

Together Again

**Summit Hill School
District 161**

2021-2022 School Year

Opening Plan August 11, 2021



Summit Hill School District 161

Safe Return to In-Person Learning

In May of 2021, the Illinois State Board of Education passed a [resolution](#) that all schools must resume full in-person learning for all student attendance days for the 2021-2022 school year.

On July 9, 2021, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) fully adopted the [CDC guidance](#). The Summit Hill School District 161 (SHSD161) Return to School Plan shares the vision of the Illinois State Board of Education, guided by CDC/IDPH/local health department recommendations, and are subject to change.

Guidance from federal, state, and local health agencies continues to evolve. The Governor's/ State's mandates are subject to change with changing circumstances. On Wednesday, August 4, Governor J.B. Pritzker issued an executive order requiring that masks must be worn indoors, regardless of vaccination status, by all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to P-12 schools and on school buses. Additionally, athletes participating in indoor sports will be required to wear masks during indoor practices and competitions. This mandate is an Executive Order made pursuant to a disaster proclamation and is not subject to board nor administration discretion.

In the event the Governor lifts the mask mandate (Executive Order 2021-18), SHSD161 will then enact its Reopening Plan in accordance with the information provided in the following pages.

SHSD161's goal is to return to normal in-person instruction to the greatest extent possible, and we will prioritize the health and safety of students, staff, and their families first and foremost. COVID-19 has greatly impacted the lives of students, teachers, and families. SHSD161 will continue to seek ways to help students, families, and educators with social and emotional support as they address issues such as grief, stress, and missing social interactions. When students return to school for the 2021-2022 school year, SHSD161 will be measuring where students stand both academically and socially in order to support their full and complete development.

SHSD161, in accordance with the CDC guidance, strongly recommends unvaccinated individuals wear masks. SHSD161 will not require masks while the county and/or District is experiencing low, moderate, or substantial transmission rates.

SHSD 161 will continue to monitor community transmission of COVID-19 as outlined in this document and will implement additional layered mitigation strategies if necessary. SHSD161 will monitor our community using the Frankfort, Tinley Park, and Mokena zip codes and the data found on the following COVID dashboard. [Covid Data by zip code](#).

The administrative team will utilize the CDC indicators and Thresholds for Community Transmission of COVID-19 to determine any needed shifts in mitigation practices. Shifts to a higher transmission in the mitigation practices will occur when both indicators have been met for three (3) consecutive days over a 7-day monitoring period. Shifts to a lower transmission in the mitigation practices will occur when both

Summit Hill School District 161

indicators have been met for seven (7) consecutive days. An increase in COVID-19 transmission rates could result in increased mitigation practices, including requiring masks.

| Both Indicators must be met for 3 consecutive days to move to the higher transmission category | Low Transmission | Moderate Transmission | Substantial Transmission | High Transmission |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Indicators | | | | |
| Covid Cases per 100,000 (Over the last 7 days) | Case Count less than 10 | Case Count 10 -49 | Case Count 50 – 99 | Case Count Over 100 |
| Positivity Rate | Less than 5% | 5% - 7.99% | 8% - 9.9% | Over 10% |

Updated Mitigation Procedures

Overview:

The mitigation measures contained within this Plan recognize that it is impossible to completely eliminate COVID-19- or any other communicable disease- within the school environment. As such, this Plan does not guarantee against potential transmission of COVID-19 in SHSD161 schools. Rather, it reflects the District’s continued commitment to, and reasonable efforts aimed at, maintaining a safe and healthy educational environment, despite risks acknowledged by the CDC, IDPH, and other health experts.

Vaccination:

According to the CDC, evidence strongly suggests that people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are less likely to have an asymptomatic infection or transmit COVID-19 to other people who are not fully vaccinated.

Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. People who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are at low risk of symptomatic or severe infection.

People who are fully vaccinated can safely resume activities they did before the pandemic, except when prevention measures are required by federal, state, local, tribal or territorial laws, rules, regulations, including local business and workplace guidelines.

For anyone who is still looking for a COVID-19 vaccine, please visit www.vaccines.gov to find a vaccination location near you.

Summit Hill School District 161

Health Screening:

The District requires employees and students to stay home when they: (a) feel sick, (b) have tested positive for COVID-19 or are showing COVID-19 symptoms, or (c) have recently had “close contact” with a person with COVID-19., including any household member. Parents must ensure their children are symptom free before sending them to the bus stop or to school. Parents are required to check their child’s symptoms each morning at home and this information will not be collected at school. Each day that parents send their child(ren) to school, they are certifying their child(ren) do not have any symptoms relating to COVID-19. The current symptom list includes:

- Fever/chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle and body aches
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Congestion or runny nose
- Headache

Students who have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 should also stay home and monitor their health.

