

Drew Central School District
End of the Year COVID-19 Plan
Remainder of the 2020-2021 School Year

As the Governor has lifted the mask mandate for our state effective April 1, 2021, this has given schools the ability to continue, modify or eliminate their mask wearing policies. **Drew Central will continue to encourage faculty, staff, students, and guests to wear masks for the remainder of the school year as previously stated in our Ready to Learn Plan that is available on our Drew Central website. See next paragraph.**

Although the decision to wear a mask is ultimately a personal one, please be advised that Contact Tracing will continue in the event there are any positive cases at Drew Central Schools. If both the positive case and the close contact were wearing their mask appropriately, the close contact will not have to quarantine. **This is a change from the guidance that previously given to schools. .**

We will continue to review daily our positive COVID cases. As of today, April 15, 2021, there are zero active cases or quarantines in regards to our faculty, staff or students. This has been the trend for the last month.

The Drew Central School District will continue to practice recommended strategies that help prevent viruses such as COVID-19 including but not limited to social distancing, reduced class sizes, disinfecting and cleaning, handwashing, and physical distancing to the extent practical.

Useful Information Regarding COVID Guidance:

Physical Distancing: CDC has updated guidance to reflect the latest science on physical distance between students in classrooms.

- CDC now recommends that, with universal masking, students can maintain a distance of at least 3 feet in classroom settings.
- The CDC still recommends social distancing of 6 feet between adults, as well as adults and students, in common areas, when masks can't be worn (such as while eating), during activities with increased inhalation like sports or band practice (which would preferably be held outside), and in community settings outside the classroom.

Any individuals that meet one or more of the criteria below **do not** have to quarantine:

- those who are within 90 days of having tested positive,
- those who are considered fully vaccinated (post 2 weeks of vaccination for a single dose vaccine and post 2 weeks of the second dose for a two-dose vaccine); and/or

- If both the positive case and the close contact were wearing their mask appropriately, the close contact will not have to quarantine.

As part of the early quarantine release (after seven 24-hour periods of quarantine with a negative test result no sooner than five 24-hour periods since exposure), individuals falling in to this category should continue to wear a mask until fourteen 24 hour periods since exposure has passed. The lifting of the mask mandate is for the general public, not those who have been identified as a close contact. General public would be those we assume to not be exposed and to not be positive in this type scenario.

Responding to Confirmed Positive Cases: Drew Central School District will continue to be responsible for responding to confirmed cases within the school district. Under this updated guidance, there are factors that change prior rules for quarantine.

- Students and Staff who are wearing a mask may now be exempt from as close contacts in K-12 schools if both the confirmed and exposed individuals are properly masked.
- A fully vaccinated individual does not need to stay at home following close contact exposure to a test-confirmed individual if certain conditions are met.
- Individuals who previously have had COVID-19 and recovered and are within 3 months of their original diagnosis may not have to quarantine.

Continuation of Services: As part of the American Rescue Plan Act, school districts must post for parents and the public a summary of its plan for safe continuation of on-site face-to-face learning and continuity of services.

The Drew Central Ready for Learning District Plan will be updated to reflect these changes. The revised plan will be posted on the District website at www.drewcentral.org. There is also a public comment and feedback form posted under the COVID Information Section on the main page of the website.

Summer and Back-to-School Planning: Our plan is to continue to encourage masks for the rest of the year. However, the District will monitor daily COVID cases within the District, Drew County and the State. In the event of a rise in COVID cases, the District will revisit its mask policy. If the cases continue to decline, we plan to open school as normal next year. We do plan to offer a summer school program in June for grades K-12 to extend and recover learning. We look forward to what the future holds at Drew Central. Public comments will be collected and reviewed. Considerations will be carefully studied. Decisions for the future will be made with the data collected.