

Transitioning from Remote to In-Person Learning

IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19
Updated September 11, 2020



Summit Hill School District 161

www.summithill.org

Districts must follow ISBE/IDPH guidelines, which provide the following requirements:

- Require use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including face coverings.
- Prohibit more than 50 individuals from gathering in one space.
- Require social distancing be observed, as much as possible.
- Require that schools conduct symptom screenings and temperature checks or require that individuals self-certify that they are free of symptoms before entering school buildings.
- Require an increase in schoolwide cleaning and disinfection.

It is important to note that these requirements are subject to change pursuant to updated public health guidance and changing public health conditions.



INTRODUCTION

We have created this plan to aid in navigating the re-establishment of our school where employees, students, and families feel safe and to reduce the impact of COVID-19 conditions upon returning to the district. The guidelines referenced in this plan are based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), and the Illinois School Board of Education (ISBE). Regular updates will be made to this plan based on information provided by the CDC, IDPH, ISBE and other applicable federal, state, and local agencies.

There is no perfect plan to reopen schools. Risks can be kept low if we adhere to our control measures and respond to potential outbreaks. As transmission increases, mitigation will increase.

ADAPTIVE PAUSE

According to IDPH, an Adaptive Pause is a strategy that allows for movement into any level of remote learning to prevent disease transmission during a pandemic. It may include a pivot to remote learning for a classroom, a grade level, a wing, a building, or school- or district-wide remote learning. At all levels of community transmission, school officials may need an Adaptive Pause to consult with their local health department to understand community transmission metrics and to plan for how to respond to a given scenario. Adaptive Pauses may be for a set period or indefinite, depending on the specific metrics related to transmission and infection rates within a county or school district/area and its student population. Several Adaptive Pauses may be needed until COVID-19 transmission is controlled and an effective vaccine is available. However, the goal of implementing interventions is to reduce the frequency of these interruptions and allowing for in-person learning when feasible.

HEALTH METRICS

Community transmission exists when a case is identified without a clear source of the infection in a community, i.e. when you can no longer identify how someone was infected. Specifically, an infected person does not know where or how they were infected and did not travel out of the community during their incubation period.

The table below aligns the IDPH County Level COVID-19 Risk Metrics to levels of community transmission (minimal, moderate, substantial). A county level metric color change will prompt a discussion by the school administration and our local health department to determine if increased community transmission warrants an adaptive pause to implement strategies to further mitigate transmission.

- **Blue** indicates that the county is experiencing overall stable COVID-19 metrics.
- **Orange** indicates there are warning signs of increased COVID-19 transmission in the county.

All metrics are updated weekly, based on the previous week:

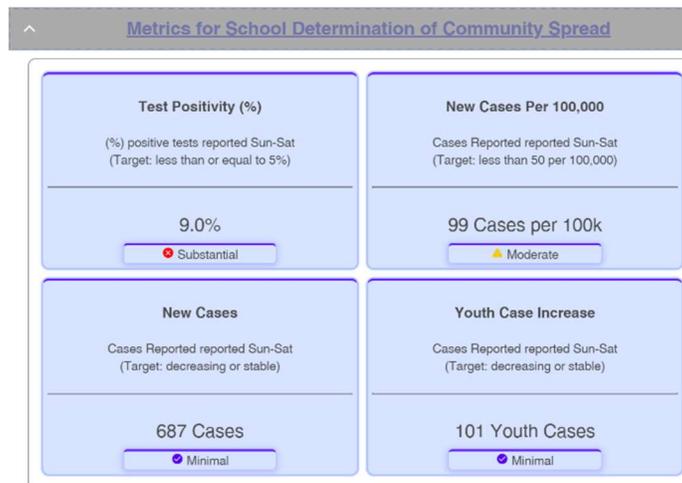
<https://www.dph.illinois.gov/countymetrics>

Metric Guidance for Local Health Departments to Prompt Discussion with School Officials

	Minimal Community Transmission	Moderate Community Transmission	Substantial Community Transmission
County-Level Metric	<p>Alert for one metric but remained BLUE at any point in the last 4 weeks</p> <p>Weekly county case rates ≤ 50 per 100,000</p> <p>Weekly county overall case numbers increase for two consecutive weeks with a $>5\%$ to $\leq 10\%$ increase occurring each week</p> <p>Weekly county youth case numbers increase for two consecutive weeks with a $>5\%$ to $\leq 10\%$ increase occurring each week</p> <p>Weekly test positivity $\leq 5\%$</p> <p>Neighboring county in orange once in the last 4 weeks*</p>	<p>Transitioned to ORANGE once in last 4 weeks</p> <p>Weekly county case rates >50 to ≤ 100 per 100,000</p> <p>Weekly county overall case numbers increase for two consecutive weeks with a $>10\%$ or $\leq 20\%$ increase occurring each week</p> <p>Weekly county youth case numbers increase for two consecutive weeks with a $>10\%$ or $\leq 20\%$ increase occurring each week</p> <p>Weekly test positivity $>5\%$ but $\leq 8\%$</p>	<p>Remained in ORANGE for ≥ 2 consecutive weeks</p> <p>Weekly county case rates above > 100 per 100,000</p> <p>Weekly county overall case numbers increase for two consecutive weeks with a $> 20\%$ increase occurring each week</p> <p>Weekly county youth case numbers increase for two consecutive weeks with a $>20\%$ increase occurring each week</p> <p>Weekly test positivity $>8\%$</p>
Regional Resurgence Metric**			Region moved to Tier 1 mitigation

