, and must maintain 6 feet of distance between individuals within each cohort.
- In the event of poor weather, we may use the upper gym and cafeteria as long as student cohorts are following social distancing guidelines.
- DC Scholars will use outdoor spaces for instruction and activities to the extent that is feasible and as weather permits.

Student arrival and dismissal will take longer than usual and we will adjust our normal procedures as follows:

- Additional doors for entry and exit to avoid funneling all students through a single point of entry. Specifically:
 - Arrival and dismissal are a part of our Big 5 routines and specific protocols will be built out in keeping with health guidelines and in coordination with our culture team.
- Creating clear space delineations for student lines as students enter and exit school as well as inside the school building (e.g. create and mark line spots in hallways and outdoors, mark one-way flow of hallways).
- No congregation of students if there are late pickups. Students will be expected to maintain social distancing requirements in accordance with DC Health guidance.

4. Provide the LEA's policies and procedures regarding the use of cohorts for students and/or staff, including steps to minimize interactions between cohorts, as applicable.

Our LEA will create cohorts by classroom. Cohort mixing may occur by grade level (for example, recess) and in rare cases grade span (for example, school events). In these cases, plans will be reviewed and approved by the School Director.

To limit cohort mixing, we will implement the following procedures:

- Multiple entry and exit points (described above in Q3).
- Designated bathrooms by grade span (adult supervision to limit interactions across cohorts, scheduled bathroom breaks).
- Students will remain in their classrooms except for arrival, recess, dismissal, and transitioning

classrooms once per day for middle school grades.

- Meals will be served in classrooms.

5. Provide the LEA's policies and procedures to support handwashing and respiratory etiquette including frequent, proper handwashing strategies and encouraging covering coughs and sneezes.

Our policy for handwashing and respiratory etiquette is as follows:

- Staff and students will have hand sanitizer readily available in classrooms, bathrooms, and offices. Classrooms will receive a broader set of supplies that includes spray, wipes, hand sanitizer, gloves, tissues, and disposable masks.
- School staff will reinforce frequent, proper handwashing strategies by staff and students, to include washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- School staff will reinforce respiratory etiquette to include sneezing in the arm, with tissue covering, and handwashing afterwards.
- Children will be supervised when they use hand sanitizer to prevent ingestion and to ensure that they are using it properly.
- Posters with handwashing steps will be located near sinks and throughout the building.

In addition to reinforcing frequent, proper handwashing strategies, DC Scholars will use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol throughout the school and in the bathrooms. We will ensure all students and staff have the opportunity to wash hands or, if not readily available or if it would compromise cohort isolation practices, use hand sanitizer with 60% alcohol at the following times:

- Before and after eating;
- Before and after group activities or student centers;
- After going to the bathroom;
- After removing gloves;
- After blowing noses, coughing, or sneezing.

6. Provide the LEA's plan to make available adequate supplies (e.g., soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer, tissues) to support healthy hygiene practices including, as relevant, in classrooms, bathrooms, offices and common spaces.

DC Scholars will provide the following PPE and cleaning supplies to all classrooms:

- Disinfectant spray
- Disinfectant wipes
- Hand sanitizer
- Gloves
- Tissues
- Disposable masks

We will conduct daily supply checks of classroom supplies and refill as needed to maintain sufficient supply levels for classrooms.

We will have soap and hand sanitizer available through hands-free dispensers and paper towels in every bathroom. All building entrances will have hands-free hand sanitizer dispensers. All common spaces will have hand sanitizer. These will be checked and replenished if needed on a nightly basis by our custodial staff.

7. Provide the LEA's policies and procedures to acquire, distribute and support the appropriate use of PPE including gowns/coveralls, gloves, surgical masks, eye protection (face shield or goggles) and N95 masks, as relevant and necessary.

Our PPE Policy can be found [here](#). Our PPE is kept in the 3rd floor storage room and is distributed by Tiffany Green, Associate Director of Operations or Alyssa Rashaw, Operations Associate, as outlined in our policy.

Acquire - DC Scholars will review the supply of PPE on a weekly basis. Generally, we do a full inventory and restock on a monthly basis. During the inventory process, the Covid-19 POC will review supplies on hand and ensure that PPE is always in stock and never dips below a 1 week supply.

