

Greetings Summit Hill School District 161 families,

We are eagerly anticipating the return of our students on Monday, January 3, 2022, in-person. Despite the recently surging numbers in both positivity percent and in case counts per 100,000; we feel that schools are still safe as long as mitigations are in place and we have the staff in place to receive the students. A key to keeping in-person learning going will be the need to keep students at home in the event COVID symptoms are present. Sending children to school who may not be feeling well may mean additional quarantines and the possibility that if students and staff become symptomatic, that we will have to quarantine a classroom, a school, or return to remote learning as a District. If students are not feeling well, please, please keep them home...we are urging staff to do the same. In the event something changes within the state, schools are mandated to pause, or staffing becomes an issue; an additional correspondence will be sent as soon as possible.

Please remember that vaccinations, masking, social distancing, frequent hand washing, and more are the tools we have in place to reopen schools and offer in-person learning. This will be a total community effort, so please participate by respectfully working to keep yourself and others healthy.

The CDC has offered additional and changing guidance related to COVID-19. We have reviewed the guidelines and are prepared to implement these changes if adopted by IDPH. Until then, we will continue to adhere to our current practices. We will notify families if/ when we are able to modify our quarantine time frame. Below is a list of highlights from their most recent release.

1. If you test positive for COVID-19, you should stay home for 5 days and can return to school/work if you have no symptoms, or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days.
2. If you were exposed and are considered a close contact to someone with COVID-19 and you are fully vaccinated, you can continue to attend school/work if you are asymptomatic, and it is recommended to test on day 5 after exposure.
3. If you were exposed and are considered a close contact to someone with COVID-19 and you are not fully vaccinated, you should not attend school/work for 5 days and it is recommended to test on day 5 after exposure.
4. All individuals above must adhere to wearing masks upon return to school/work for an additional 5 days to minimize the risk of infecting people they encounter.

Again, at this time, Summit Hill School District 161 will continue to follow the IDPH and ISBE guidelines. The current IDPH Exclusion Chart can be found [here](#). Additionally, we will be updating our "Opening Plan" as Illinois adjusts its guidelines and this document is posted at www.summithill.org for your convenience.

Also, as we head back to school, please be prepared for delays in transportation as our bus service continues to face a driver shortage. Some routes may be combined in order to accommodate, thus increasing the overall route time. The winter weather will also impact route times, so please be patient as we work to provide this service.

Thank you for your partnership in education, as we work together to ensure our schools are safe and our learners flourish! See you on Monday!!

Sincerely,

Dr. Paul McDermott

Your Superintendent