



Washington
Global

PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

2022-23 School Year Health & Safety Plan

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Introduction

Washington Global is committed to the health and safety of its school community, and the prevention of COVID-19. Washington Global will engage in everyday prevention methods, regardless of the level of Community Spread of COVID-19, such as vaccinations, staying home if a community member is sick, isolation and/or quarantine for a COVID-19 positive case, optimizing the ventilation of the building, and regular cleaning. If the School needs to engage in enhanced prevention measures based on the level of Community Spread, the School will do so as outlined below.

Face Masks

	Low Community Spread	Medium Community Spread	High Community Spread
School Response	When the District of Columbia is operating in Low Community Spread, the School will not require face masks to be worn. However, if an individual would like to wear a face mask, they have the option to do so.	When the District of Columbia is operating in Medium Community Spread, the School will not require face masks to be worn. However, if an individual would like to wear a face mask, they have the option to do so. The School will also recommend anyone at risk for a severe case of COVID-19 to contact their physician and ask whether or not to wear a mask.	When the District of Columbia is operating in High Community Spread, the School will require face masks to be worn while inside the building by all individuals. Students who cannot safely wear a face mask (for example a student with a disability who is unable to remove the face mask without assistance if they have a breathing issue) should not be required to wear one and are entitled to education services. If a student participating in in-person activities is unable to wear a face mask throughout the day, mask breaks are acceptable at times in which physical distance can be maintained (e.g., when outside) or during snacks or meals. Families and staff members will work with students to practice wearing a mask safely and consistently.

Physical Distancing

	Low Community Spread	Medium Community Spread	High Community Spread
School Response	When the District of Columbia is operating in Low Community Spread, the School will not require social distancing to be practiced.	When the District of Columbia is operating in Medium Community Spread, the School may require social distancing to be practiced.	When the District of Columbia is operating in High Community Spread, the School may require social distancing of at least 3 feet to be practiced.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

	Low Community Spread	Medium Community Spread	High Community Spread
School Response	When the District of Columbia is operating in Low Community Spread, the School will provide personal protective equipment to any member of the Global community that may want it. The School will also make masks available for anyone who wishes to wear one while in the building.	When the District of Columbia is operating in Medium Community Spread, the School will provide personal protective equipment to any member of the Global community that may want it. The School will also make masks available for anyone who wishes to wear one while in the building.	When the District of Columbia is operating in High Community Spread, the School will provide personal protective equipment to any member of the Global community that may want it. The School will also make masks available for anyone who forgets to wear one while in the building.

COVID-19 Screening Testing

	Low Community Spread	Medium Community Spread	High Community Spread
School Response	When the District of Columbia is operating in Low Community Spread, the School may implement a screening testing program under certain circumstances.	When the District of Columbia is operating in Medium Community Spread, the School may implement a screening testing program under certain circumstances.	When the District of Columbia is operating in High Community Spread, the School may implement a screening testing program under certain circumstances.

Maintain Clean and Healthy Facilities

At all levels of Community Spread, the School will engage in enhanced cleaning efforts through the use of disinfecting all high-touch surfaces at least once a day. In the instance of a COVID-19 positive case identified in the building in the last 48 hours, additional cleaning measures will also be taken.

The School will continue its use of standalone UV-C Air Purifiers in each classroom, common area, and office space to promote increased ventilation in the building. Filters will be replaced regularly.

In the summer of 2020, the School upgraded its HVAC system to include UV lights within the air ducts to neutralize any virus particles in the air. The School will have the filters replaced prior to the start of the year, and will replace filters regularly. The School made further improvements to its HVAC system in the summer of 2022.

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

The School is reinforcing frequent, proper handwashing strategies by staff and students, which includes washing their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing their nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not available, and hands are not visibly dirty, staff and students are instructed to use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol.

The School will remind individuals of the key times to perform hand hygiene:

- before eating food;
- after using the toilet;
- before and after putting on, touching, or removing cloth face coverings or touching one's face;
- after blowing one's nose, coughing or sneezing; and
- while entering and exiting a classroom or between activities, such as recess or lunch.

The School will continue to encourage staff and students to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue when they are not wearing a mask. Signage has been placed in all classrooms, common areas, and offices. Used tissues will be thrown out in the trash, and hands must be immediately washed with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or if soap and water are unavailable, cleaned with hand sanitizer containing at least 60 percent alcohol.

