July 16, 2020

*Photos taken prior to COVID-19

dodea PACIFIC

Return to School Plan

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Pacific Region Director's Message

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on schools across the world, including those that make up the DoDEA Pacific region. As we plan for the 2020-21 school year, we recognize that schools will look a bit different in our "new normal." At installations in HPCON B, students will return to school full-time for face-to-face instruction with mitigation strategies in place. In HPCON C, local instruction would be delivered in the virtual environment.

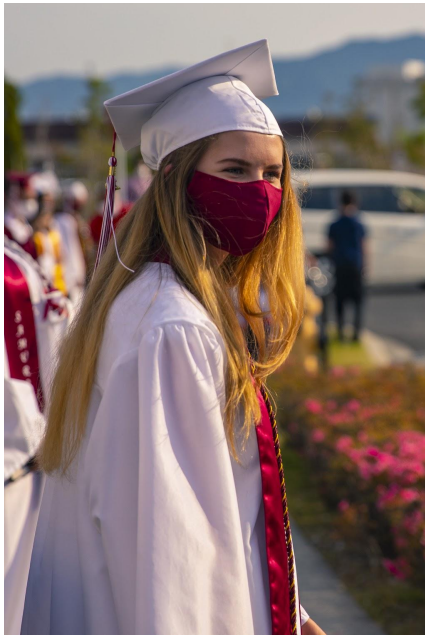
This Return to School Plan highlights the processes behind our planning, the mitigation strategies we are putting in place, and the areas families can expect to see differences. Our ability to begin the year with face-to-face instruction may also be impacted by Authorized Departure and delays in PCSing for new employees.

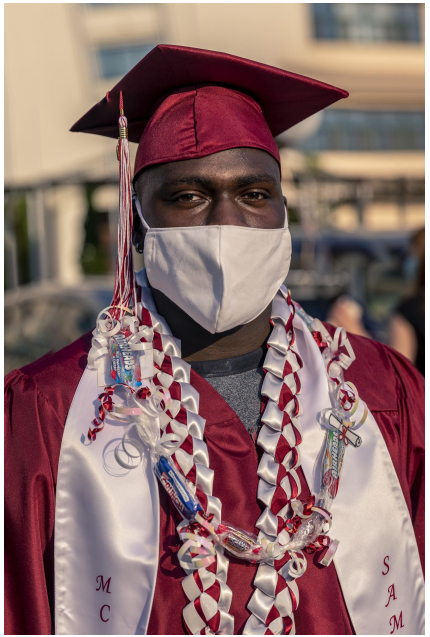
I'd like to take a moment to thank our local military leaders, who collaborated with us to ensure our Return to School Plan is in line with local installation guidance and also adaptable to shifts in local environmental conditions. It is vital to us that our reopening plan supports the needs of our military partners, whom we are here to serve. Our military leaders have been a crucial component to our planning process, and their thoughtful feedback has helped shape this document.

Please know that the health and safety of our students, employees and military communities is our priority. DoDEA Pacific is committed to doing its part to help stop the spread of COVID-19 and understands the importance of promoting health and safety strategies within our schools to be part of the greater solution.

We are eager to welcome your children back to school refreshed and ready to learn.

Yours in Education,
Lois Rapp
DoDEA Pacific Region Director





Guiding Principles

Health and Safety

DoDEA Pacific's highest priority is the health and safety of our students and employees. After careful review of CDC and DOD guidance for schools, we worked in close coordination with local military leaders to identify mitigation strategies that meet the unique needs of our schools and local environmental conditions. We also recognize our schools have an important role to play in educating students on healthy hygiene to stop the spread of COVID-19 in our communities.

Face-to-Face Instruction

Students learn best in the classroom environment, with face-to-face instruction from their teachers. We want to provide students with as much face-to-face instruction as health conditions allow.

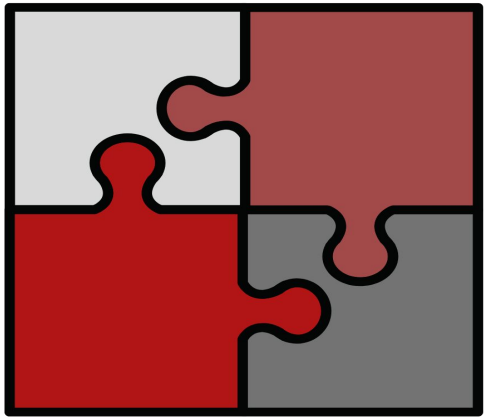
Continuity of Education

We must be able to provide continuity of education to our students in the event that local conditions require us to pause face-to-face instruction. Should the need to transition to virtual instruction arise, we will utilize lessons learned and feedback received from families during our spring implementation to ensure seamless continuity of education. DoDEA Headquarters is exploring a full-time virtual option for those who have concerns returning to a traditional school setting.