*Should also monitor and track contiguous counties and those in adjoining states

**Involving just one Region of the state



Source: IDPH COVID-19 County and School Metrics dated 9.6.20

Modeling the Curve

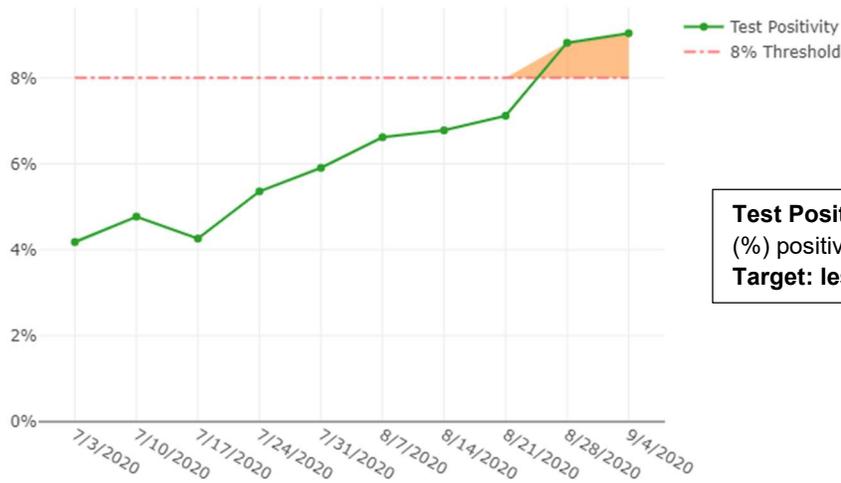
<https://c19-willcountygis.hub.arcgis.com/pages/dt-analysis>

The idea of flattening the curve is that by taking steps to slow the spread of COVID-19, virus transmission will decelerate, the burden on hospitals will be reduced, and fewer people may contract the disease. The website noted above uses epidemiological modeling by location. By modeling the curves, simulations are created to calculate the impact of the current instructional model.

District 161 will be tracking the following external metrics for community spread:

Will County positivity rates

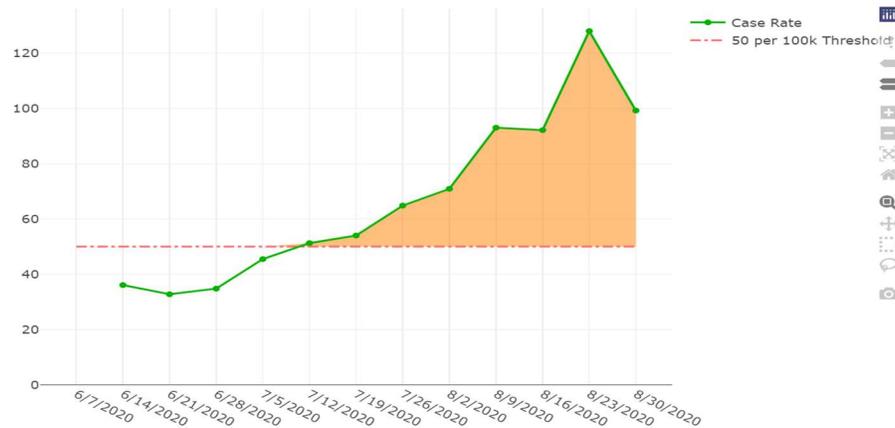
Source: Will County COVID-19 Response dated 9.6.20



Test Positivity (%)
(%) positive tests reported Sun-Sat
Target: less than or = to 5%