Distribute - PPE will be distributed to all classrooms on a regular basis. We will purchase PPE by quarter and do weekly checks to monitor PPE usage and levels, refilling and restocking as necessary.

Support appropriate use of PPE - DC Scholars will support the appropriate usage of PPE by doing the following:

- **Lead by example:** DC Scholars leaders will at all times wear and use appropriate PPE
- **Educate Employees on the Importance of PPE:** DC Scholars will ensure that employees know why they need to use each specific type of PPE for their job. During our Leadership Training Program prior to the start of the school year, we will share the risks associated with not using PPE, and we will emphasize the impact of using PPE according to our policies on our school's overall health & safety
- **Maintain Open Communication:** DC Scholars will solicit feedback from employees about how the use of PPE is working for them and what, if any recommendations they have to improve effectiveness. DC Scholars will address any concern or complaint promptly.
- **Enforce Policies:** DC Scholars will make sure that our PPE policy is accessible by all employees. On a regular basis, leaders will check in on employees to ensure they are using their PPE properly and consistently.

Maintain Clean and Healthy Facilities

8. Provide the LEA's schedule for routine cleaning of rooms, surfaces and objects, including high touch objects and surfaces (e.g., pens, keyboards, elevator buttons, light switches, handles, stair rails, faucets, phones, doorknobs, grab bars on playgrounds).

		Through-out Day	Daily	Weekly	Monthly
Classroom	Floors of classrooms		X		
	Student desks, chairs	X	X		
	Teacher desks, chair	X	X		
	Walls and white boards	X	X		
	Manipulatives, text books, etc.	X	X		
	Pens, pencils, white board markers, crayons, markers	X	X		
Hallway/Stairs	Fixtures (switches, knobs, buttons)	X	X		
	Railings	X	X		
	Lockers	X	X		
	Floors of hallways	X	X		
Office and Common Area	Pens, pencils	X	X		
	Fixtures (switches, knobs, buttons)	X	X		
	Chairs	X	X		

	Copiers, etc.	X	X		
Bathrooms	Surfaces	X	X		
	Floor	X	X		
	Fixtures, handles, switches, faucets	X	X		
Outdoor Space	Playground		X		
	Balls, toys	X	X		
Other					

9. Provide the LEA's cleaning and disinfecting protocols in the event that (1) a student, staff member, or visitor develops symptoms of possible COVID-19 while in the school; or (2) if the school is notified that a student, staff member or visitor who tested positive has been in the school.

Here is the link to our [COVID-19 cleaning policy](#). We will follow OSSE's guidance on how to disinfect and clean when a member of our community either develops symptoms of COVID-19 while in school or tests positive.

The protocols include: In the event of a confirmed COVID-19 case in a student or staff member, the school must follow all steps outlined by DC Department of Health as well as the cleaning, disinfection and sanitization guidance from the CDC, [linked here](#).

If three days or fewer have passed since the person who is sick used the facility, follow these steps:

1. Close off areas used by the person who is sick.
2. Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area. Wait up to 24 hours or as long as possible before cleaning or disinfecting to allow respiratory droplets to settle.
3. Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person who is sick, such as classrooms, bathrooms, and common areas.

If more than three days have passed since the person who is sick used the facility, additional cleaning and disinfection is not necessary. Continue routine cleaning and disinfection.

10. Provide the LEA's plan to make available sufficient and appropriate cleaning and disinfection supplies.

We will purchase PPE by quarter and do weekly checks to monitor PPE usage and levels, refilling and restocking as necessary. This process includes basic classroom cleaning supplies (e.g., wipes and gloves). Our cleaning is done by BusyBee Environmental Services. Our agreement with BusyBee confirms that their staff will wear gloves while cleaning and disinfecting spaces throughout the building. Furthermore, BusyBee is responsible for purchasing and maintaining their cleaning supplies. DC Scholars leadership will actively monitor BusyBee staff to ensure compliance with PPE and cleaning requirements.

11. Provide the LEA's plan to perform necessary maintenance to ventilation and water systems and features (e.g., sink faucets, drinking fountains, decorative fountains) so that they are ready for use and occupancy and are adequately maintained throughout the operating period.