Adaptability

Shifts in local conditions and HPCON levels are outside of our control, and we remain committed to quickly adapting our learning environment as necessary.

Coordinated Response



The health and safety of our community is everyone's responsibility.

DoDEA Pacific partners and maintains regular communication with military leaders in our region in order to inform decision-making processes for the status of school in our "new normal."

Local HPCON levels, determined by local military leaders and health professionals, will determine school operating status across the region.

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Community Effort

- Follow local HPCON installation guidance and restrictions.
- Stay informed on how to stop the spread of COVID-19 within the local community.
- If you have recently traveled, please notify the school and follow all local installation ROM requirements before returning to school.
- Ensure your child understands and practices proper face mask use and care, as well as healthy hygiene.
- Students and staff will self-monitor for COVID 19 symptoms or fever daily prior to arriving to school.
- If a student or staff member is sick, stay home.

At-Home Pre-Screening

Completed Daily

A temperature check and a visual check for shortness of breath or cough, flushed cheeks, rapid breathing or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity), fatigue, or extreme fussiness. If experiencing the above symptoms, the student or staff member should remain home and follow appropriate medical protocols.

Standard Acknowledgement

Parents of DoDEA students will be required to sign a standard DoDEA document acknowledging their responsibility to perform the pre-screening protocol each day before their child departs for school or a school sponsored activity.

DoDEA school staff members (and contractors working in the school) will be required to sign a similar document upon arriving for duty for SY2020/21.

Protocol for Sick Children in School

When a student develops/presents with any symptoms of illness consistent with COVID-19 (i.e., new onset or worsening cough -OR- shortness of breath -OR- at least two of the following symptoms: fever, chills, muscle ache, headache, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, fatigue, diarrhea, congestion or runny nose, cough, shortness of breath):

School nurse is contacted and isolates student.

Contact parents to pick up student within 1 hour. Local installation medical guidelines will be followed should school staff be unable to reach the parent.

School nurse will follow up with parents on student status and medical care plan in accordance with installation guidelines.

Disinfect all high-touch surfaces with which the student came in contact.

Teacher will coordinate lessons for the student while he or she is out sick.

Protocol if Someone Tests Positive for COVID-19

Based on the joint risk assessment, in coordination with the local installation, DoDEA schools will be prepared to potentially dismiss students and staff for an initial 2-5 days (cancelling all school related activities).

If an initial closure is deemed necessary, this period will allow school and installation leaders to determine appropriate next steps, including whether an extended closure is needed to stop or slow the further spread of COVID-19.

DoDEA will notify the school community of a positive case and support installation contact tracing requirements.

During the closure period, the school facility will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

We will adhere to local installation health official guidance as to when a student or staff member who has tested positive can return to school, including further testing requirements and medical clearance.

Commitment to Safety

In order to ensure a safe learning environment, DoDEA Pacific will be implementing various mitigation strategies to include:

- Intensified cleaning measures
- Social distancing
- Two cloth face masks will be provided to each student and employee
- Clear physical barriers
- Healthy hygiene practices
- Updated school supply lists

HPCON Status and School Environment

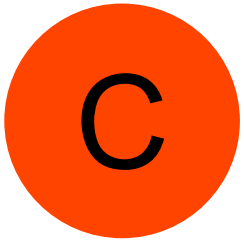
School environment will be determined based on the local HPCON level.

DoDEA has worked with military leadership to identify mitigation strategies for HPCON A and HPCON B that allow for students and employees to safely return to school facilities.

Extracurricular activities may be impacted by HPCON changes.

