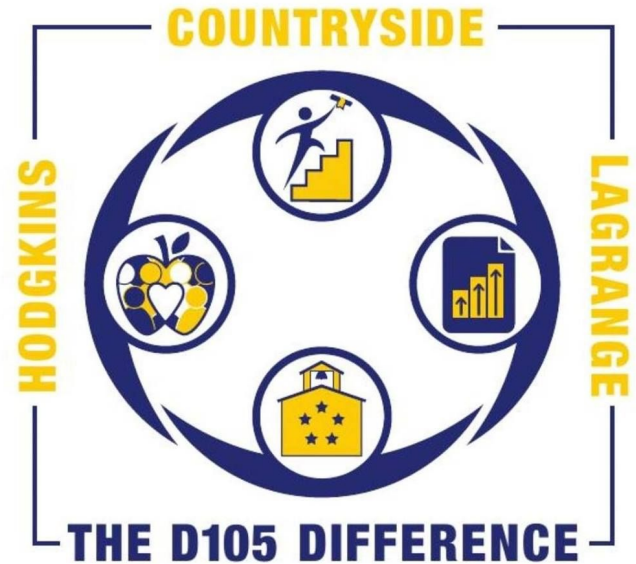


2021-2022
Safe Schooling Plan
Draft

School Board
Meeting
July 26, 2021



Full-In Person Learning Model

- Students will return to a full in-person learning model on August 25th.
 - Remote Instruction:
 - Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) declaration:
 - 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 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.***
 - Please contact Shelby Raney, Lead District Nurse, if your child has a medical contraindication to in-person learning despite mitigation measures in place.

How Will the Classroom and Instruction be Impacted?

Classroom Arrangement

Due to the existing health mitigations that are still needed, the classroom arrangement will continue to look different than what would be seen in a non-pandemic school year as every effort will be made to distance individuals by 3 feet or more.

Tables may be used as long as students are seated at least three feet apart.

We will no longer require the self-certification daily form (MyMedBot), temperature checks at school, or use of desk shields throughout the day. Desk shields may be used during lunch.

How Does my Child Connect to the Classroom when Absent?

COVID-19 Related Absences (limited to positive COVID-19 test result, close contact (quarantine), COVID-like symptoms/awaiting ability to meet IDPH return to school criteria/household contacts required to remain home while symptomatic individual awaits ability to meet IDPH return to school criteria)

If a student is required to remain at home due to COVID-19 related absences, as listed above, they will continue to connect with classroom learning. Within 24 hours of the initial absence, classroom teachers will provide the student with the necessary classroom resources to remain engaged with their learning.

*More information will be communicated in the next couple weeks via the Curriculum Department.

How Does my Child Connect to the Classroom when Absent-continued

What if my student is absent for a reason other than the specific COVID-19 related absences listed above?

Similar to how these type of absences would be addressed in a non-pandemic year, students will have access to assignments made available on Seesaw and/or Google Classroom but will not have direct access to the classroom via Zoom/Google Meets. In doing so, our teachers are able to remain focused on the students that are physically in the classroom and any students experiencing a COVID-19 related absence.

Student Services

Special Education and Related Services:

Students who receive special education and/or related services will continue to receive the services documented on their Individualized Educational Program (IEP). Case managers will communicate any schedule changes to parents/guardians.

English Language Learners (EL) and Advanced Academics (AAD):

Students receiving EL and/or advanced academics services will be supported similarly to how they received services prior to the pandemic.

Health and Safety

We are awaiting additional guidance from our public health authorities. When the handbook is released, it will include information on the following topics:

- When to keep students home from school
- IDPH requirements for return to school after COVID-19 related absence
- Positive COVID-19 test results
- Close contacts at school and quarantine
- Close contacts outside school and quarantine
- Social/physical distancing
- Face coverings/masks
- COVID-19 Testing/Screening Programs
- Student illness at school
- Visitors
- Shared objects
- PPE/Hygiene
- Communication
- Travel
- Vaccine Information
- Public health structure/resources

Lunch

Still waiting for specific guidance.

Ventilation

- All District 105 school buildings have ventilation and control systems which are designed to filter, circulate, and condition the air automatically, and are designed to meet all codes and regulations.
- In addition, room air filters/purifiers will continue to be placed in rooms to supplement the existing system.
- If there is a problem with the classroom HVAC system, or the temperature/humidity of the classroom appears to be outside of normal conditions, staff will contact Eric Bryant or your head custodian, to have this resolved.

Bus Procedures

All bus riders will be assigned seats by their principal. We will have one student to a seat; siblings will sit together on one assigned bench seat.

