



Updated: Oct. 13, 2020 (Changes in green.)

As D91 prepares to shift Compass Academy and Idaho Falls and Skyline high schools into Stage 3/Yellow with the hybrid schedule, we have received questions about what students and parents can expect with the new schedule. Here are answers to some of the most commonly asked questions:

- **Why are the high schools moving to the hybrid schedule?** D91 has had more than 50 confirmed cases of COVID-19 since the start of school. More than half of those cases have been in the high schools, primarily Idaho Falls and Skyline. In an effort to be proactive, protect some level of face-to-face instruction and try to stem the spread of the virus, the Board of Trustees recently voted to shift Compass Academy and Skyline and Idaho Falls high schools to a hybrid schedule.
- **What are the advantages of the hybrid schedule?** With the hybrid schedule, the district hopes to be able to implement more preventive measures such as social distancing, address absenteeism and reduce the impacts of COVID-19 cases on students and staff
 - Social distancing – staying 6 feet apart from others – currently is not possible in the high schools because of the number of students in the buildings.
 - Because social distancing isn't possible, when there is a confirmed case of COVID-19, students who have had close contact with that individual are being directed to isolate for 14 days to limit the spread of the virus.
 - By reducing the number of students in the building, students will be able to social distance in classrooms, which will reduce the number of students who have to isolate in the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19.
 - Students are also missing school because they are in isolation after close contact with a family or community member who has tested positive for COVID-19.
 - Others are missing school because they're concerned about exposure to COVID-19.
 - Still others are missing school because they're sick.
 - Because of the high rate of absenteeism – between 30% and 40% on some days – the high schools are already in a de facto hybrid schedule.
- **How will the hybrid schedule work?** Students with last names beginning with A to K will attend in person on Mondays and Wednesdays, and learn online on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Students with the last names beginning with L to Z will attend in person on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and learn online on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
- **Will online learning look like it did last Spring?** No. Students will be expected to be learning Monday through Friday whether they are in person, engaged in class virtually or completing assigned tasks. They will be accountable for all work and assignments, which will be graded.
- **What if a student falls behind?** Teachers will provide invitation-only opportunities for students to attend special sessions at school on Fridays for intervention or enrichment.

- **What if a student does not have Internet access and cannot participate in online learning?** D91 will do its best to support students who don't have Internet access by providing learning centers on campus.
- **What about transportation?** D91 will continue to provide transportation and shuttle service. With the new hybrid schedule, drivers will be able to implement more social distancing on bus routes.
- **What about meals?** D91's Child Nutrition Service will provide students with breakfasts and lunches Mondays through Fridays either with in-person meals or take-home/grab and go meals.
 - Students with last names beginning with A to K will tell the cashier on Monday that they need a lunch for Tuesday and then pick it up after school. On Wednesday, they will tell the cashier they need a lunch for Thursday and Friday and then pick up the meals after school.
 - Students with last names beginning with L to Z will tell the cashier on Tuesday that they need a lunch for Wednesday and then pick it up after school. On Thursday, they will tell the cashier they need a lunch for Friday and Monday and then pick up the meals after school.
- **What about the lunch schedule?** Skyline will continue with the split lunch schedule to allow for social distancing and an easy transition in case of another schedule change. Idaho Falls High School will go back to having just one lunch period during Stage 3/Yellow so students can better connect with teachers if necessary. If IFHS moves back to Stage 2/Blue or Stage 1/Green, IFHS will go back to two lunches in order to comply with the current limits on gatherings in Bonneville County.
- **How will the hybrid schedule affect sports?** The hybrid schedule will have no real effect on extracurricular activities. Hopefully, with social distancing, we won't have to isolate athletes or teams because they have come in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19.
- **Why is Compass Academy shifting to the hybrid schedule?** While Compass Academy has not seen a high number of COVID-19 cases, many facilitators and students have been exposed in the community and have had to isolate for extended periods of time. In addition, many students from across the district take Career-Technical Education classes at Compass Academy so it's important the high schools have a unified schedule. In addition, some Compass students take classes at IFHS or Skyline.
- **Why aren't Taylorview and Eagle Rock shifting to the hybrid schedule?** At this point, D91 hasn't seen a high number of cases in the middle schools. At the beginning of the year, the middle schools implemented a block schedule where students attend half their classes on Mondays and Wednesdays, and the other half on Tuesdays and Thursdays, which minimized passing periods and risk of exposure. The Board of Trustees will continue to evaluate the situation and make changes if necessary.
- **Instead of shifting schedules, why doesn't D91 just change the 14-day isolation period?** As it works to safeguard students and staff, D91 is following the guidance from Eastern Idaho Public Health and the CDC. That guidance calls for a 14-day isolation period because after being exposed to COVID-19, individuals can develop symptoms any time during those 14 days. Limiting the spread of the virus is a critical step in minimizing risks to staff and protecting in-person instruction. If we lose too many staff, D91 could be forced to close schools as some surrounding school districts have had to do.



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- **If students wear masks why do they have to isolate after being in close contact with a confirmed case?** Masks help reduce the spread of the virus when worn appropriately throughout exposure, however, they are not 100 percent effective and should be used along with other mitigation factors such as social distancing, frequent handwashing, etc.
- **How long will the hybrid schedule be in effect?** It depends. The Board of Trustees will continue evaluating conditions in Idaho Falls School District 91 as well as Bonneville County and Eastern Idaho, and will make changes as the situation improves and/or new information/guidance becomes available.