COVID-19 Safety Net

Spring 2022

In response to the lifted New York State mask mandate, masking is now optional at all DNA Learning Center locations. Visitors and DNALC staff that prefer to wear masks should continue to do so. We provide on-site programs with the expectation that parents and school districts will operate in a manner consistent with guidelines that make the safety of their students and staff a priority. The DNALC has 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 where possible.
- practice hand hygiene.
- be fully vaccinated.
- wear masks while teaching classes from schools that require masks for students and staff.

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

- wear masks if
  - their school guidance requires them to wear a mask;
  - they are from a location where the COVID-19 community level is high;
  - they are in day(s) 6 – 10 of quarantine or isolation*;
  - they have been exposed to COVID-19 in the previous 10 days.
- comply with screening and testing as approved in their school reopening plans for the 2021 – 2022 school year.
- follow social distancing guidelines where possible and practice good hand hygiene.

Students in parent-registered classes must:

- provide proof of being fully vaccinated, OR a negative COVID-19 test taken within 5 days of start of class.
- wear a mask if they meet the mask criteria for teachers and students visiting for class field trips.

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

- Signs are in place to assist with movement about the building.
- Students will be seated at lab benches socially distanced three feet apart.
- Close-up cameras are available for teacher demonstrations, so lab techniques can be easily seen.
- Each school will be considered a cohort and will use classrooms and lunch spaces independent of other cohorts.
- Student lunches will be held in the cafeteria and auditorium to keep cohorts separate. Lunchtime scheduling must be requested in advance and is based upon capacity and availability.
- The building will be cleaned daily.
Sick Child Policy

If a child becomes sick, or has a temperature of 100.0 °F or above while at the DNALC, parents will be notified right away - by the accompanying classroom teacher for a school booked trip or a DNALC staff member for parent booked programs. Children who report that they are not feeling well will be quarantined in an isolation area until they are picked up. Parents will call the front desk upon arrival and the child will meet the parent outside.

After Class

For student dismissal of parent booked programs, please park curbside and wait in your car for your child. Upon exiting the building, students will be dismissed from the front patio of the Learning Center.

If you, your child, or your student tests positive for COVID-19 within 5 days of the DNALC visit, please remember to inform the contact tracer that the child was at the DNA Learning Center so we are notified and can implement 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.

* If you are symptomatic or are COVID-19 positive, please refer to the CDC Quarantine and Isolation calculator (link below).  