Students will be asked to sit next to the window, which will facilitate social distancing.

Until further notice, all students must wear masks while riding on the bus. Students will follow expectations set by their principal.

Update on CDC/IDPH Close Contact Definition

Update on Quarantine

- Close contacts to individuals infected with COVID-19 continue to be required to remain at home and away from others in quarantine (unless they are fully vaccinated or were previously diagnosed with COVID-19 within the past 3 months).
- CDC Definition of Close Contact:
 - Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, *three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes*).
 - CDC Exception for the indoor K-12 Classroom*: close contact definition *excludes* students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student where:
 - both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting masks; *and*
 - other K–12 school prevention strategies were in place in the K–12 school setting.

*This exception may not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting and would not apply to Preschool students. It may not apply in other areas of the school such as lunch, PE, or extracurricular activities.

Update on Quarantine Length

CDC, IDPH, and CCDPH continue to recommend a 14-day quarantine.

A shortened quarantine of 10 days has been approved for students/staff by IDPH and CCDPH as below:

- The individual may end quarantine after day 10 if no symptoms of COVID-19 have developed during daily monitoring.
- The individual can maintain social distancing* and masking at all times when returning to school. *For classrooms where **masking is strictly adhered to**, social distance of 3 to 6 feet is acceptable for return.
- COVID-19 PCR testing is strongly recommended prior to ending quarantine.

Shortened quarantine would be allowed in grades K-8 only. Preschool would require 14-day quarantine. A 14-day quarantine may also be needed on a case-by-case basis (e.g. student unable to comply with strict adherence to masking, staff member with responsibilities that require distance less than 3 feet)

COVID Screening/Testing

- The District will utilize the SHIELD Illinois (state approved) RT-PCR saliva test to screen consenting unvaccinated individuals once per week.
 - Collection will occur at school. Large tubes and funnels will be used to make collection much easier than with our last program.
 - no cost to district
- The District will offer the BinaxNOW (*state approved*) diagnostic test for symptomatic individuals
 - no cost to district

Masking: IDPH/CDC Guidance

- Masks **should** be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated.
- Consistent mask use by people who are not fully vaccinated is especially important indoors and in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- “Schools should work with local public health officials, consistent with applicable laws and regulations, including those related to privacy, to determine the prevention strategies needed in their area by monitoring levels of community transmission (i.e., low, moderate, substantial, or high).”
- If school districts decide to remove any of the prevention strategies based on local conditions, they should remove them one at a time and monitor closely (with adequate testing through the school and/or community) for any increases in COVID-19 cases.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

IDPH Guidance Just Released Late This Afternoon

Who should wear masks in schools?

Masks for unvaccinated persons are the most effective measure to prevent transmission. The CDC strongly recommends that masks should be worn by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated when indoors and when in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated, particularly in areas of substantial to high transmission. Consistent and correct mask use by people who are not fully vaccinated is especially important indoors and in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained, as well as in schools where students are not eligible for vaccination.

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:af2a8a2e-e433-4fd6-9c77-9c2a0cda264d>

American Academy of Pediatrics Guidance

- All students older than 2 years and all school staff **should** wear face masks at school (unless medical or developmental conditions prohibit use).
 - The AAP recommends **universal masking** in school at this time for the following reasons:
 - a significant portion of the student population is not vaccine eligible.
 - for the protection of unvaccinated students from COVID-19
 - To reduce transmission
 - difficulty in monitoring vaccine status
 - difficulty in monitoring or enforcing mask policies for those who are not vaccinated.
 - possibility of low vaccination uptake within the surrounding school community
 - continued concerns for variants that are more easily spread among children, adolescents, and adults.

Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) Guidance

“It is the strong recommendation of the Cook County Department of Public Health that all schools implement the layered mitigation strategies to prevent COVID-19 transmission that have been recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in its Guidance for K-12 Schools and adopted by the Illinois Department of Public Health. The Cook County Department of Public Health also fully endorses the CDC recommendations”.

Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) Guidance (con't)

- “The expectation is that schools will follow the CDC masking guidance, with all unvaccinated individuals masked consistently and correctly. CCDPH encourages schools to take the stricter approach of following the guidelines issued by the American Academy of Pediatrics requiring all individuals older than age 2 who can medically tolerate face coverings to wear masks, regardless of vaccination status”.
- **“The use of “should” in the guidance does not imply that a strategy is optional”.**

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:0ec53059-7764-4cc0-869d-bc6614cb5588>

<https://cookcountypublichealth.org/2021/07/23/cook-county-department-of-public-health-guidance-for-suburban-cook-county-school-districts/>

Still Awaiting Important Guidance

- **Wednesday is when the current extension of the Disaster Proclamation expires. If the Governor allows it to lapse, then it is my understanding that all decisions will become under local control. If he extends the proclamation, we will be looking to IDPH for guidance.**
- **According to multiple report, ISBE and IDPH are expected to release additional guidance and a joint statement with regard to masking in schools in the near future.**

Considerations

CDC & IDPH Guidance

While requiring unvaccinated students and staff to wear a mask would be the stance most consistent with the CDC/IDPH recommendation, it is important to note that CDC/IDPH guidance was written with every school district in the country as the intended audience, which does not allow the recommendations to be specific to the conditions of individual communities. For this reason, the CDC and IDPH provided the ability for school districts to make a local decision based on current community metrics.

Some Impacts of Masking:

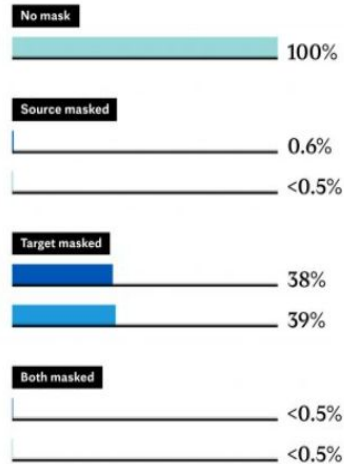
- Reduced risk of transmitting the COVID from one person to another
- Reduced risk of close contact quarantine
- Increased difficulty reading facial expressions and emotional cues
- Face masks may impair verbal and non-verbal communication

Mayo Clinic research confirms critical role of masks in preventing COVID-19 infection

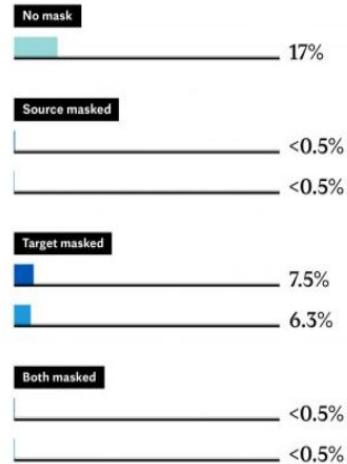
November 24, 2020

NO MASK DISPOSABLE MASK FABRIC MASK

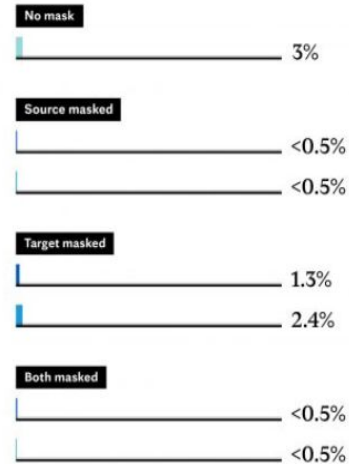
1-foot distance



3-foot distance



6-foot distance



Source = person with active COVID-19

<https://newsnetwork.mayoclinic.org/discussion/mayo-clinic-research-confirms-critical-role-of-masks-in-preventing-covid-19-infection/>

Board Discussion: Options to Start the Year

At this point in time, masking protocols to be considered:

- ❑ **Mandatory masking for all students and staff**
- ❑ **Mandatory masking** for all unvaccinated staff and students (require proof of vaccination?)
- ❑ **Recommended masking** for all unvaccinated staff and students. (Masks would be optional).
- ❑ Recommended masking if **paired with weekly surveillance testing at a high participation level.**
- ❑ **Hybrid approach**
 - ❑ Recommended masking when students are seated at their desks and able to maintain 3+ feet of social distancing
 - ❑ Mandatory masking for unvaccinated students if they will be in close proximity (<3 feet) of each other.
- ❑ **Tiered approach**
 - ❑ **Mandatory masking** for all unvaccinated staff and students to start the school year
 - ❑ Transition to **recommended masking** for all unvaccinated staff and students at some point in fall after assessing local community metrics.

*Medical Advisory Team supports starting the year requiring unvaccinated individuals wearing masks.

Next Steps

In the weeks ahead, D105 will:

- await additional guidance
- monitor our local COVID metrics
- continue to consult with public health authorities
- keep current with legal guidance

A plan regarding masking and the specifics of other preventative strategies will be communicated to staff and families within the first couple weeks of August.

It is very important to note that regardless of the recommended plan to start the school year, all preventive measures and mitigation strategies are subject to change at any point in response to local health metrics, vaccination availability, health department guidance, etc.