Prior to reopening after any prolonged shutdown, the school will engage with the HVAC vendor to ensure the systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible. Windows and doors will be opened where possible to maximize air quality for occupants while considering safety and health risks such as risk of falling, outdoor air quality triggering asthma symptoms, building fire safety, and security. DC Scholars has changed and upgraded all air filters to Merv 11 or 13 air filters.

Prior to reopening after any prolonged shutdown, the school will flush all water systems to clear out stagnant water and replace it with fresh water. This process will remove any metals (e.g., lead) that may have leached into the water and minimize risk of Legionnaires' disease and other diseases associated with water following CDC guidance and as described below:

- Flush hot and cold water through all points of use such as sinks, drinking fountains, toilets, urinals, and showers.
 - Water heater will be set to 140 degrees Fahrenheit and hot water will be flushed at each fixture using hot water until its maximum temperature is reached.
- Additional water using devices, such as ice machines and drinking water dispensers, will be flushed in accordance with manufacturers' instructions.

Response to a Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19 Case

12. Describe the LEA's policies and procedures to:

- **a. Comply with the requirement to not admit or to dismiss any student, staff member or visitor who is COVID-19 positive or otherwise meets criteria for exclusion, per OSSE’s guidance; and**
- **b. Dismiss any individual or cohort that is potentially exposed to COVID-19 within the school setting.**

Our COVID-19 POC is responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns. DC Scholars will provide written notification to staff or families who have had a possible exposure to anyone with COVID-like illness symptoms or a positive case of COVID-19. If a staff member or student has a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher and/or any of the following signs/symptoms:

- Cough
- Congestion or runny nose
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Muscle or body aches
- New loss of taste or smell

they will be placed in a quarantine room until they can leave the building (i.e., family members can pick up the student). Areas used by the sick person will be closed off and will not be used until after cleaning and disinfecting by custodial staff.

Individuals who test positive for COVID-19:

If symptomatic, may return after:

- At least 24 hours after the fever has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medication (e.g., Motrin, Tylenol) and symptoms have improved; AND At least 10 days after symptoms first appeared, whichever is later.

If asymptomatic, may return after:

- 10 days from positive test

Regardless of whether symptomatic or asymptomatic, close contacts (including all members of the household) who are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 must not attend school for at least 10 days from the last date of close contact with the positive individual.

If DC Scholars identifies a student or staff member with COVID-19 who is in the building, we will be

prepared to dismiss the potentially exposed cohort(s) and they will not attend school until DC Health is able to complete the case investigation.

- The exposed cohort will remain in their classroom and follow routine procedures while they are waiting for their caregivers to pick them up.
- If DC Scholars is notified of a case who is not in the building, the affected cohort may remain until the end of the school day.

In the event that DC Scholars is informed of a case of COVID-19 or possible COVID-19 exposure, the school nurse and/or principal will immediately notify the Department of Health. The school will follow the guidance of OSSE for notification of staff and families, quarantines, closures, reopening and any other requirements.

13. Provide the LEA's plan to comply with the requirements to:

- **a. Identify a staff member as the COVID-19 point of contact (POC) to whom families, staff, contractors and vendors should report a positive case of COVID-19 and who is responsible for reporting positive cases of COVID-19 to DC Health;**
- **b. Report any applicable positive COVID-19 case in a student, staff member or essential visitor to DC Health on the same day the school is notified;**
- **c. Not exclude students or staff with pre-existing health conditions that present with specific COVID-19-like symptoms on the basis of those specific symptoms, if a healthcare provider has provided written or verbal documentation that those specific symptoms are not due to COVID-19.**

Our COVID-19 point of contact is Tiffany Green, Associate Director of Operations. Our rationale for this POC is that the ADO is responsible for the health and safety of DC Scholars. All possible and confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 should be reported to the ADO, and the ADO will report any and all positive cases of COVID-19 to DC Health on the same day the school is notified. Staff, students and their families will receive a communication prior to the start of school to contact the ADO and how to do that in the case of a positive test result.

The COVID-19 POC will be able to receive calls and emails throughout the day and into the evening hours. The COVID-19 POC may also proactively reach out to families of students, staff, and visitors who had symptoms or have been absent to inquire. All confirmed reports will be shared with DC Health in a means that is requested by DC Health and on the same day the ADO is made aware of the positive test result.