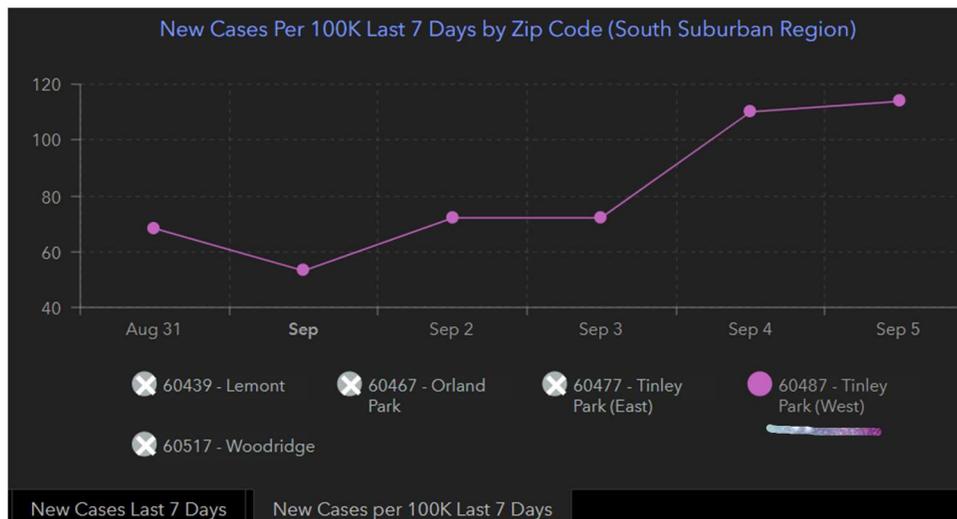
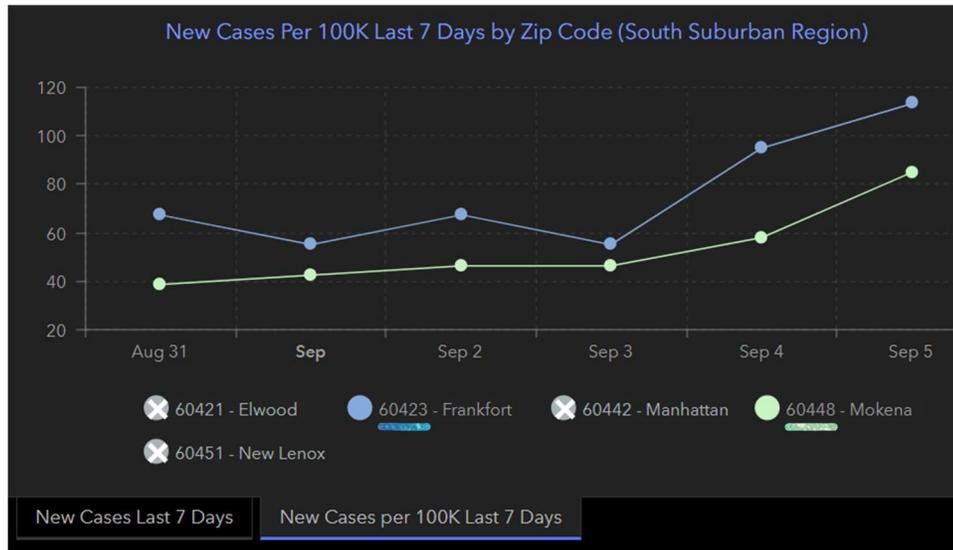
Will County cases per 100,000

Source: Will County COVID-19 Response dated 9.6.20



New Cases per 100,000
Cases reported Sun-Sat
Target: less than 50 per 100,000

Summit Hill School Community positivity rates



Source: <https://c19-willcountygis.hub.arcgis.com/pages/dt-analysis> dated 9.06.20

INTERNAL METRICS

- District total students isolated/quarantined per IDPH guidelines
- District total staff members isolated/quarantined per IDPH guidelines
- **District total individuals isolated from in-person instruction**
- **Is in-person sustainable in a 14-day model?**

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Whether county transmission is minimal, moderate, or substantial, there are signs and signifiers of community transmission that are relevant to addressing prevention of COVID-19 in schools. Even minimal transmission may warrant consideration for pivoting to remote learning, along with the other strategies, depending on the specific data in the county such as:

- School COVID-19 outbreak that is Epi-linked (person, place, time) and is spreading rather than contained.
- Poor student adherence to use of face coverings, social distancing, or contact tracing whether within an entire school or just by grade or classroom.
- If community transmission occurs but is controlled (containment without further spread), consideration would be given to keeping the school open but shutting down communal places, sporting activities, and other activities. Community transmission that is uncontrolled may lead to a pivot to remote learning.

CDC GUIDANCE: LEVELS OF COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION

Actionable strategies will be implemented during times of **minimal or moderate** community transmission:

- Reinforcing healthy hygiene practices.
- Intensifying cleaning and disinfection efforts.
- Postponing non-critical group gatherings and events.
- Reinforcing multiple social distancing strategies.

When there is **substantial** community transmission, strategies in addition to those used in minimal or moderate transmission will be used:

- Coordinating with the Will County Health Department.
- Canceling extracurricular group activities, school-based afterschool programs, and school events.
- Pivoting to remote learning to slow transmission rates of COVID-19 in the community.

IDPH Procedures for Outbreak Response

An outbreak is defined as two cases that are linked epidemiologically with respect to person, place, and time. This would look like two cases who have shared close contacts and location and have onsets within 14 calendar days of each other.

Once an outbreak is identified, the Will County Health Department will further investigate with District 161 to determine the extent of exposures at the school and what control measures are needed to mitigate the outbreak.

Alternative social distancing strategies, less drastic than closure, include:

- Quarantining the affected classroom.
- Suspending in-person learning for affected classes .
- Canceling non-essential activities and meetings.
- Keeping students in stable class groups or classrooms and moving teachers between classes, if necessary.
- Shortening the in-person school week.
- Staggering school lunch/break times across groups or classes.

If there is substantial transmission in our community, Will County Health Department may suggest remote instruction to slow transmission rates of COVID-19.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF A CONFIRMED PERSON WITH COVID-19 ENTERS THE SCHOOL BUILDING?

