As the 2021-2022 school year approaches, Discovery Charter School will continue to update and manage safety protocol and procedures for current and returning students. The following plan is a review of what is currently in place, along with changes made to accommodate for the returning distant learners. The Discovery Leadership Team has been active in helping to create the plan and will reconvene after the first three weeks of school (on October 1), to revisit discussions and make changes.

Masks
- Students in grades K-5 will be required to wear masks indoors during the day. Teachers will make the most of our outdoor learning spaces, in order to give students breaks from masking. Phy Ed classes will also be held outside for the first 3 weeks of school.
- Students in grades 6-8 will have the option to wear a mask downstairs in the middle school but will need to mask up in the hallways and common areas.
- ALL students riding the bus are required to wear a mask (federal requirement). Students will need to follow mask requirements on the bus or use alternative transportation.

This plan will help to avoid distance learning and maximize teacher effectiveness. Distance learning will not be an option this year and will only be used in the case of classroom or grade level quarantine due to close contact/prolonged exposure.

Daily Cleaning
- In addition to regular custodial cleaning of classrooms and common spaces, teachers and office staff will wipe down high touch surfaces.
- Disinfecting sprays may be used, but only after students have left areas being cleaned.
- Electromagnetic spraying will take place as needed, and only when students are not present in the building.

Entry Into the Building
- Signage indicates that masks are required to enter the building.
- Signage in the front vestibule prompts all to reflect on whether they are experiencing any symptoms.
- Covid Coordinator’s name and contact information are posted: Shannon Benalshaikh
- All students and adults are screened for temperature.
• All educational consultants and any guests who are picking up a student must sign in while in the vestibule. Only school related personnel are allowed to enter the office area. Office personnel will call classroom teachers to send students who are being checked out early.

• Currently, no visitors are permitted in the building.

Classrooms/lockers
• Discovery Charter School will maintain smaller classroom sizes (15-20 students).
• Students will remain in individual desks. If tables are used, students will all be faced in the same direction or they will be spaced 3-6 feet apart.
• Students will wipe down their own spaces each day.

Hallways
• All students and staff will keep to the right to ensure 3-6 feet of distance from oncoming foot traffic.
• Students in classroom lines will follow and stop on yellow and blue tape lines that space them appropriately.
• Recess and lunch schedules have been staggered to minimize traffic.
• Classrooms have been assigned to use specific doors to exit and enter the building to maximize space with one-way traffic.

Specialists
• Currently, Art and STEM classes are being conducted in grade level classrooms to minimize hallway traffic. We will revisit this when teachers return on August 30th. If there is an efficient way to move students, share materials, and clean spaces each class, we would like for the art and STEM teachers to be able to utilize their spaces and materials for richer learning experiences.
• P.E. classes are being held outside when possible. We have slowly introduced a number of easy-to-clean equipment that students can wipe down before returning or exchanging.
• P.E. classes have their own space on the field, away from the classes who are out for recess.

Lunch
• Tape has been placed on every other seat (diagonally) in the cafeteria. Tables have been added to accommodate spaced seating. In the fall of 2021, DCS may need to add another lunch period or add more tables if there are not enough spaces for students.

Dismissal/Bus
• The gymnasium is set up for parent-pick-up with clearly marked spots that are 6 feet apart. Siblings must be seated together to maximize the space available.
• Currently only siblings are seated together in a seat on the bus. All students are required to wear a mask on the bus. Discovery Charter School will continue to follow MDE/MDH guidance for student transportation.

Student Illness and/or Absence
● All students in school reporting symptoms of Covid-19 will be screened by the Covid Coordinator.
● Covid Coordinator will follow up with families reporting symptoms or positive cases.
● Staff testing for Covid-19 is conducted every other Monday.
● Grade levels are quarantined if the decision tree (MDH) indicates a need. Parents will be notified and instructional materials and Chromebooks will be scheduled for pick-up. Drive-through service is offered for this.