



Frequently Asked Questions Current COVID Response November 17, 2020

Q: Do we have to make the weeks up later? Is there even a required number of days this year?

A: CDE has allowed for districts to file for waivers for this year. The days will not have to be made up but an accounting for how our district will provide education is the emphasis. We will determine where our students are academically and decide if some extra days would be feasible. At this time, we have no plans to extend the school year. Please read more on their website at: <https://www.cde.state.co.us/safeschools/covid19-instructionalguidance>

Q: Why can't we require all students in elementary to wear masks all of the time?

A: Our district cannot mandate more than the law allows. The state mandate currently exempts children ages 5-10 from wearing masks. We can strongly recommend but we may not mandate this practice for those children. If the state changes the mandate, we will adjust accordingly. [Executive Order for Mask Mandate](#)

Q: Who decides when a group is quarantined?

A: Anytime there is a person in our buildings who tests positive for COVID, we call the Montezuma County Health Department or they call us (whoever knows first). It is a very detailed process of going through a complete contact tracing exercise to decide who needs to quarantine. Ultimately, we follow the health department guidance very carefully. Please visit CDE's website to learn more about our process: [COVID Cases in school](#)

Q: The weeks that were scheduled for school and are now extended breaks, will there be food service provided?

A: Yes! Our amazing food service team will follow the same process as last spring and provide food. Please watch the website and communications for details on food pick up.

Q: What are the special circumstances for a student to be able to attend four days a week during the hybrid weeks?

A: The following are general guidelines for this allowance of four days:

1. Student is under 12 years of age and has no supervision at home and parents cannot get assistance from Pinion Project resources.
2. Student has been receiving counseling services or has a known social/emotional need that requires the daily services of our mental health professionals.
3. Is classified as academically at-risk and the administration deems that the daily need is such that attendance is required.

Note: A meeting will convene to determine who these students are. A call from the administration will be placed or the parent(s) may request a meeting to make determinations.



Q: When teachers are holding virtual hours during the extended break weeks, will they be required to go into the school buildings?

A: No, they will be at home quarantined as well. It is our desire to make sure all are symptom free before returning in person to work.

Q: Why isn't preschool using extended breaks?

A: The transmission rate with the younger children is far less. They also have a mandatory mask mandate for all ages. Our preschool is also an important support to our essential workers. This age child requires more child care support than any other age. The preschool operates under separate guidelines.

Q: What happens when a student has no access to internet?

A: During the hybrid weeks, this should be addressed with the teacher in order to support making copies of work for the "off" days. There are available resources for internet access if needed. Outside our buildings also provide wi-fi access.

Q: Is it reasonable to ask the staff to work every day during the hybrid weeks?

A: We believe that we are doing our part to protect the risk to our staff. Moving to the hybrid model for those days provides the following: The total number of contacts for students and teachers in the building reduces by 79.05% on 5-day weeks and by 73.81% on 4-day weeks. The staff contact with students is reduced by 60% going from seeing all kids 5 days per week to seeing kids 2 days per week generally speaking.

It is reasonable to expect our staff to work if they have no risk factors for their attendance (as given in the flow chart for staff and the CDPHE guidelines) and as long as they are abiding by our mask mandate and safety precautions.

Q: Have our local health officials seen our plan? What is their feedback?

A: Yes, they have. Part of the plan process was to have the key officials read our plan. Here is a quote from Dr. Kent Aikin who is the leading physician on Montezuma County's COVID Team:

"I think that this is a well thought out plan that hopefully will be an acceptable compromise for all involved with Dolores Schools. It is indeed difficult to be certain of the best way to proceed, and I appreciate the opportunity to have input into your district's decision-making process. You have my support for this plan. Please let me know if I can assist further with this issue."