Attendance personnel will request specific symptom reporting when absences are reported. Families should self-report to the school if they or their student have symptoms of COVID-19, a positive test for COVID-19, or were exposed to someone with COVID-19 within the last 14 days, in accordance with health information sharing regulations for COVID-19 and other applicable federal and state laws and regulations relating to privacy and confidentiality, such as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Families will be notified of school closures and any restrictions in place to limit COVID-19 exposure.

Cleaning:

Custodial staff will conduct additional daily cleaning using approved sanitation equipment. Daily and evening procedures will be updated to reflect an increase in frequency. The District will follow recommendations per the CDC, IDPH, and local health departments.

Contact Tracing and Quarantine:

School nurses will maintain a contact tracing absence log in an effort to effectively and efficiently identify students/staff who may be a close contact. While in the nurse’s office, SHSD 161 will socially distance to the greatest extent possible, limit the number of students visiting the office, provide a separate place for quarantining students, and increase the frequency of cleaning and sanitizing these spaces. It is understood that student and staff medical confidentiality will be maintained and respected at all times. SHSD161 will follow quarantine recommendations set forth by the IDPH and the local health

Summit Hill School District 161

department when a positive or suspected COVID-19 case is reported. The current IDPH protocols for close contact quarantine are still in place for non-vaccinated individuals. This may require 7-14 days of quarantine. SHSD161 asks that parents, guardians, and other authorized individuals to pick up their children within a reasonable amount of time, preferably within 30 minutes when possible. Students exhibiting symptoms or who have been determined to be a close contact will not be allowed to utilize a school bus for the return home.

QUARANTINE DEFINITION

- Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period

QUARANTINE LEARNING

- Content for quarantined students will be available in Schoology/given to parents within 24 hours of a student being placed in quarantine. Teachers will provide a week's worth of work at a time, ensuring week two's work is available prior to week two commencing., as well as offering a minimum of 20 minutes of direct student contact per day, during the contractual workday, via Zoom. Teachers and students will not synchronously learn.

QUARANTINE EXEMPTIONS

- In the K-12 indoor classroom setting, students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student where both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of masks
- Asymptomatic vaccinated individual
- Asymptomatic individual that had COVID within 90 days of exposure

QUARANTINE OPTIONS

Local health departments will make the final determination on who is to be quarantined and for how long. They may also determine that a close contact is not a candidate for modified quarantine due to a high-risk exposure (e.g., sustained close contact without masking)

The CDC describes three options for quarantining:

- Option 1: Quarantine for 14 calendar days. Date of last exposure is considered day 0.
- Option 2: Quarantine for 10 calendar days after the close contact's last exposure to the COVID-19 case. Date of last exposure is considered day 0.
 - The individual may end quarantine after day 10 if no symptoms of COVID-19 developed during daily monitoring
 - SARS-CoV-2 PCR testing is recommended and may be required by the local health department
 - The individual can maintain physical distancing and masking at all times when returning to school; for classrooms where masking and physical distancing of 3-6 are strictly adhered to
- Option 3: Quarantine for 7 days after last exposure if:

Summit Hill School District 161

- No symptoms have developed during daily monitoring AND the individual has a negative SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic test (PCR) that was collected within 48 hours of exposure day 7 (starting on day 6 or after).
- **The individual is responsible for obtaining a copy of the negative results for documentation purposes.**
- The individual can maintain physical distancing and masking at all times when returning to school; for classrooms where masking and physical distancing of 3-6 are strictly adhered to

Regardless of when an individual ends quarantine, daily symptom monitoring should continue through day 14 after the exposure. If any symptoms develop during or after ending quarantine, the individual should immediately self-isolate and contact their local health department or healthcare provider to report their symptoms. The health department can provide guidance on how to safely quarantine and isolate within the household.

Masking:

Inside School Building:

SHSD161 will comply with the Governor's mask mandate (Executive Order 2021-18). When this is lifted, the District will enact its Opening School Plan.

The CDC strongly recommends that masks be worn by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated

SHSD161 strongly recommends that masks be worn by unvaccinated individuals throughout the school year when transmission rates remain low, moderate, or substantial. A universal mask mandate will go into effect should the county and/or District reach the high transmission rate level. See chart below for more information.

SHSD161 is supportive of any individual who is vaccinated but continues to wear a face mask in any setting. No assumptions nor judgement will be made against those individuals who are vaccine eligible, but still prefer to wear a mask.

Limited Exemptions to universal and consistent use of face masks include:

- When eating.
- If using a face shield when other methods of protection are not available or appropriate. (View guidance on appropriate use of face shields.)
- For children when they are napping with close monitoring to ensure no child leaves their designated napping area without putting their face mask back on.
- For staff when they are alone in classrooms or offices with the door closed.
- For individuals who are younger than 2 years of age.
- For individuals who have trouble breathing; or those who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the face mask without assistance.

