



Greetings ZED families,

August 20, 2021

I hope you had a great summer and we are very excited to have all the ZED students back in-person to start the 2021-22 school year! As you know this is a very exciting time for ZED as we have a new building currently being built in Kasson and will be ready for students in fall 2022. This 61,000 square facility will house all ZED programs, students and staff under one roof. I encourage you to explore our website at www.zumbroed.org and under "New Construction" for updates. If you click [HERE](#), this is a time-lapse so far of the new building construction progress and everyone is very excited.

As you know our first day of classes is on 8/31 as outlined in the [21-22 school calendar](#) with student/teacher conferences on 8/27 and 8/30. Since the school year is rapidly approaching, I wanted to update all ZED families on the most current information regarding our COVID-19 protocols. At last night's ZED Governing Board meeting, the [ZED Safe Learning Plan for 2021-22 school year](#) was approved and will be updated on our website in the coming days. A few highlights of those plans include:

- **Masking:** ZED will STRONGLY RECOMMEND masks for all students and staff while in district buildings regardless of individual vaccination status but not require them at this time. ***Masks are REQUIRED on buses and vans due to federal guidelines.
- **Social Distancing:** ZED will maintain 3 feet of social distancing at all times between students
- **Cleaning/Hygiene:** ZED will continue its routine environmental cleaning/disinfections of classrooms while strongly encouraging healthy student hygiene behaviors such as hand washing
- **Quarantining:** ZED will rely on the [Minnesota Department of Health \(MDH\) Decision Tree](#) when determining any quarantine timelines due to lab-confirmed positive cases and/or close contacts. ZED will communicate to the appropriate families as well as the school and/or district when these situations arise. ZED will also report all positive COVID cases to the MDH and Olmsted County Public Health. **If an entire classroom is masked with a positive case, there is no need for any close contact quarantining. Also if a student or staff is fully vaccinated with no symptoms, there is no need for close contact quarantining.
- **COVID Testing/Vaccine Clinics:** In partnership with MDH and Olmsted County Public Health, ZED will be offering routine COVID testing and vaccine clinics (for those ages 12 and up) on-site. The vaccine is the best defense against this pandemic and we want to offer as many opportunities as possible for our students. Stay tuned for more details in the near future on these offerings.

While ZED has an initial Safe Learning Plan for the 2021-22 school year, things can change rapidly and we will act accordingly. ZED is routinely meeting with our health partners to make the most informed decisions but will require families NOT to send their students if they are sick or displaying COVID-19 symptoms which include (but not limited to): fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, headache, new loss of taste/smell, nausea, sore throat, runny nose. It will take the entire ZED community, once again, to work together so schools can remain open. ZED is committed to the safety of our students and staff.

It is widely agreed that in-person learning is the best guarantee of student success both socially and academically. ZED is committed to maintaining in-person learning for our students. **Note that in 2021-22, ZED does not offer distance learning or hybrid opportunities due to the Governor's Executive Order expiring back on June 30th. If a student needs to be quarantined they will follow the normal makeup procedures that each ZED school has in place during pre-pandemic days for sick students. The only time ZED would offer distance learning for all students would be in the case of a ZED school or entire district closure due to a COVID-19 outbreak.

Your student's individual school will be in touch (if not already) soon about further details for the upcoming school year. Please reach out to them should you have specific questions. Their contact information is:

Area Learning Center (ALC)	Amy Stites	507-775-2083	astites@zumbroed.org
ZED South Campus	Duane Ellingworth	507-775-2108	dellingworth@zumbroed.org
T2Success	Pat Ames	507-775-2037	pames@zumbroed.org

All staff are excited to see students in the hallways and classrooms once again! Please also refer to our website for any ZED or COVID-19 updates at www.zumbroed.org.

Sincerely,

Patrick Gordon

ZED Executive Director/COVID Coordinator

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