

Together Again

**Summit Hill School
District 161**

2021-2022 School Year

Opening Plan 8.11.2021

Revised 2.11.2022



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 and Summit Hill School District 161 will closely examine these as it relates to our District. Adjustments to our Opening Plan and policies may be necessary as this new information becomes available.

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 one

Summit Hill School District 161

of the indicators has 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) (the recommendation continues to be) if you 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

It is recommended that 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, 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.

Quarantine, Isolation, and Contact Tracing:

SHSD161 will follow quarantine recommendations set forth by the IDPH and the local health department when a positive or suspected COVID-19 case is reported. For students who may become symptomatic during the school day, the health offices will continue to follow mitigations to isolate the student and call parents/guardians. School offices will identify students/staff who may be a close contact and maintain a contact tracing absence log.

Summit Hill School District 161

Individual Tests Positive for COVID-19 (Vaccinated and Unvaccinated):

The individual should quarantine at home for at least 5 days and follow standard procedures for reporting student absence to the school office. Day 0 is test date if no symptoms were present. If symptoms were present when specimen sample was collected, Day 0 is symptom onset date. The student may return when fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, 24 hours of diarrhea or vomiting ceasing, and other symptoms, such as sore throat or cough have improved. It is recommended to wear a mask for 5 additional days when around others upon return.

Symptomatic Individual:

The individual should quarantine at home and follow standard procedures for reporting student absence to the school office. The individual should stay home until symptoms have improved and have a negative PCR or rapid COVID test from a licensed facility or stay home for 5 days from onset of symptoms if choosing not to test. It is recommended to wear a mask for 5 additional days when around others upon return.

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, preferably within 30 minutes. 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. Students exhibiting symptoms or who are COVID positive will not be allowed to utilize a school bus for the return home.

CLOSE CONTACT DEFINITION

Close contacts are individuals who are less than 3 feet from the individual with COVID-19 in classroom or on the bus, regardless of if they are masked or not for a cumulative 15 minutes. Additionally, they are considered a close contact if they are less than 6 feet when eating or drinking for a cumulative 15 minutes.

Close Contact to Positive Individual (Unvaccinated):

If the individual is considered a close contact due to school exposure, the school office will notify families if their child was considered a close contact to a COVID-positive individual. It is recommended that the individual should quarantine at home for 5 days from the last day of exposure, but it is not required.

If the individual is considered a close contact from exposure outside of the school or within the home, it is recommended that the student should remain at home for 5 days from the last day of exposure, but it is not required.

Summit Hill School District 161

In all situations, if a close contact develops symptoms, it is recommended they test for COVID or stay home for 5 days from onset of symptoms and follow **Individual Tests Positive for COVID-19** or **Symptomatic Individual** guidelines above.

Close Contact to Positive Individual (Vaccinated or Confirmed Positive within the last 90 days):

If the individual is considered a close contact in any setting or is confirmed positive for COVID within the last 90 days, there is no school exclusion. If a close contact develops symptoms, it is recommended they test for COVID or stay home for 5 days from onset of symptoms and follow **Individual Tests Positive for COVID-19** or **Symptomatic Individual** guidelines above.

Local health departments will make the final determination on who is to be quarantined and for how long. **Regardless of when an individual ends quarantine, daily symptom monitoring should continue through day 10 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. It is understood that student and staff medical confidentiality will be maintained and respected at all times.

Quarantine Learning:

Content for quarantined students will be available in Schoology and/or given to parents within 24 hours of a student being placed in quarantine. Teachers will provide up to five days of work. If requested by parent, a minimum of 20 minutes of direct student contact will be provided per day, during the contractual workday, via Zoom. Teachers and students will not synchronously learn.

Masking:

Inside School Building:

SHSD161 will exercise local control, in alignment with our local policies and procedures. SHSD161 will also be in compliance in the event mandates or laws are imposed on schools during periods of high transmission.

SHSD161 will offer mask optional learning environments when local indicators are met, and in accordance with our Opening Plans and Board of Education Policies. SHSD161 is supportive of any individual's choice to mask or unmask during low, moderate, or substantial periods of transmission. During periods of high transmission, masking will be required.

SHSD161 strongly recommends that masks be worn by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully up to date on vaccines and for 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.

High transmission universal masking exemptions include:

Summit Hill School District 161

- 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.
- 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.

Again, during high transmission periods, 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 also 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

Summit Hill School District 161

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.

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

Summit Hill School District 161

- 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...

- 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. Additionally, air purifiers for classroom spaces will be provided when requested and possible.
- Maximize the amount of outdoor air brought into the building, weather dependent

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. 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. A 90-day commitment is required. 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

Mitigation Guidance				
	Low Transmission	Moderate Transmission	Substantial Transmission	High Transmission

Summit Hill School District 161

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 for COVID positive and symptomatic individuals	Quarantine for COVID positive and symptomatic individuals	Quarantine for COVID positive and symptomatic individuals	Quarantine per IDPH recommendation.
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.
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

Summit Hill School District 161

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>

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