Ensuring that all staff and students learn as often on-site as possible, excluding students and staff with similar symptoms but no underlying case must be avoided. To this end, our COVID-19 POC may review all of our daily screening questions to ensure that students or staff with preexisting symptoms have not been exposed. In some cases, the COVID-19 POC may seek the counsel of a healthcare provider.

14. Provide the LEA's procedures to support DC Health with contact tracing in the event of a positive case of COVID-19.

DC Scholars will use [a daily tracking form](#), and, per OSSE's guidance, we will adhere to the policy that "Records of screenings are strongly recommended to be stored for 30 days in order to support DC Health with contact tracing efforts should a positive COVID-19 incident occur within the facility."

Our COVID-19 POC will report all positive cases and contact with positive cases to DC Health, as described in Section N. of the Health and Safety Guidance from OSSE (p 28-29). The COVID-19 POC will contact DC Health if a staff member, essential visitor, or student notifies the school that they (or their student) tested positive for COVID-19 if the individual was on school grounds or participated in school activities during their infectious period. Immediately upon learning of the positive case, the COVID-19 POS will notify DC Health by submitting an online form on the DC Health COVID-19 Reporting Requirements website using the [Non-Healthcare Facility COVID-19 Consult Form](#).

15. Describe how the LEA will notify the school community, as appropriate, of the positive case and corresponding actions taken by the LEA.

In the event a student, staff member, or DC Scholars partner (e.g., a contractor) tests positive for COVID-19 positive, DC Scholars will notify DC Health of the positive test result on the same day the information is received. DC Scholars will take all appropriate safety measures, including cleaning and disinfecting the affected areas, to ensure the safety of staff and students.

DC Scholars will personally notify individuals believed to have been in close contact with the infected person about the positive case by phone and email, so that they may quarantine and take any other precautions. In the spirit of transparency, DC Scholars will send a broader notification via our school wide broadcast system ([School Messenger](#)) if the person with COVID-19 was in a DC Scholars building during the two day period preceding their COVID-19 symptoms or their test.

Per the DC Mayor, DC Scholars will rely on decisions from DC Health regarding any additional safety measures that may be advisable, including quarantines or closures. DC Health is responsible for decisions on closures, quarantines, or any other additional measures required at the school.

To meet the needs of our diverse community, details on these topics will be available in all languages that our community requires as indicated on student/Family Home Language Surveys. We will communicate with our school community via our website ([dcscholars.org](#)) our instagram page, weekly Class Dojo messages and

weekly school messages.

COVID-19 Testing and Vaccines

16. If applicable, describe the LEA's current or planned COVID-19 testing protocol for symptomatic and/or asymptomatic students and/or staff, including steps the LEA will take to encourage participation in the testing program. Please include the LEA's plan to ensure that results of such testing programs are reported to DC Health per DC Health's COVID-19 reporting requirements: dchealth.dc.gov/page/covid-19-reporting-requirements.

DC Scholars has the following [COVID-19 Testing Protocol](#). DC Scholars will follow its protocol, outlined in question 14, to notify DC Health and to follow DC Health reporting requirements.

17. Provide the LEA's plans to support COVID-19 vaccination of staff and students, as eligible, including efforts to encourage participation in public and community-based vaccination opportunities.

Our LEA is supporting eligible students and staff to get vaccinated by first seeking to understand and address vaccine hesitancy. DC Scholars will hold a community town hall to view [BET's COVID-19 Special](#). DC Scholars will send out weekly communications to our families via Class Dojo which highlight vaccination efforts and events throughout the city.

Students with Disabilities

18. Provide the LEA's plans to provide appropriate accommodations to students with disabilities with respect to its health and safety policies and procedures.

DC Scholars will offer the 'COVID-19 MEDICAL CONSENT & CERTIFICATION FOR DISTANCE LEARNING' form to any family that believes they may need a waiver for in person learning due to any healthy and safety needs. Families can complete the form for each quarter that their child needs to remain in distance learning. This form will be available through enrollment based on parent request and shared by our Manager of Student Support as parents inquire and need follow up aligned to safety and medical needs.

If a student can attend school in person but requires adjustments and accommodations, the family will work with our school nurse and/or Manager of Student Support to share any medical documentation and create a plan to provide any waivers/adjustments/accommodations to support the student's needs. Opportunities to

request accommodations will be shared as needed during enrollment and parent inquiries and in parent orientations. Additionally, and aligned to our Response to Intervention Process and our Child find processes, teachers and staff can submit students to the process if they have identified a suspected need for the student support and/or 504/IEP team to review and address.