Summit Hill School District 161

- For persons with a disability who cannot wear a mask, or cannot safely wear a mask, because of the disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA, 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq), including:
 - A person with a disability who, for reasons related to the disability, would be physically unable to remove a mask without assistance if breathing became obstructed. Examples might include a person with impaired motor skills, quadriplegia, or limb restrictions.
 - A person with an intellectual, developmental, cognitive, or psychiatric disability that affects the person's ability to understand the need to remove a mask if breathing becomes obstructed.
- For individuals who have a condition or medical contraindication (e.g., difficulty breathing) that prevents them from wearing a face mask.
- For fully vaccinated staff when meeting with other fully vaccinated staff outside of settings where unvaccinated persons are present.
- For staff and students when they are outdoors. However, particularly in areas of substantial to high transmission, staff and students who are not fully vaccinated should wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated.

Staff and students who remove their face mask in these limited situations should be monitored and should maintain physical distancing to the greatest extent possible given the space in their facilities, with at least three feet recommended, but not required, between students and at least six feet recommended, but not required, between students and adults. Individuals who have a condition or medical contraindication (e.g., difficulty breathing) that prevents them from wearing a face mask are required to provide documentation from the individual's health care provider. These persons may wear a face shield in lieu of a mask; however, physical distancing will be maintained. Measures to reduce risk of exposure for these persons shall be implemented, where possible.

Most students, including those with disabilities, can tolerate and safely wear a face mask. Students with an Individualized Education Program or 504 Plan who are unable to wear a face mask or face shield due to a medical contraindication shall not be denied access to an in-person education if the school is offering in-person education to other students. Staff working with students who are unable to wear a face mask or shield due to a medical contraindication will wear approved and appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) based on job-specific duties and risks and maintain physical distancing as much as possible. Other students should also remain distant from students who are unable to wear a mask or face shield due to a medical contraindication. Mask exemption forms are available from your child (ren)'s principal.

The face mask should have two or more layers to stop the spread of COVID-19 and should be work over the nose and mouth, be secured under the chin, and should fit snugly against the sides of the face without gaps. Reusable face masks should be machine washed or washed by hand and allowed to dry completely after each use. Face masks with exhalation valves or vents will not be acceptable because they do not prevent the user from spreading respiratory secretions when they breathe, talk, sneeze, or cough.

Summit Hill School District 161

Face shields do NOT provide adequate source control because respiratory droplets may be expelled from the sides and bottom. They may only be used as a substitute for face masks in the following limited circumstances:

- Individuals who are under the age of two.
- Individuals who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove their mask without assistance.
- Students and staff who have a health care provider's note as documentation that they have a medical contraindication (a condition that makes masking absolutely inadvisable) to wearing a face mask.
- Teachers needing to show facial expressions where it is important for students to see how a teacher pronounces words (e.g., English Learners, early childhood, world language, etc.)
However, teachers will be required to resume wearing face masks as soon as possible. Preferred alternatives to teachers wearing face shields include clear face masks or video instruction. There must be a strict adherence to physical distancing when a face shield is utilized in lieu of a face mask.

On the Bus:

Per the CDC Order, all individuals must wear a mask on the bus, regardless of vaccination status. Students are strongly recommended to wear masks at their bus stop as well. Further, bus capacity is no longer limited to 50 individuals, so please exercise necessity if riding a bus. SHSD161 strongly recommends that any families who can provide transportation for their child(ren) to and from school to do so.

Hand-Washing and Respiratory Etiquette:

All staff, students, and visitors must practice appropriate hand hygiene when inside district facilities including the following guidelines:

- Frequently wash hands with soap and water for at least twenty (20) seconds. When soap and running water are unavailable, use an alcohol-based hand rub with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands that are visibly soiled. More information about proper handwashing is available from the [CDC Handwashing website](#)
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
- Practice effective respiratory etiquette, including covering coughs and sneezes
- Students will also be taught proper mask etiquette (if applicable) so that they can remove and replace their mask while keeping their hands clean

HVAC:

The District will monitor air quality on a regular basis. The District will...

Summit Hill School District 161

- Maximize the filtration power of the HVAC system by using the filter with the highest level of air filtration possible and changing the filters on a routine basis to ensure they perform at an optimum level
- Maximize the amount of outdoor air brought into the building, weather dependent

Isolation:

An individual displaying symptoms associated with COVID-19 at school will be immediately separated from other students and staff. There will be a designated isolated room or area in the building where the individual will be transported and supervised. The supervisor of the isolation room will call the parent or emergency contact of the student/direct the ill employee to leave or to be picked up and go home. Parents should ensure that all emergency contacts are current and able to pick up ill students as soon as possible throughout the day if parent is unable to get to school. Delay in picking up the student may put other staff and students at risk and increase the possibility of further quarantine.