District 161 must be prepared for a possible short-term closure, regardless of community spread, if an infected person has been in a school building. If this happens, the CDC recommends the following procedures regardless of the level of community spread:

School Decision Tree

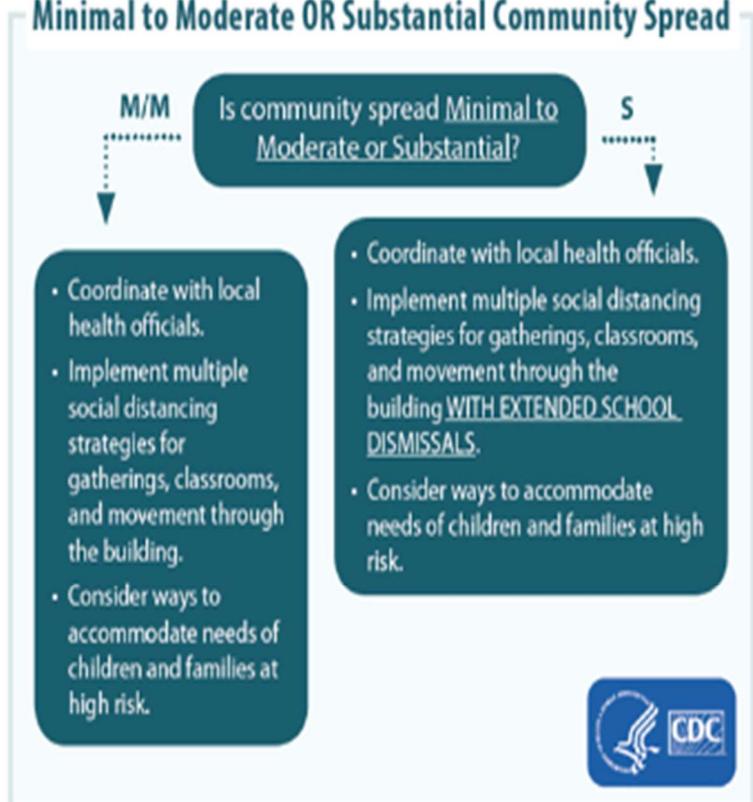
All Schools Regardless of Community Spread



No Community Spread



Minimal to Moderate OR Substantial Community Spread



MITIGATION: GUIDING PRINCIPLES

To ensure the continued well-being of our staff and students, the following guiding principles have been put in place:

- BEHAVIORS THAT REDUCE SPREAD
- MAINTAINING HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS
- MAINTAINING HEALTHY OPERATIONS
- SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELL BEING OF STAFF AND STUDENTS
- STAFF AWARENESS AND EXPECTATIONS
- COMMUNICATION

BEHAVIORS THAT REDUCE SPREAD

Absenteeism will be monitored throughout the school year. However, students are encouraged to stay home without the fear of reprisal if they are sick.

Student and Parent responsibilities:

Students should stay home if they have tested positive for or are showing new onset cough or shortness of breath by themselves OR at least one of the following :

- Fever of 100.4 F or greater
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Sore throat
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Gastrointestinal symptoms of nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
- 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.

HAND HYGIENE AND RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE

Students will be taught by the school nurse hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette. Handwashing posters will be posted in bathrooms and other areas, as appropriate. If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol can be used (for students who can safely use hand sanitizer). Hand sanitizer will be available in all rooms across the district.

FACE COVERINGS

Based on Board Policy 4:181 and 4:182, face coverings, such as disposable masks or cloth masks, must be worn by students and staff except while eating and during band even when social distancing is maintained. Face coverings must be worn unless the individual has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the covering without assistance. Face coverings are not required outside if social distance is maintained. The mask should cover the student's face from the bridge of their nose to under their chin. It should be loose fitting but still secure enough to stay in place. Students will be reminded not to touch the face covering and to wash their

hands frequently. Students and essential visitors are encouraged to bring and wear their own face covering that is school appropriate. Reusable face coverings should be machine washed or washed by hand and allowed to dry completely after each use. Face coverings will be available in the event an individual does not have one. Face shields cannot be used in lieu of face coverings. Face shields may be used in some situations if an individual has a medical contraindication to using face coverings.

A Medical Certification for Student Face Covering Exemption form must be obtained with a physician's approval documenting the medical contraindication for any individual who is not able to wear a face covering. Other precautions and accommodations will be utilized for those individuals who have a face covering exemption.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Social distancing is an effective way to prevent potential infection by eliminating close contact. District employees, students, parents, and visitors are expected to maintain social distancing to the greatest extent possible throughout the school day. Signage reminding staff, visitors, and students to maintain social distancing will be placed at all entrances, in classrooms, and throughout other common areas.

SIGNS AND MESSAGES

Signs for promoting everyday protective measures will be placed in visible areas around the buildings. Buildings will provide communication to students to describe how to stop the spread of germs by properly washing their hands and properly wearing a face covering. Signage regarding social distancing reminders will also be displayed at various locations around the district buildings.

