

Dorchester Academy Covid-19 Policies for 2020-2021 Year

- In the event of increased cases among students, staff or the community, added procedures may include masking when moving around the building or attending gatherings, changes to the lunch and recess schedule, postponing or changing the location of large gatherings such as chapel or pep rallies, and limiting the movement among students during the school day.
- Parents and visitors may have limited access to the school.
- Students and staff members will be excluded from school if:
 - They have a positive COVID-19 test (10 days from the first symptom or as directed by DHEC).
 - They are considered exposed to a positive case of COVID-19 either as notified by a parent, DHEC, or determined by the school nurse at Dorchester Academy.The school nurse will work with teachers, staff members, and coaches to find who was exposed to the student or staff member during their contagious period (48 hours before a positive test or symptoms). Those individuals will be excluded from school and school events for 10 days (WITH NO SYMPTOMS) from exposure. They will be allowed to join school virtually and return to school and school related events on the 11th day after exposure. If at any point the student or staff develops symptoms during their quarantine, they must seek medical guidance and doctor's note before returning on the 11th day.

CDC guidelines, individuals testing positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and those who have been fully vaccinated (≥ 2 weeks after they have received the second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna), or ≥ 2 weeks after they have received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson and Johnson) are excluded from quarantining due to exposure unless they develop symptoms again. DHEC reports all student and staff positive cases to the school. We will use these reports to determine if an individual is exempt from COVID-19. If DHEC does not get in contact about you or your child's positive case, you should get in contact with DHEC about your case.

- If your child is quarantined, they may join virtually using Google Classroom.
- Rigorous policies will be enforced for anyone: (1) with a temperature of over 100 degrees, (2) who has had a positive exposure to, is a person under investigation for, or positive for COVID-19, or (3) shows signs of illness. Please see the page 2 for information on illness and reasons to exclude students from school.
- Parents are required to sign an acknowledgement of understanding and agreement form/waiver to all terms listed prior to the start of school.

All policies are subject to changes based on government issued mandates.

Illness:

Although we understand these new policies and procedures will cause difficulties and attendance/childcare issues, we feel they are in the best interest of keeping everyone at Dorchester Academy safe and healthy, as well avoiding quarantines for larger groups of people. Please be patient and understanding as we try to prevent widespread exposure, protect our vulnerable populations, and support teaching and learning.

- Please monitor students appropriately each day for COVID-19 symptoms. In order to keep everyone safe, we ask you let us know if your child has experienced symptoms of COVID-19.
- **Students will be screened each day by their homeroom teacher to identify if they have a fever or are showing any symptoms of COVID-19. If a student explains that they have had illness (vomiting, diarrhea, fever, etc.) a parent will be called and the child will be sent home. Any students exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms below will be immediately sent to an isolated area.**

Symptoms include any 1 of the following:

- Fever
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Loss of taste or smell
- New or worsening cough

Or 2 of the following:

- Sore throat
- Muscle or body aches
- Chills
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Congestion or runny nose
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or Vomiting

- Parents of the student will be notified and asked to promptly pick-up their child within 1 hour of the call. A caretaker will monitor the student in the isolated area until pick-up. The staff member will wear proper PPE and practice social distancing. The room will be sanitized after the student has cleared the room.

If you notice any of these at home, please seek medical guidance and provide a doctor's excuse before sending your child to school. Otherwise, as we see these symptoms at school, we will be calling for your child to be picked-up from the school and to have a doctor's note before returning.

Dorchester Academy At Home

Google Classroom will be used for students in grades K5-12th during times of quarantine or extended COVID-19 related illness or otherwise administrative approved circumstances. These platforms will be used during both in-person instruction and in the event of a class or school closure.

