

COVID-19 Safety Net – DNALC NYC

Fall 2021 (REVISED 9.17.21)

As we continue to adapt during the COVID-19 pandemic, the DNA Learning Center is able to provide on-site programs with the expectation that parents and school districts will operate in a manner consistent with guidelines that make both the education and safety of their students and staff a priority. We have implemented the following procedures and precautions to provide a safe environment for visitors to our facilities:

DNALC Educators and staff working onsite will:

- follow social distancing guidelines and wear masks at all times.
- be fully vaccinated.

Teachers and students visiting for class field trips will adhere to state and local guidance for P-12 instruction, and must:

- wear masks regardless of vaccination status;
- for students: complete daily screening using the NYC DOE daily Health Screening website or paper form;
- for teachers and chaperones: provide evidence of full vaccination or a negative COVID-19 PCR test, submitted through the Cleared4 platform;
- follow social distancing and good hand hygiene practices.

Students registered by a parent for in person classes must adhere to the following guidelines:

- submission of the NYC DOE daily health form for each date of attendance;
- submission of a negative COVID-19 PCR test taken within 5 days before the start of class or proof of being fully vaccinated;
- universal mask wearing for all staff and students regardless of vaccination status;
- temperature screening upon entry, must be 99.9 °F (37.7° C) or below.

Within the building, a number of precautions have been implemented:

- Signs and floor markings are in place to assist with movement about the building, including finding the appropriate seating in the classroom, using the restroom, and exiting the building.
- Students will be seated at lab benches socially distanced three feet apart.
- Each class will be a cohort that uses classrooms and lunch spaces independent of other cohorts.
- Students will have individual sets of materials and equipment when possible.
- A close-up camera will be used for teacher demonstrations so lab techniques can be easily seen.
- The building will be cleaned daily.
- Between classes, classroom surfaces and equipment will be cleaned/disinfected using the product Peroxigard™.



- Student lunches will be held in the cafeteria and bioinformatics lab classrooms, socially distanced six feet apart. Lunchtime scheduling must be requested in advance and is based upon capacity and availability. Lunches must be brought from home.
- No more than the minimum number of chaperones required by the NYC DOE or school may accompany each class.
- Parents dropping students off for programs may not enter the building.

Sick Child Policy

If a child becomes sick while on site or doesn't pass the temperature screening upon entry to the building, the parent will be notified by the accompanying classroom teacher for a school booked trip, and by a DNALC staff member for parent booked programs.

1. If a child becomes sick during a field trip, parents will be notified right away. Children who report that they are not feeling well will be quarantined in an isolation area until they are picked up. Parents will call front desk upon arrival and the child will meet the parent outside.
2. If a child has a temperature of 100.0 °F or above, parents will be notified right away, and will call the front desk upon arrival. The child will meet the parent outside.

After Class

For student dismissal of parent booked programs, please wait outside for your child. Students will be dismissed from the 62 Tillary St. door.

If you, your child, or your student tests positive for COVID-19, please remember to inform the contact tracer that your child was at the DNA Learning Center so that we are notified to take the appropriate precautions to protect students and staff.

Cancellation Policy

If the DNALC has to close or cancel a class, you will be notified right away. If a cancellation occurs before a class has started, you will be offered the option of a full refund or to reschedule. In some cases, you may be able to choose an on-demand option to complete labs at home with kits and pre-recorded video.

Please note these exceptions to our normal cancellation policy only apply to a COVID-19-specific situation involving one or more students in a class or program.

COVID Acknowledgement

Visitors to the DNALC acknowledge the contagious nature of COVID-19 and the inherent risks of exposure, and voluntarily assume the risks of illness associated with exposure to COVID-19 by participating in on-site instruction. By choosing to participate in on-site instruction, visitors release the DNA Learning Center, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, and its trustees, officers, employees, agents and contractors from all liability. The Laboratory reserves the right to terminate participation in on-site instruction at any time, in its sole discretion.