MAINTAINING HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS

CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

Upon reopening, our schools will be cleaned and disinfected. We will continue to adhere to all necessary safety precautions. In addition to the sanitation of the school before employees and students return, the cleaning steps outlined below will be taken to disinfect workplace surfaces to reduce the risk of spread of infection.

Frequently touched surfaces within the school will be cleaned at least daily by the support and custodial staff. Use of shared materials will be limited as much as possible.

Custodial staff will be ensuring a safe and correct use and storage of cleaning and disinfection products, including storing products securely away from children. All products meet the Environmental Protection Act disinfection criteria. Scheduled cleaning times will be posted and documented. Preventative material inventory will be taken frequently to ensure the buildings have an adequate supply of soap, disinfection, hand sanitizer, and paper towels.

SHARED OBJECTS

Students and staff will be discouraged from sharing items that are difficult to clean or disinfect. Sharing electronic devices, toys, books, and other games will be avoided. Student belongings will be separated from others' and should be individually labeled with their first and last names. Students should not bring any toys from home to school.

DRINKING FOUNTAINS

Drinking fountains are covered in all district buildings. Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottles to school.

LOCKERS

The use of lockers will be suspended at the junior high building at this time. Students will be required to carry their belongings throughout the day in their backpacks.

LOCKER ROOMS

Locker rooms will be closed and not in use at this time. Students will only be required to change to appropriate gym shoes to participate in PE.

MODIFIED LAYOUT

Desks will be spaced as far apart as possible. Desks will face in the same direction and not across from each other.

PHYSICAL BARRIERS AND GUIDES

Clear physical barriers, such as sneeze guards, partitions, and plastic screens will be utilized (e.g. reception desks, therapy rooms). Physical guides, such as tape on the floors or sidewalks and signs on walls, will be utilized to ensure staff and children remain as socially distanced as possible in lines and at other times.

SHARED WORKSPACE

There will be limited access to certain workspaces to reduce exposure to risks and ensure employee safety. Workspace usage is as follows:

Capacity - The schools will be monitoring the number of employees in the offices.

Conference Rooms - Signage indicating closure/capacity limits will be placed on conference room doors.

Teacher Lounge - This space will have limited use/limited capacity. Social distancing is required. Face masks must be worn unless the staff member is eating lunch. Please wipe down shared appliances after use.

Copy Room – There will be limited access to the copy room. Signage indicating restrictions will be posted.

LUNCHES

Lunch will take place in classrooms and other places while ensuring the safety of children with food allergies. Some classrooms will be designated as Nut Free Environments. Treat Days, Hot Lunch Days, SHEF Pizza Days will be postponed until further notice due to limiting volunteers in the building. We ask that there be no food delivered to school from outside sources. If a student forgets their lunch, a parent or other emergency contact can drop off the school lunch, as normal, in the school vestibule.

TRANSPORTATION

District 161 will work in conjunction with Lincoln-Way District 210 and Lincoln-Way Special Education Cooperative 843, as our transportation services are utilized from these districts, to ensure health and safety protocols are being followed on buses. Regular bus routes will be followed with no more than 50 individuals on a bus at one time. All students will be required to wear a face covering and social distancing will be maintained to the greatest extent possible.

MAINTAINING HEALTHY OPERATIONS

PROTECTIONS FOR STUDENTS AT HIGHER RISK FOR SEVERE ILLNESS

Students at a higher risk of severe illness from exposure to COVID-19 will be offered remote learning opportunities.

VISITORS AND FIELD TRIPS

All visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups and organizations will be limited. Virtual activities will take place in lieu of field trips, student assemblies, special performances, and school-wide parent meetings. To help prevent the spread of the virus and reduce the risk of exposure to our staff and students, a simple screening questionnaire must be completed by any visitor.

COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

School buildings will not be available for outside organizations during the 2020-21 school year except Frankfort Square Park District's use of limited areas of Mary Drew School per its intergovernmental agreement with District 161.

DESIGNATED COVID-19 POINT OF CONTACT

Families should notify their building school nurse if they have questions or concerns directly related to COVID-19. Students and families are encouraged to notify their classroom teacher, school nurse, social worker, counselor, or administrators if they have concerns about the overall wellness of their child.

SCREENING

Daily temperature and symptom screenings will be conducted for all students and staff by self-certification or parent conducted screenings prior to entering the school buildings. The Crisis Go link is available on the district's home page. Parents and staff members will complete a screening via this online application each day. Individuals who have a temperature greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or symptoms of COVID-19 should not enter the classroom setting. If any individual should develop any of the symptoms throughout the school day, the individual will be sent home and referred to a medical provider for evaluation and treatment. Return to school information will be provided. Information shared will remain confidential following the Student Records Act, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA), and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) guidelines.

IMMUNIZATIONS AND ANNUAL PHYSICALS

State of Illinois health requirements for the 2020-2021 school year still apply. See the "Student Health" section on district homepage for a detailed list of grade requirements.

PREPARING FOR WHEN SOMEONE GETS SICK

While we hope to avoid exposure to illness from COVID-19, we need to be prepared for that possibility.