- Be prepared to meet live during the regularly scheduled time of instruction if you are in 3rd-12th grades. For example, if you take geography 2nd block, be prepared to meet online with your geography teacher from 9:45-11:15 am. K5-2nd grades will do their best to provide live virtual instruction when possible throughout the school day. Packets will be used where virtual instruction is not.
- Have an area designated for virtual instruction. This area should be free from distractions.
- Come to the live meet the same as you would attend class: dressed, ready to learn, supplies nearby. Your camera will be on you (not the fan, the wall, the dog, or anything else). Make sure you look and act appropriately. The disciplinary actions will be used and enforced during virtual learning.
- Parents observing classroom instruction virtually need to be aware no information should be shared about classroom instruction except with the classroom teacher and/or an administrator. It is best for you to allow your child to “attend” class as normally as possible even while online. Find a place, help your child get set-up if needed, and allow them to “attend” class independently just as they would if they were in school.
- Classroom rules and expectations, as well as those outlined in the handbook, still apply. Please pay special attention to the technology section of the handbook and the chromebook signed agreement. The handbook specifically outlines recording is not allowed. This is true for both face-to-face learning as well as virtual learning. Classroom instruction **MAY NOT** be recorded unless approved by the classroom teacher and/or an administrator. There are serious consequences for recording an individual without consent.
- Have your technology ready NOW. Be sure the internet is good enough to conduct virtual meetings. Be sure to have a device that can support Google Classroom/Google Meets. If any of these have been a challenge in the past or will be in the future, please contact a member of our administration so we can set up these services BEFORE school begins. 6-12th should have a Chromebook or other personal device with them at school and home. K-5th graders can request to check out a device.
- Due to the burden virtual learning carries on our staff and students still doing in-person learning, we will not be as lenient as last year in allowing virtual learning for every doctor’s appointment, vacation, and absence. You **MUST** have approval from an administrator before “showing up” online. The instructor will only open the Google Meet for those who have approval.

2021-2022 COVID-19

Parent Acceptance Acknowledgement

I have read and understand the policies and procedures outlined in the COVID-19 manual and agree to comply to follow and comply with them with regard to my child/children. I understand that the policies will be evaluated and possibly changed due to the nature of the situation, and that any changes will be communicated to me through a FACTS generated email, the school website, and a written notification. It is my responsibility to remain aware of these policies knowing they are meant to maintain the safety and wellbeing of my child and the staff and faculty of Dorchester Academy.

Signature

Date

WAIVER/RELEASE FOR COMMUNICABLE DISEASES INCLUDING COVID-19

ASSUMPTION OF RISK / WAIVER OF LIABILITY / INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT

In consideration of being allowed to enroll on behalf of Dorchester Academy's academic program and related events and activities, the undersigned acknowledges, appreciates, and agrees that:

1. Enrollment includes possible exposure to and illness from infectious diseases including but not limited to MRSA, influenza, and COVID-19. While particular rules and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of serious illness and death does exist; and,
2. I KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS, both known and unknown, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES or others, and assume full responsibility for my enrollment; and,
3. I willingly agree to comply with the stated and customary terms and conditions for enrollment as regards protection against infectious diseases. If, however, I observe and any unusual or significant hazard during my presence or attendance, I will remove myself from attending any school related activity and bring such to the attention of the nearest official immediately; and,
4. I, for myself and on behalf of my heirs, assigns, personal representatives and next of kin, HEREBY RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS Dorchester Academy their officers, officials, agents, and/or employees, other students, participants, sponsoring agencies, sponsors, advertisers, and if applicable, owners and lessors of premises used to conduct the event ("RELEASEES"), WITH RESPECT TO ANY AND ALL ILLNESS, DISABILITY, DEATH, or loss or damage to person or property, WHETHER ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF RELEASEES OR OTHERWISE, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND SIGN IF FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT.

Name of student: _____ Student signature: _____ Date: _____

FOR STUDENTS OF MINORITY AGE (UNDER AGE 18 AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION)

This is to certify that I, as parent/guardian, with legal responsibility for this student, have read and explained the provisions in this waiver/release to my child/ward including the risks of presence and school attendance and his/her personal responsibilities for adhering to the rules and regulations for protection against communicable diseases. Furthermore, my child/ward understands and accepts these risks and responsibilities. I for myself, my spouse, and child/ward do consent and agree to his/her release provided above for all the Releasees and myself, my spouse, and child/ward do release and agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Releasees for any and all liabilities incident to my minor child's/ward's presence or participation in these activities as provided above, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THEIR NEGLIGENCE, to the fullest extent provided by law.

Name of parent/guardian: _____

Parent guardian/signature: _____

Date signed:
