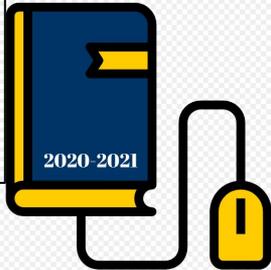




Tentative Return to School Plans for 2021-22



Back to School in U-46



De Regreso a Clases en U-46

July 19, 2021

Instructional Model

- Pursuant to May 19, 2021, Declaration by the Illinois State Board of Education, we have been preparing for in-person learning for full days, each student attendance day.
- Students who qualified for the remote learning option due to inability to get a vaccination and have an underlying health concern will be addressed as follows.
 - Elementary - Similar to homebound/hospital instruction with students grouped into small multi-grade sections of 2-5 students and assigned a Distance Learning teacher.
 - Middle and high school - APEX (online learning system) will be used with dedicated staff for students attending online.

The New Guidance

Caveat: IDPH and ISBE are expected to release updated FAQs that may impact our tentative plans

Illinois Adopts CDC Guidance for Schools

“Our goal is to protect the health of students, teachers, and staff so that in-person learning can resume as safely as possible,” said IDPH Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike. “The CDC is right: vaccination is the best preventative strategy. As school board members, parents, teachers and superintendents plan for a return to in-person learning in the fall, we strongly encourage those who are not vaccinated to continue to mask.”

Both CDC and IDPH guidance issued on July 9, 2021.

CDC Guidance

- Masks should be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated.
- Maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms, combined with indoor mask wearing by people who are not fully vaccinated, to reduce transmission risk. When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, such as when schools cannot fully re-open while maintaining these distances, it is especially important to layer multiple other prevention strategies, such as indoor masking.

CDC Guidance

- Screening testing, ventilation, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick and getting tested, contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation, and cleaning and disinfection are also important layers of prevention to keep schools safe.
- Students, teachers, and staff should stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care.

CDC Guidance

- Many schools serve children under the age of 12 who are not eligible for vaccination at this time. Therefore, this guidance emphasizes implementing layered prevention strategies (e.g., using multiple prevention strategies together consistently) to protect people who are not fully vaccinated, including students, teachers, staff, and other members of their households.

CDC Guidance

- COVID-19 prevention strategies remain critical to protect people, including students, teachers, and staff, who are not fully vaccinated, especially in areas of moderate-to-high community transmission levels.
- Localities should monitor community transmission, vaccination coverage, screening testing, and occurrence of outbreaks to guide decisions on the level of layered prevention strategies (e.g., physical distancing, screening testing).

Quarantine Protocols per CDC

“In the K–12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition **excludes** students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) where:

- both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting masks; and
- other K–12 school prevention strategies (such as universal and correct mask use, physical distancing, increased ventilation) were in place in the K–12 school setting.

This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.”

Exceptions to Quarantine

- People who have been fully vaccinated.
- People who were previously diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last three months.
- Updated guidance on quarantine expected this week from IDPH.

Instruction During Quarantine

Pursuant to the Illinois State Board of Education's May 2021 [Resolution](#):

“Beginning with the 2021-22 school year, all schools must resume fully in-person learning for all student attendance days, provided that, pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/10-30 and 105 ILCS 5/34-18.66, remote instruction be made available for students who are not eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine and are under a quarantine order by a local public health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health.”

We will ensure students who are in quarantine continue to receive access to instruction from their classroom teacher.

Highest Levels of Protection

Lower Levels of Protection



Parents asked (**not required**) to share child's vaccination status (helps avoid quarantine)

Parents of unvaccinated students asked to allow student to participate in regular COVID testing.

Vaccines strongly encouraged

Vaccinations

Pre-K to through age 12 – Masks required until we begin our surveillance testing and have school-by-school data

Students 12+ and Staff- Masks strongly encouraged if not vaccinated.

Masks required while on buses.

Mask Requirements

3 feet to the extent possible plus mask is best strategy.

Our inability to ensure 3 feet of distance in secondary suggests ALL students and staff should be masked pursuant to CDC.

We will strongly encourage mask usage for all, but especially unvaccinated students and staff.

Social Distancing

Screening will be conducted among unvaccinated students (with permissions).

Regular handwashing and respiratory etiquette (cover coughs).

Building cleaning and ventilation.

Stay home when ill

U-46 Layered Prevention Strategies

Screening/Hygiene Etiquette

Vaccination rates in community, among staff, and students.

Community transmission rates.

Reported cases in schools.

Monitor Data

Vaccinations

“Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic.” - Centers for Disease Control guidance

- Parents asked (not required) to share child’s vaccination status which will help with contact tracing and hopefully avoid quarantine.
- Parents of unvaccinated students asked to allow student to participate in regular COVID testing, also to help avoid quarantine.
- Vaccines will continue to be strongly encouraged.

Masks*

- Pre-K to through 6th Grade – Masks will be required until we begin our COVID screening and collection of school-by-school data. **If COVID case data in school demonstrates no transmission, and community cases are low, we can then move to masks being strongly encouraged.**
- Middle and High School - Masks strongly encouraged especially for those not fully vaccinated.
- Staff are encouraged to model the appropriate mask usage regardless of vaccination status.
- All passengers and drivers on buses must wear a mask regardless of vaccination status pursuant to CDC and IDPH guidance.
- Bus drivers who are alone on a bus may unmask.

***This is contingent on the Governor's Executive Order 2021-14 effective through July 24, 2021, not being renewed.**

Why the Difference in Mask Protocols?

Elementary (unvaccinated):

- Students not eligible for vaccines, thus CDC emphasizes the need to implement a layered approach.
- Start with masks, social distancing, and other strategies.
- Monitor data and use it to guide decisions regarding lifting or adding prevention strategies.
- Smaller environments and ability to ensure social distance.

Middle and High

- All students eligible for vaccines (except where not advisable due to health condition). Vaccine is best prevention strategy for students 12+.
- Masking will continue to be strongly encouraged, especially among unvaccinated, but not enforced.
- Masks required on buses.
- The size of middle and high schools make enforcement difficult.

Social Distancing

- 3 feet to the extent possible plus mask is best strategy. U-46 has worked at elementary especially to ensure 3 feet to the extent possible.
- 3 feet of social distance in middle and high school is not possible (including lunch, band, and chorus). As such, students and staff should be masked pursuant to CDC. We will strongly encourage mask usage, but not require it.

Screening/Sanitation/Hygiene Etiquette

- Handwashing stations, hand sanitizer, PPE will continue to be available free for students and staff.
- Cleaning and disinfection, and ventilation, protocols in place last year will continue.
- Screening for COVID-19 will be a key strategy to identify cases. Families will be asked to allow their student to participate.

Data Monitoring - An Example

	County Data			
7/9/2021	Test Positivity (target less than 5%)	New Cases Per 100,000	New Cases Reported	Youth Case Increase
Kane	1.9 (minimal)	16 (minimal)	86 (minimal)	13 (minimal)
DuPage	1.4 (minimal)	15 (minimal)	139 (minimal)	23 (minimal)
Cook	1.2 (minimal)	16 (minimal)	407 (moderate)	111 (substantial)
School- or District-Based Data Suggested by CDC				
	Vaccinate Rate of Staff	Vaccination Rate for Eligible Students	Results of SHIELD/COVID Screening	
	4,734/6,000 Approx. 79%	TBD	TBD	

Other Provisions

- 1) Decisions to remove prevention strategies will be driven by data (if transmission is low across our communities, vaccination is high, and surveillance in schools finds no cases)
- 2) No self-certification for students or staff and no temperature checks; however, parents/staff should monitor symptoms and remain home when sick, and report COVID symptoms to the school.
- 3) Continued contact tracing (why it helps if we know who is vaccinated).
- 4) Quarantine will still be necessary if a student has COVID, or presents symptoms of COVID. Students in quarantine will receive daily instruction from their teacher(s) pursuant to ISBE declaration.

Other Provisions

- 5) Occupancy on buses will not be limited (but masks must be worn).
- 6) Food service will proceed with social distancing to the extent possible, but not with six feet of social distance.
- 7) Until further notice, visitors will be discouraged. Appointments will need to be made in advance.
- 8) Masks will be required by visitors to schools.
- 9) Facility rentals will continue to be declined until further notice.
- 10) Local field trips will resume to the extent possible when guidelines can be met; alternate experiences (virtual) also possible.

Timeline

7/9/21 - Updated CDC/IDPH Guidance

7/19/21 - Tonight's Update to Board

Week of 7/19/21 - Share our layered mitigation strategies with all families

Between 7/26 and 8/9 - Parents to be notified of process to share child vaccination status and/or authorize child to be included in COVID screening

Between 7/19 and 8/9 - Determination of plans for middle and high school athletic competitions and audience participation.

8/9/21 - Update to Board of Education

8/16/21 - First Day of School K-12!