- School facilities are open
- Mitigation strategies are in effect
- Students and staff on campus

- School facilities are open
- Heightened mitigation strategies are in effect
- Students and staff on campus

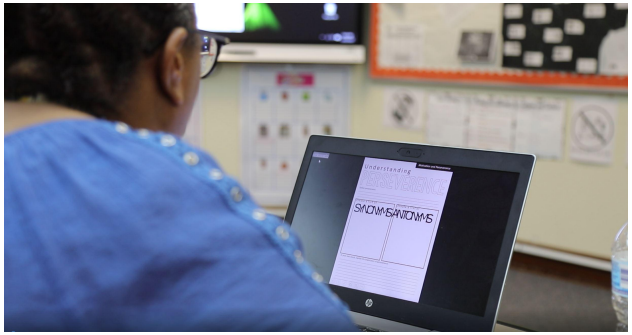


- School facilities are closed to students
- Virtual learning environment

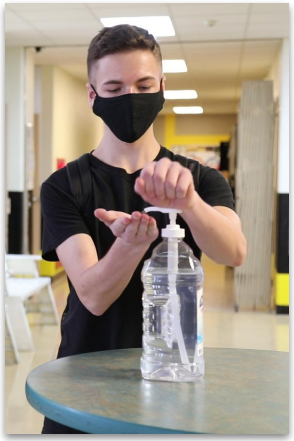
HPCON C: Virtual Learning Environment

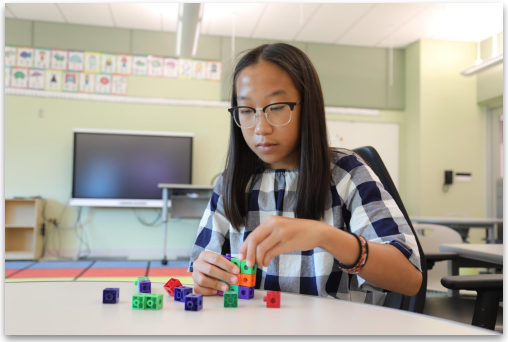
- We will be ready to begin virtual instruction, utilizing lessons learned and feedback received from families last year.
- Our commitments include a consistent online learning platform, reasonable assignment loads for students, and equitable access to technology.
- Students will be familiarized with the online classroom platform during face-to-face class instruction throughout the school year.

Parent Resources for online learning can be found here.

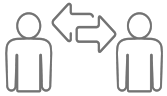
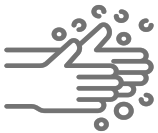


HPCON B: Brick & Mortar Schools

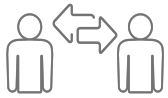
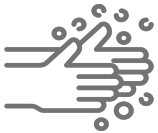




Health and Safety Mitigation Strategies

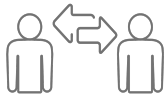
 Social Distancing	Keeping space between people and limiting close contact to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.
Face Masks	In situations where social distancing cannot be maintained, face coverings will be used to help slow the spread of COVID-19. Masks block respiratory droplets caused by speaking, coughing, and sneezing.
 Healthy Hygiene	Frequent hand washing (for at least 20 seconds) and use of hand sanitizer. Limit touching of face. Practice coughing and sneezing etiquette.
Cleaning	Frequent cleaning and disinfecting of shared surfaces and supplies.
Signage	Visual cues and reminders for students, staff and visitors to maintain social distancing and follow proper hygiene procedures.

School Visitors

 Social Distancing	Social distancing in school facilities is critical to the health and safety of our students and community. In order to maximize social distancing, visitor access may be limited.
Face Masks	Face masks must be worn by visitors when social distancing cannot be maintained.
 Healthy Hygiene	Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the school. Practice frequent hand washing. Parents and volunteers should not visit if they are sick.
Sign-in Procedures	Visitors must sign in and out at the front office for student safety and contact tracing purposes.

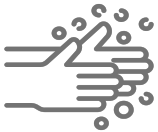
** Strategies at each school may be adjusted to ensure compliance with local installation guidelines.*

Mitigation Strategies: Classrooms



Social Distancing	Configure classroom furniture to enhance social distancing to the greatest extent possible. Utilize clear physical barriers if social distancing is not possible.

Face Masks	Teach and reinforce proper use, removal, and care of face coverings. Face masks must be worn by staff and students when moving within the classroom, when social distancing cannot be maintained, or when clear physical barriers are not in use.

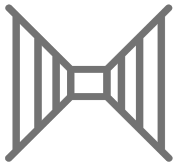


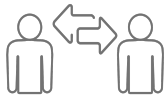
Healthy Hygiene	Teach appropriate handwashing practices and cough/sneeze etiquette. Increase the frequency of hand washing. Encourage students to keep hands to themselves and away from their face. Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms.