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. A **Suspected COVID-19 Case Form** will be

completed at this time. 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. Depending on the severity of the symptoms, 911 will be called and appropriate medical emergency procedures will be followed.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

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.

CLEAN AND DISINFECT

Areas that the ill student or staff member have encountered will be closed off and unused until cleaning and disinfecting has taken place. Guidelines provided by the CDC, Illinois Department of Public Health, and IL Department of Public Health will be followed.

NOTIFYING HEALTH OFFICIALS AND CLOSE CONTACTS

In accordance with state and local laws and regulations, school administrators will notify the IL Department of Public Health and Will County Health Department upon immediate notification of any case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality. Those who had close contact with the individual diagnosed with COVID-19 will be notified to stay home and self-monitor for symptoms and follow CDC guidance if symptoms develop. Close contact means the individual was within 6 feet of the individual with symptoms for more than 15 minutes.

RETURN TO SCHOOL AFTER EXCLUSION DUE TO COVID-19

Please note, the Illinois Department of Public Health website has a list of over 200 testing facilities, their locations, and hours of operation. Students and staff should not return to school until they have met IDPH's criteria to discontinue home isolation.

COVID-19 INTERIM EXCLUSION GUIDANCE¹

Decision Tree for Symptomatic Individuals in Pre-K, K-12 Schools and Day Care Programs



Send home or deny entry (and provide remote instruction) if ANY of the following symptoms ² are present: Fever (100.4°F or higher), new onset of moderate to severe headache, shortness of breath, new cough, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain from unknown cause, new congestion/runny nose, new loss of sense of taste or smell, nausea, fatigue from unknown cause, muscle or body aches. Medical Evaluation and Testing are Strongly Recommended for ALL Persons with COVID-Like Symptoms.					
Status	A. COVID-19 diagnostic test Positive (confirmed case) OR COVID-like symptoms without COVID-19 testing and exposed to confirmed case (probable case)	B. Symptomatic individual with a negative COVID-19 diagnostic test <i>(Negative COVID-19 diagnostic tests must be from a specimen collected up to 48 hours prior to symptom onset or after and is valid for only the date the specimen was collected.)</i>	C. Symptomatic individual with an alternative diagnosis without negative COVID-19 diagnostic test	D. Symptomatic individual without diagnostic testing or clinical evaluation <i>Individuals may move to Columns A, B, or C based on results of diagnostic testing and/or clinical evaluation.</i>	E. Asymptomatic individual who is a close contact ⁶ to a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case
Evaluated by Healthcare Provider	YES / NO	YES / NO	YES	NO	NA
Return to School Guidance	Stay home at least ten ³ calendar days from onset of symptoms AND for 24 hours with no fever (without fever-reducing medication) AND improvement of symptoms.	Stay home until symptoms have improved/resolved per return-to-school criteria for diagnosed condition ⁴ . Follow provider directions, recommended treatment & return to school guidance as per school policies and IDPH Communicable Diseases in Schools .	Stay home until symptoms have improved/resolved per return-to-school criteria for diagnosed condition ⁴ . Follow provider directions, recommended treatment & return to school guidance as per school policies and IDPH Communicable Diseases in Schools .	Stay home at least ten ³ calendar days from onset of symptoms AND for 24 hours with no fever (without fever-reducing medication) AND improvement of symptoms.	Stay home for 14 calendar days after last exposure to the COVID-19 case. <i>If COVID-19 illness develops, use the ten-day isolation period⁵ guidance for a COVID-19 case from the onset date. Testing is recommended.</i>
Quarantine for Close Contacts?	YES	NO	NO	Household Member (e.g., Siblings, Parent) ⁵	NA
Documentation Required to Return to School	Release from Isolation letter (if received from their LHD) provided by the parent/guardian or staff person, notification via phone, secure email or fax from the LHD to the school, OR other process implemented by your LHD	Negative COVID-19 test result OR healthcare provider's note indicating the negative test result	Healthcare provider's note with alternative diagnosis	After the ten-day exclusion, a note from parent/guardian documenting that the ill student and/or household contacts are afebrile without fever-reducing medication and symptoms have improved	Release from Quarantine letter (if received from their LHD) provided by the parent/guardian or staff member, LHD notification via phone, secure email or fax to the school OR other process implemented by your LHD
¹ Based on available data and science, schools must make local decisions informed by local context in consultation with their local public health department. This chart should be used in conjunction with the Public Health Interim Guidance for Pre-K-12 Schools and Day Care Programs for Addressing COVID-19 . ² New onset of a symptom not attributed to allergies or a pre-existing condition. ³ Severely immunocompromised or severely ill: may need to isolate for 20 days as per guidance from the individual's infectious disease physician.			⁴ If the individual has been identified by public health for quarantine or knows they are a close contact to a case, the 14-calendar-day quarantine must be completed. ⁵ Consider quarantine for other close contacts if there was poor adherence to social distancing or use of face coverings. ⁶ Contacts to close contacts of a case do not need to be excluded unless the close contact becomes a confirmed or probable case. Rev. 9/10/2020 Interim Guidance, Subject to updates		

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING OF STUDENTS AND STAFF

The social and emotional well-being of students and staff will be considered as individuals return to the school environment. The district mental health providers will develop activities and resources for parents and teachers to access which will be made available on the district website and staff portals. Professional Development will be provided to all district staff to ensure social-emotional learning activities are conducted throughout their daily lessons.