Social Distancing:

3-6 feet of social distancing in the school environment will be observed as much as possible, including classrooms.

Students with Disabilities:

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety protocol will be considered on an individual basis.

Remote Learning:

Beginning with the 21-22 school year, all Illinois public schools are required to resume fully in-person learning for all student attendance days, provided that, pursuant to 105 ILCS5/10-30 and 105 ILCS 5/34-18.66, remote instruction be made available for students who have not received a COVID-19 vaccine or who are not eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine, only while they are under quarantine consistent with guidance or requirements from a local public health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health. Students may not opt into remote learning but may qualify for remote learning in limited circumstances. The application for remote learning can be found on our district webpage or by clicking the link APPLICATION FOR REMOTE LEARNING. All requests received after 7/30/21 will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Remote Learning will be facilitated through an on-line platform and not by a SHSD161 teacher. For additional information, please reach out to your child(ren)'s principal.

The following chart will be used to start the school year. This chart is subject to change based upon updated guidance from the CDC, IDPH or Will County Health Department.

SHSD 161 Layered Mitigation Plan: Community Transmission of COVID-19 Decision Chart

Summit Hill School District 161

SHSD161 will comply with the Governor’s mask mandate (Executive Order 2021-18). When this is lifted, the District will enact its Opening School Plan.

| Mitigation Guidance | | | | |
|----------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| | Low Transmission | Moderate Transmission | Substantial Transmission | High Transmission |
| Social Distancing | 3-6 feet to the greatest extent possible in classrooms and lunchrooms | 3-6 feet to the greatest extent possible in classrooms and lunchrooms | 3-6 feet to the greatest extent possible in classrooms and lunchrooms | 3-6 feet to the greatest extent possible in classrooms and lunchrooms |
| Quarantine | Quarantine per IDPH recommendation. | Quarantine per IDPH recommendation. | Quarantine per IDPH recommendation. | Quarantine per IDPH recommendation. |
| Testing | BinaxNOW antigen test (confirms positive case only, additional testing may be needed)– available per parent request/consent. | BinaxNOW antigen test (confirms positive case only, additional testing may be needed)– available per parent request/consent. | BinaxNOW antigen test (confirms positive case only, additional testing may be needed)– available per parent request/consent. | BinaxNOW antigen test (confirms positive case only, additional testing may be needed)– available per parent request/consent. |
| Mask Guidance | | | | |
| Classroom | Mask recommended for unvaccinated individuals. | Mask strongly recommended for unvaccinated individuals. | Mask strongly recommended for all individuals. | Mask required for all individuals. |
| Lunch Space | Mask recommended for unvaccinated individuals when not eating. | Mask strongly recommended for unvaccinated individuals when not eating. | Mask strongly recommended for all individuals when not eating. | Mask required for all individuals when not eating. |
| Bus | Per CDC/IDPH guidelines, all individuals must wear a mask on the bus. | Per CDC/IDPH guidelines, all individuals must wear a mask on the bus. | Per CDC/IDPH guidelines, all individuals must wear a mask on the bus. | Per CDC/IDPH guidelines, all individuals must wear a mask on the bus. |
| PE/ Recess | Outdoor activities: no mask is necessary. Indoor activities: Mask recommended for unvaccinated individuals. | Outdoor activities - no mask is necessary. Indoor activities: Mask strongly recommended for unvaccinated individuals. | Outdoor activities - no mask is necessary. Indoor activities: Mask strongly recommended for all individuals. | Outdoor activities- masks may be required Indoor activities: Mask required for all individuals. |

Summit Hill School District 161

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|-----------|--|--|---|--|
| | | | | |
| Athletics | Indoor Activities-Low/Medium/High risk activities: Masks recommended for unvaccinated individuals | Indoor Activities-Low/Medium risk activities: Masks recommended for unvaccinated individuals High Risk Activities: Masks will be strongly recommended for all individuals | Indoor Activities-Low/Medium risk activities: Masks recommended for all individuals High Risk Activities: Masks required for all individuals | Masks will be required for all individuals. Possible discontinuation of athletic events for a period |

References:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

IDPH/ISBE “Revised Public Health Guidance for Schools: Part 5-Supporting the Full Return to In-Person Learning for All Students, August 2021” [Updated-Public-Health-School-Guidance.pdf \(isbe.net\)](#)

IDPH Press Release: <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/news/illinois-department-public-health-adopts-cdc-covid-19-prevention-school-guidance>

Will County Department of Health & Community Health Center: <https://willcountyhealth.org>

Northwestern COVID data Dashboard: <https://Covid-dashboard.fsm.northwestern.edu>