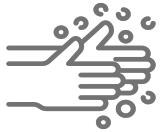
Cleaning	Clean classroom supplies between use. Frequently clean surfaces in high-touch areas. Clean and disinfect surfaces after each cohort of students leaves a facility or classroom, including between class changes. Remove items from the classrooms and hallways that are frequently touched but are not easily cleaned on a daily basis (ie. stuffed animals and items covered with fabric).

** Strategies at each school may be adjusted to ensure compliance with local installation guidelines.*

Mitigation Strategies: Hallways



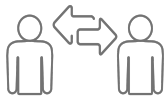




Social Distancing	Maintain awareness of social distancing and limit cross-traffic in any given area. Stagger use of communal spaces.
Face Masks	When moving in hallways, students and employees will wear masks.
Healthy Hygiene	Encourage students to keep their hands to themselves while walking in hallways.
Cleaning	Disinfect communal spaces when appropriate to the greatest extent possible. Remove items from the classrooms and hallways that are frequently touched but are not easily cleaned on a daily basis (ie. stuffed animals and items covered with fabric).

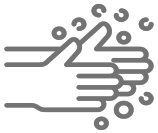
** Strategies at each school may be adjusted to ensure compliance with local installation guidelines.*

Mitigation Strategies: Cafeterias



Social Distancing	Grab-and-Go meals will be provided when schools reopen. This will routinely be assessed to determine when hot meals can safely be provided. Cafeteria seating and flow of foot traffic will be arranged to maximize social distancing. Utilize clear physical barriers if social distancing is not possible. Stagger the use of communal spaces.

Face Masks	Students and employees will wear masks as they move within the cafeteria.

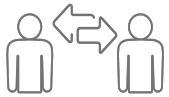
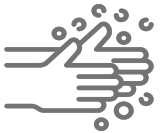


Healthy Hygiene	Require students and employees to wash hands thoroughly prior to meal times. Hand sanitizer will be available in the cafeteria.

Cleaning	Custodial staff cleans and disinfects surfaces between groups in the cafeteria.

** Strategies at each school may be adjusted to ensure compliance with local installation guidelines.*

Mitigation Strategies: Buses

 Social Distancing	If space is available on the bus, passengers will be seated to maximize social distancing.
Face Masks	Drivers and passengers will wear masks.
 Healthy Hygiene	Hand sanitizer will be available for drivers and passengers as they board and exit the bus.
Cleaning	Clean and disinfect buses throughout the day.

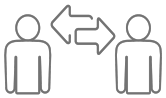
** Strategies at each school may be adjusted to ensure compliance with local installation guidelines.*

Mitigation Strategies: Large Group Gatherings

Social Distancing	Limit gatherings, events, and extracurricular activities to those that can maintain social distancing and support proper hand hygiene. Restrict attendees from higher transmission areas. Provide virtual activities students can participate in at home.
Face Masks	When social distancing is not possible, participants will wear masks.
Healthy Hygiene	Schedule assemblies/gatherings in accordance with local installation guidance. Ensure hand sanitizer is available.
Cleaning	Cleaning will be completed as appropriate to the location of the gathering.

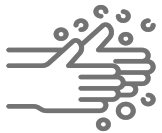
** Strategies at each school may be adjusted to ensure compliance with local installation guidelines.*

Mitigation Strategies: Playgrounds/Outdoor Areas



Social Distancing	Continue to practice social distancing to the greatest extent possible.

Face Masks	Masks will not be required for outdoor play unless social distancing cannot be maintained.



Healthy Hygiene	Practice healthy hygiene routines, including hand washing before and after playground use. Hand sanitizer will be available.

Cleaning	Cleaning will be completed per installation guidance.

** Strategies at each school may be adjusted to ensure compliance with local installation guidelines.*

Music, Art, and Physical Education

Music	***Art***	***Physical Education***
• Singing will occur outdoors and/or in large well ventilated spaces with proper social distancing. • Students can participate in band and orchestra with appropriate social distancing mitigation measures. Large musical practices should be facilitated in outdoor spaces or other large well-ventilated areas. Instruments will not be shared. • Elementary students will not use recorders at school. *Music guidance from the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and the National Association for Music Education (NAfME)*	• Clean shared supplies between uses. • Frequent cleaning of high-touch surfaces. • Consider the art teacher providing instruction within the regular classroom for primary students.	• No high-contact sports. • Practice social distancing. • Masks will not be required for physical activity unless social distancing cannot be maintained. • Face coverings will be worn by P.E. teachers. • Wash hands or use hand sanitizer before and after P.E. • All sports equipment will be cleaned after each use. • Optimize use of outdoor space