STAFF AWARENESS & EXPECTATIONS

It is important that all staff members understand the safety requirements, protocols, and expectations to ensure everyone stays safe and to prevent the spread of the virus. Each staff member will be made aware of the health and safety protocols implemented such as social distancing to the greatest extent possible, face covering, and hand hygiene procedures. Each building will provide additional information to staff that is specific to their unique circumstances.

BUILDING-SPECIFIC SAFETY PLANS

Each school will share its building safety plan which addresses the five ISBE/IDPH requirements listed on the front page of this document for transitioning back to in-person learning.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

The following PPE is available for staff members, as needed: masks, gowns, goggles, gloves, shields, hand sanitizer, cleaning/disinfecting products, and plexiglass (for specialists).

COMMUNICATION METHODS

To stay updated:

1. Check your email often.
2. Visit our district website.
3. Follow our social media platform.
4. Utilize the Schoology learning management system.

WHO DO I CONTACT IF . . .

My student tests positive for COVID-19:

School Nurse

I am a staff member who tests positive for COVID-19:

Building Principal

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Please also refer to: [Latest ISBE guidance](#)

SYMPTOM SCREENINGS/TEMPERATURE CHECKS

- **What process is in place for parents/guardians to certify that their child is not ill before coming to school?**

The District has purchased software for parents to easily certify their child's health each day before getting on the bus or arriving to school. The software instructions will be shared with families prior to the first day of in-person learning. School personnel will review a report each morning. If a parent failed to complete the check, the school nurse will check the student and the parent will be notified. If a pattern of non-compliance on the part of the parent continues, the District may require the student to move to remote learning.

- **Can schools and districts utilize self-certification to verify that individuals in a school building are symptom free?**

Yes. Schools and districts can require individuals to self-certify that they are fever- and symptom free before entering a school building each day, in lieu of conducting symptom and temperature checks at the school building. Self-certification could consist of a simple electronic form that an individual must complete each day. A self-certification may not be completed at the beginning of the year for the entire year.

HEALTH-RELATED QUESTIONS

- **If I am attending in-person learning and become ill with COVID-19 or COVID-19 like symptoms, do I move to remote learning?** *No. A student will not change their teachers or method of instruction due to illness. If a student enrolled in In-Person Learning becomes ill normal procedures would be followed. Students can get and receive work through Schoology. However, a COVID diagnosis or quarantine situation due to close contact may require at least 10 days away from school or more.*
- **If my student becomes ill and/or must quarantine due to illness in the household, what plans are in place to maintain student's progress in their education?**
This process would be like any other time a student is out sick. The classroom teacher would provide homework and assignments for the student to complete per the District sick day policy. Students have an additional day for each day they are absent to turn in work upon return to school. If the whole class is required to quarantine, the classroom teacher would transition to a remote learning model. If the teacher is not ill, the teacher will transition to teaching remotely. If the teacher is unable to hold instruction, a substitute teacher will be secured to provide remote instruction.
- **Is there a threshold for COVID-19 cases that would close the school for in-person learning?** *There are multiple triggers that may create a short- or long-term closure and pivot to remote learning for all students. This may include a spread of cases in our community, in our region, or across the state. There is also the possibility that a rise in COVID-19 cases will cause the Governor to declare schools closed or that we must return to Phase 3 of the Restore Illinois Plan. In any case, the District will work closely with the Will County Health Department in decision making regarding a school closure.*

- ***If a school nurse is absent, will there be a substitute registered nurse in his or her place?***
The District has both substitute nurses and contracts with nursing agencies to fill vacancies at our schools. In the event a District nurse is absent, we will either hire a substitute nurse or contact the agency and use an available nurse to fill that position.
- ***Will the District be installing Plexiglas barriers throughout the building?***
Plexiglas barriers have been installed in some main areas of our buildings such as front offices.
- ***If I have two children at the same grade level will they be placed in the same classroom?***
Yes, children from the same household will be grouped together to the greatest extent to minimize the number of students around them during the school day.
- ***If I select continued remote learning for my student, may they still participate in extracurricular activities?***
Yes, students participating in continued remote learning may participate in extracurricular activities. Student transportation to/from the school to participate in an extracurricular activity will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian. It should be noted that there will be no clubs or activities for the first few weeks at a minimum upon return to the parent choice of in-person learning, and there is a great deal of uncertainty about interscholastic athletics in Illinois.
- ***What is considered “close contact”?***
Close contact means the individual was within 6 feet of the individual who tested positive for COVID-19 or is suspected of having COVID-19 infection for more than 15 minutes.
- ***If my child must quarantine, but is not infected with COVID-19, will this be an excused absence?***
Yes.
- ***If a member of the family was exposed to someone with COVID, does my child need to quarantine?***
The Will County Department of Public Health will be consulted in this situation to determine protocol.
- ***How will the District be contact tracing?***
District nurses will be collaborating with the Will County Department of Public Health to report data and will follow all protocols set forth by the IDPH.
- ***What happens if my child is sick, but not with COVID-like symptoms, while at school?***
The school nurse will evaluate the student. If in fact the student is ill, the student will be monitored in the school office until the child can be taken home.
- ***Can the District require a student be tested for COVID if the virus is suspected?***
The District cannot legally require a parent to have a child tested for COVID. The District will be following the IDPH guidelines regarding returning to school if a student is suspected of having or confirmed to have COVID.