School-wide Hygiene

- The School has an adequate amount of supplies (e.g., soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer, tissue) to support healthy hygiene practices, including in classrooms, bathrooms, and offices.
- A member of the operations team will do weekly checks on classroom and common area supplies (hand sanitizer, tissues, PPE carts, etc.). Soap and paper towels will be refilled as needed by the nightly cleaning crew or the building engineer.
- The School has set up sanitizing stations outside of large common spaces including the hallways, cafeteria, locker areas, and the main entrance/exit.

To the extent feasible, the School has:

- Increased air circulation by ensuring all ventilation systems are operating properly and placing individual UV-C air purifiers in every classroom, office, and common space that must be turned on at all times.
- Installed no-touch fixtures on bathroom faucets and toilets, and touchless foot door openers on the first floor bathrooms.
- The School may provide individual bags of supplies that are labeled for the teacher/student and will be used only by the teacher/student.

Response to a Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19 Case

The School will assess all symptoms on an individual basis, and will use CDC and DC Health guidance to make a decision on whether to remove an individual from the building. Students or staff with pre-existing health conditions that present with specific COVID-19-like symptoms must not be excluded from entering the school building on the basis of those specific symptoms if a healthcare provider has provided written or verbal documentation that those specific symptoms are determined to not be due to COVID-19.

In an effort to keep the community healthy, all students will be enrolled in the School's COVID-19 testing program. If a parent/guardian wishes to opt-out of free COVID-19 testing, they must request the opt-out form from the School.

An individual may be excluded from the building according to the symptoms outlined below:

Any 1 of these red flag symptoms	At least 2 or more of the below symptoms
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New or worsening cough• Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing• Fever (measured or subjective)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chills• Muscle or body aches• Headache• Sore Throat• New loss of taste or smell• an unusual amount of tiredness• Nausea or vomiting• Runny nose or congestion• Diarrhea

Response to a Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19 Case:

	Low Community Spread	Medium Community Spread	High Community Spread
School Response	<p>In the instance of someone confirmed to have COVID-19 or suspected of having COVID-19, during a time when the District of Columbia is operating in Low Community Spread, the School will adhere to current health guidance on a positive test result. A positive case will be required to quarantine for a minimum of 5 days, with a rapid test being administered on day 5. If the test result comes back positive, the individual will need to remain in quarantine for an additional 5 days. If the test result comes back negative, they can leave quarantine on day 6, but are required to wear a mask through day 10. In the instance of an individual experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, the individual will need to get a COVID-19 test completed.</p> <p><u>Close Contact</u></p> <p>The School will operate a Test-to-Stay¹ program for those individuals identified as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. During Low Community Spread, the School may engage in contact tracing for those individuals in close contact with the positive COVID-19 case 48 hours prior to the test result or when symptoms first appear.</p>	<p>In the instance of someone confirmed to have COVID-19 or suspected of having COVID-19, during a time when the District of Columbia is operating in Medium Community Spread, the School will adhere to current health guidance on a positive test result. A positive case will be required to quarantine for a minimum of 5 days, with a rapid test being administered on day 5. If the test result comes back positive, they will need to remain in quarantine for an additional 5 days. If the test result comes back negative, they can leave quarantine on day 6 but are required to wear a mask through day 10. In the instance of an individual experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, the individual will need to get a COVID-19 test completed.</p> <p><u>Close Contact</u></p> <p>The School will operate a Test-to-Stay program for those individuals identified as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. During Medium Community Spread, the School may engage in contact tracing for those individuals in close contact with the positive COVID-19 case 48 hours prior to the test result or when symptoms first appear.</p>	<p>In the instance of someone confirmed to have COVID-19 or suspected of having COVID-19, during a time when the District of Columbia is operating in High Community Spread, the School will adhere to current health guidance on a positive test result. A positive case will be required to quarantine for a minimum of 5 days, with a rapid test being administered on day 5. If the test result comes back positive, they will need to remain in quarantine for an additional 5 days. If the test result comes back negative, they can leave quarantine on day 6 but are required to wear a mask through day 10. In the instance of an individual experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, the individual will need to get a COVID-19 test completed.</p> <p><u>Close Contact</u></p> <p>The School will operate a Test-to-Stay program for those individuals identified as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. During High Community Spread, the School will engage in contact tracing for those individuals in close contact with the positive COVID-19 case 48 hours prior to the test result or when symptoms first appear.</p>

¹ Test-to-Stay is an evidence-based approach to balancing the health and safety with the educational and social-emotional needs of students, allowing exposed individuals who are unvaccinated or not up to date on coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination to attend school during quarantine rather than be excluded from school for seven-10 days. For more information, please [click here](#).