** Strategies at each school may be adjusted to ensure compliance with local installation guidelines.*

Athletics

- Student activities will take a phased approach to reopening based on the National Federation of High School Associations (NFHS) recommendations. As an affiliate of NFHS, all of our athletics are governed by NFHS rules.
- A health screening, which includes a temperature check, will take place prior to a workout or competition. A contact log will also be required.
- Face coverings should be worn by coaches, officials, parents, and spectators as much as possible.
- All sports equipment will be cleaned after each use.
- For the fall, we will not be engaging in any high-contact sports such as football. Currently, we intend to offer low-contact sports and some moderate-contact sports with mitigation measures. Final details on fall athletics will be provided before the start of the school year.
- Due to travel restrictions, competition will be limited to intra-district or virtual activities.

Extracurricular Activities

- Academic events between groups of students across multiple schools, such as Far East Journalism, Far East Creative Expressions (film only), and Harvard Model Congress Asia, may be reconfigured to compete virtually.
- After school extracurricular activities, including clubs, will proceed in accordance with local installation guidance.
- All staff and students engaged in these activities will follow mitigation strategies such as healthy hygiene, social distancing, and the use of face masks.

Full-Time Virtual Learning Option

We understand that the nature of this pandemic could present concerns for families of students with significant health vulnerabilities. DoDEA Headquarters will offer full-time virtual instruction for those students with health vulnerabilities or concerns about physically returning to school.

Registration Window

The registration window for families interested in the full-time virtual learning option will be open July 15-28. For staffing purposes, it is essential that families wishing to participate complete the necessary form here in that timeframe. The form can also be found on the DoDEA Return to School website under the "Making a Choice" tab: https://www.dodea.edu/returntoschool.cfm

Details

- DoDEA has a fully accredited virtual high school high (9-12) that is being expanded to include elementary (K-5) and middle school (6-8) grades. Students will be enrolled in the DoDEA Virtual School in five core classes. For students K-8, they will also be enrolled in one elective class.
- Parents that choose to enroll their students in the Virtual School option must agree to one full semester with an option for the entire year.
- Specialized instruction will be provided, as appropriate, such as ESOL or special education services required by the Individualized Education Program (IEP) for students with disabilities.
- Details on grade-specific curriculum and considerations related to enrolling in the full-time virtual option are available on the DoDEA Return to School page.

Accommodations and Support

Student Accomodations

If health conditions prevent your child from wearing a mask, please contact your school principal to discuss other options.

Local COVID-19 Coordination Team

Each school will create a local COVID-19 Coordination team comprised of school leadership, staff, parents, school nurse, and military representation to address school-specific concerns and mitigation strategies.

Counseling Services

School counselors, psychologists and Military Family Life Counselors (MFLC) stand ready to support the mental health needs of students.

Additional Resources

DoDEA Coronavirus (COVID-19) Website
DoDEA Pacific Website

Preparing Your Child

Discuss what the return to school will look like with your child:

- Your child's teacher will be wearing a mask.
- Your child will be asked not to touch others.
- Your child will see clear barriers (table dividers) in the classroom and throughout the school building.
- Your child will not be able to share his or her supplies with friends. The 2020-21 school supply list is available here.
- Your child will not be able to bring personal items to school (stuffed animals, toys, etc).
- Your child will be required to practice social distancing when possible.
- Your child, depending their age, may be asked to help wipe down their desks and other surfaces or objects before and after use.

Teach and reinforce proper use, removal, and care of face coverings when social distancing cannot be maintained. Cloth masks should be washed daily.

Teach appropriate handwashing practices and cough/sneeze etiquette.

In Closing...

We look forward to welcoming your children back to school for the 2020-21 school year. Every school will look a bit different as we return based on local environmental conditions in our “new normal.”

Please anticipate further information coming from your school principal as we draw closer to the start of the school year. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s school or school district office.

dodea PACIFIC EAST

District Superintendent’s Office
225-3940

dodea PACIFIC SOUTH

District Superintendent’s Office
632-7383

dodea PACIFIC WEST

District Superintendent’s Office
755-1168

Guam Community Superintendent’s Office
344-9578