- **If my student becomes ill and must quarantine, what will his/her classmates be told?**
If a student is required to isolate or quarantine at home, this will not be discussed within the classroom. Just as with other contagious diseases, families will be notified as required. As always, keeping the confidentiality of our student's privacy will be maintained.
- **If my student is in class or on the bus with a student who tests positive for the virus, how will I be notified?**
As part of the contact tracing protocol, you will receive a call from the school or the IDPH with information related to quarantine requirements.
- **Is a school required to transition to remote instruction if an individual who was in the building tests positive for COVID-19?**
No. Only those individuals with close contact with someone who tested positive or who is suspected of having COVID-19 are required to self-quarantine for 14 days. The school would provide remote instruction to students who are self-quarantining if they are well enough to engage in learning. Teachers and staff who are self-quarantining may continue to work remotely if they are well enough to do so.

Face Covering Questions

- **Will the District provide my child with a mask if he/she does not have one?**
Through the IEMA, the District received one cloth mask for all staff members and students. There will be some extra masks at each school. Parents/guardians are encouraged to send their child with the mask they have been wearing this spring/summer.
- **Does my child need to wear a mask on the school bus?**
Yes. All children and staff on board a school bus are required to wear a face mask.
- **Does my child need to wear a mask outdoors?**
Unless individuals can keep a 6-foot distance from one another outdoors, face masks will be required, as mandated by IDPH and ISBE.
- **How will the District enforce the wearing of masks?**
Our school nurses have developed videos to teach students of the importance of wearing a mask at school. They will focus on how to wear a mask properly. If a student refuses to wear a mask, the student will be re-taught the expectations and importance of wearing a mask. If the child continues to refuse to wear a mask, the student will be sent to the office and parents will be called to pick up the student. For students with disabilities, reasonable accommodations may be made on an individual basis when medical documentation has been provided.
- **Will my child's class have face mask breaks?**
Yes. There will be face mask breaks scheduled throughout the day. As in the past, teachers are very in tune to their class and take 'brain breaks' or 'movement breaks' when the students demonstrate a need. Teachers will do the same for face mask breaks.

Social Distancing Questions

- **Are all individuals in a school building required to maintain social distance (remain six feet apart) at all times? (Updated ISBE 6/25/2020)**

Social distance must be observed as much as possible. Desks do not need to be spaced six feet apart. The District will space students out as much as possible, understanding that every classroom configuration, capacity, and class size may vary. All non-essential furniture has been removed from classrooms to allow for more room for each child's work area.

- **Are schools allowed to have a full class of students eat in their classrooms when they are not wearing their masks? (Updated ISBE 7/9/2020)**

Yes. During planned meals, social distance should be maintained as much as possible.

Cleaning Questions

- **What type of cleaning will take place in the school buildings?**

The District is implementing several measures to promote a safe and clean environment for students and staff. Classrooms will be supplied with bottles of disinfecting spray and paper towels to aid in sanitation efforts throughout the day. The District will use EPA approved solution of hypochlorous acid that is safe around students and strong enough to kill the virus. Throughout the school day, the custodians will be increasing their time disinfecting identified high-touch areas and common areas for contamination. To assist with this task, E-Mist electrostatic ionization machines have been purchased to increase efficiency and effectiveness of disinfecting during the day and as part of the nightly cleaning routine.

- **What will hand washing/sanitizing look like at school?**

Frequent hand washing/sanitizing will be taking place throughout the school day. Each school will handle hand washing/sanitizing differently, as they all function on slightly different schedules. Hand sanitizers will be available in every classroom and in all common areas of the school.

- **Will each classroom have their own UV/Air purifier?**

No, this is not required per the IDPH. Per the Illinois School Code, all school buildings must adhere to strict HVAC requirements. Our District has consistently passed all compliance inspections by local and state authorities.

Social-Emotional Question

- **What is in place for students as they return to school after experiencing this pandemic?**

The District is acutely aware of the fact that our students may have experienced a myriad of challenges during this pandemic period, which include missed milestones, limited extended-family connections, canceled vacations and special occasions, economic instability, family illness and even the death of loved ones. The District is committed to helping our students overcome the trauma and challenges brought on by the pandemic.

Regulating emotions, managing stress, empathizing with others, and maintaining relationships are all social-emotional skills that will be taught, modeled, and practiced throughout a student's experience in District 161 schools. To help students reinvigorate their state-of-mind to learn when school reopens, teachers and social workers will be devoting more time to the social curriculum at each grade at the start of this school year.