Reporting to DC Health

At all levels of Community Spread, the School will adhere to the required reporting system developed by DC Health and OSSE.

Students with Disabilities

Throughout this period, the School will design its educational programming to conform with CDC, DC Health, and OSSE guidance, and in doing so, consideration should be given to a student's 504 plan, IEP, and least restrictive environment (LRE).

The School will continue to provide, to the greatest extent possible, the special education and related services identified in students' IEPs and the accommodations and related services identified in students' 504 Plans ([OSEP Guidance A-1](#)). Regardless of the severity of a student's disability, the School will make every effort to enable full participation of students with disabilities in building activities and to mitigate factors that could discourage participation, such as cost and accessibility.

It is the responsibility of the School to ensure that students with disabilities are educated to the greatest extent possible with their nondisabled peers (34 CFR §300.114). For additional information on the flexibilities available under IDEA for service delivery please see OSSE IDEA Part B Provision of FAPE: Guidance Related to Remote and Blended Learning. The School will uphold the rights of individuals with disabilities in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the DC Human Rights Act.

Additionally, if a student with a disability is excluded from school, the School is required to provide services consistent with all applicable disability laws.

Training, Technical Assistance, and Monitoring

Audience	Topic	Trainer/ TA Provider	Date Range (if available)
<i>All Staff</i>	Health and Safety Protocols	Director of Operations, COVID-19 POC	Teacher Orientation – August 2022
<i>Food Service Staff</i>	Health and Safety protocols when handling meals	Director of Operations, ServSafe	Summer 2022
<i>Contact Tracing Team</i>	Contact Tracing	Johns Hopkins PD, ongoing review of new guidance	Ongoing, Summer 2022

The School will regularly monitor how the health and safety plan is being implemented in the building. Members of the Operations team or Administration will monitor staff, students, and essential visitors to ensure that all aspects of the health and safety plans are being adhered to.

In the event that the health and safety plan is not being adhered to, the School may take the following actions or steps:

- Re-train or re-teach those not abiding by school policies and protocols
- Modify policies or procedures if health guidance allows
- Remove individual out of classroom and place them into an isolated space

Student Vaccination Compliance

In accordance with the District Student Immunization Policy, the School will engage with its health partners to ensure compliance with all childhood vaccines, including the COVID-19 vaccination, that are required in order for a student to attend school. This may include communications with families on any missing vaccinations, obtaining the correct forms, or removing those out of compliance after the 20 day period allowing for families to submit updated forms. The School may host on-site health clinics where students can obtain their required childhood vaccines prior to the start of the school year.

COVID-19 Vaccines

At all levels of Community Spread, the School will adhere to the District of Columbia's requirement that students 12 and older must receive the COVID-19 vaccine, unless there is an approved medical or religious exemption. The School will work with its health partners to ensure compliance with this law, as well as to promote the vaccine to students and their families, as well as hosting on-site clinics for students and their families to attend so that they can be in compliance with the requirement when the COVID-19 vaccine is fully authorized by the FDA for children younger than 12.

The School requires all staff members to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, unless there is an approved medical or religious exemption. The School is supporting staff to become fully vaccinated by providing flexible leave time to get fully vaccinated, including their required booster shot, as well as regular communication regarding the importance of being vaccinated against COVID-19, policy updates for fully vaccinated vs. unvaccinated staff, and setting up virtual meetings with healthcare professionals to discuss any concerns there are about the COVID-19 vaccine.

Contacts

If parents or family members have questions regarding the health and safety protocols of Washington Global, they can contact the following:

Issue / Question	Person to Contact	Contact Information
Test-to-Stay Program	Lynell Gray, Diana Gabriel	(202) 796-2415, lgray@washingtonglobal.org or dgabriel@washingtonglobal.org
Isolation or Quarantine	Lynell Gray, Diana Gabriel	(202) 796-2415, lgray@washingtonglobal.org or dgabriel@washingtonglobal.org
General Health and Safety Questions	Diana Gabriel	(202) 796-2415 or dgabriel@washingtonglobal.org
Contact Tracing	Diana Gabriel, Lynell Gray	(202) 796-2415, lgray@washingtonglobal.org or dgabriel@washingtonglobal.org