The school team (depending on student and need could be 504 team, IEP team, or Operations, Manager of Student Support, nurse, teacher) will meet with the family to review the documentation and needs. The team will determine if the waiver/adjustment/accommodation is reasonable and necessary to support student engagement, attendance, safety, and/or learning and create a plan in response.

Training, Technical Assistance, and Monitoring

19. Please provide the LEA's plan to provide training and technical assistance on its policies and procedures to safely reopen schools in accordance with the DC Health Guidance for Schools and the OSSE Health and Safety Guidance for Schools, including:

- **a. who will receive training and technical assistance; while on school grounds, on school buses and while participating in any school-related activities, including physical education and sports; and**
- **b. the topics that the training and technical assistance will address; and**
- **c. how and by whom the training and technical assistance will be delivered.**

Audience	Topic	Trainer/ TA provider	Date Range (if available)
DC Scholars Leaders (iDirectors, Assoc Directors, Coaches, Special Ed Leaders, Deans, Counselors, and Managers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaders will be able to describe mission-critical aspects of the health and safety plan for the upcoming school year • Leaders will be familiar with the contents of the health and safety plan and be able to access it on their own 	Colin Welch, Director of Finance and Operations Tiffany Green, Associate Director of Operations	July 15, 2021
DC Scholars Leaders (iDirectors, Assoc Directors, Coaches, Special Ed Leaders, Deans, Counselors, and Managers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaders will be able to judge the degree to which they retained outcomes from Part 1 of the health and safety PD session • Leaders will discuss challenges in holding staff and students accountable and their role in ensuring accountability to our health 	Colin Welch, Director of Finance and Operations Tiffany Green, Associate Director of Operations	July 29, 2021

	and safety plan		
All Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff will be able to describe mission-critical aspects of the health and safety plan for the upcoming school year • Staff will be familiar with the contents of the health and safety plan and be able to access it on their own • Staff will discuss challenges in holding each other and students accountable and their role in ensuring accountability to our health and safety plan 	<p>Colin Welch, Director of Finance and Operations</p> <p>Tiffany Green, Associate Director of Operations</p>	August 2021 during all staff “August Orientation” (specific dates TBD)

20. Provide the LEA's plan to monitor the implementation of the health and safety plans at each campus, including how, when and by whom the implementation will be monitored, and how the LEA will respond if a given campus is not adhering to the plan.

DC Scholars has only one campus. Implementation of the health and safety plan will be monitored by the ADO, Tiffany Green, who is responsible for all Health and Safety related issues at DC Scholars. She will be responsible for serving as the point of contact when a student or staff member displays signs of illness and needs to be excused from the classroom, cohort or any other area within the school. She will implement DC Scholars’ safety plan and procedures which address:

- Escorting students to the designated isolation room/area until transportation can be arranged to send the student(s) home or to seek emergency medical attention.
- Isolation of multiple students at one time.
- Notification of parent(s), guardians, or caregiver(s) of ill student(s) that need to be picked up from school.
- Identifying all exposed area(s) (e.g., classroom), and recommending cleaning and disinfection of areas is performed by appropriate staff.
- Work with local health officials to assess transmission levels and support contact tracing efforts
- Ensure close contacts are identified, notified, advised to stay home, and to consult with their healthcare provider as appropriate to determine if testing is recommended.
- Communicate with teacher(s), staff, and parent(s), guardian(s) or caregiver(s) the importance of COVID-19 mitigation strategies (e.g., staying home when sick, washing hands, wearing masks, social distancing).

21. Describe the LEA's plans to communicate key health and safety policies and procedures to students, families, staff and visitors.

Our LEA plans to communicate key health and safety policies and procedures with students, families, and staff via our COVID-19 handbook, which will be available on our website dcscholars.org. Families will also be kept informed of health and safety related policies through weekly bulletins sent via School Messenger and Class Dojo. To meet the needs of our diverse community, details on these topics will be available in all languages that our community requires as indicated on student/Family Home Language Surveys. DC Scholars utilizes the Language Line service to facilitate communication with our ELL families and will work with them to provide regular updates to our affected families through our school website and weekly bulletins.