

Appendix A: Students and Staff COVID-19 Safety Protocols (Revised August 24, 2022)

Entering into the 2022-23 school year the safety, health and well-being of our students, staff, and visitors while providing a first-class education remains our top priority.

Note: The protocols outlined in this guide are based on guidance from the CDC, Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), the Illinois Department of Health (IDPH) and the Winnebago County Health Department (WCHD) and are subject to change as guidelines evolve.

On February 25, 2022 the CDC announced that effective on February 28, 2022, that masks will no longer be universally required in school settings.

The major elements of the updated guidance from CDC and ISBE include:

- **Masking will be optional**
- **We strongly encourage students and staff who prefer to wear a mask continue to do so**
- **Masking is “strongly recommended” during high community levels**

Masking will be required:

- **When required by state and local authorities**
- **For students and staff who are returning from isolation after a positive COVID test until they have passed 10 days since the onset of symptoms**
- **Individuals who are identified as “close contacts” of a COVID positive person will have to mask for 10 days following their exposure**
- **If there are 3 or more cases of COVID in the school universal masking will be required throughout the school for at least 10 days after the last positive result**
- Screening testing, ventilation, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick and getting tested, contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation, and cleaning/disinfection are important layers of prevention to keep everyone safe.
- This guidance is subject to change pursuant to changing public health conditions and updates from the CDC.

Parent and Visitor Requirements

- Administrative clearance will be required for any classroom or school visitors.
- All individuals will be subject to the COVID-19 symptom screening as stated in the student and staff entry protocol.

Arrival

- Staff, students, and visitors/volunteers will be required to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to reporting to school each day.
- It is important to note, students will not be penalized for missing school and are encouraged to stay home when not feeling well.

- Families should NOT send their student to school if they suspect that the student (or a close family member) has been exposed to COVID-19.
- **Regardless of vaccination status, the school's best defense against COVID-19 is cooperation and commitment from our staff and families to remain home if any of the following symptoms are present:**

COVID-19 Symptoms for screening

- **Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit**
 - **Cough**
 - **Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing**
 - **Chills**
 - **Muscle or body aches**
 - **Headache**
 - **New loss of taste or smell**
 - **Sore throat**
 - **Congestion or runny nose**
 - **Nausea or vomiting**
 - **Diarrhea**
 - **Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19**
- Students and staff with any of the following symptoms referenced above, regardless of vaccination status, must remain home until tested: families and staff should report possible cases to the school to initiate contact tracing.
 - For health and safety reasons, the school is responsible for tracking which students are in the building on any given day.

COVID-19 Interim Isolation and Quarantine Guidance for Spectrum School:

If You Test Positive for COVID-19 (Isolate)

1. Isolate for 5 days from onset of symptoms
2. Can return after 5 days AND if 24 hours with no fever (without fever-reducing medication) and improvement of symptoms AND consistent masking through day 10

If You Were Exposed to Someone with COVID-19

1. Mask for 10 days following the exposure
2. If you develop symptoms, get a test and stay home
3. Test 5 full days following exposure

- If a student presents with symptoms at school, the student's parent(s) will be contacted. The student will be separated from their peers into an isolation space in the building and should be picked up within 30 minutes and no later than 1 hour from the time contact has been made to the parent(s)
- Staff members displaying symptoms will follow the same protocols including isolation from students and other staff members until they are fever-free (without fever-reducing medication) and symptom-free for 24 hours

Daily School Cleaning

- Each classroom and restroom will be disinfected frequently throughout the day,
- Increased disinfecting efforts will be used on all high touch areas
 - Countertops
 - Tabletops
 - Door handles
 - Handrails
 - Light switches
 - Restroom fixtures
- Staff will have access to disinfectant wipes to sanitize working surfaces and shared objects after each use and during breaks in instruction.
- Common spaces will be disinfected frequently throughout the day,

Handwashing and Sanitizing

- Hand washing and sanitizing will be encouraged at all times during the day
- Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms, office, and common areas.
- Before or after meals
- After washroom breaks
- After sneezing and coughing, or blowing your nose
- After touching frequently touched surfaces (door knobs, handrails, etc.)

Signage and Markers

- Signage will be posted in all classrooms, office areas, and common areas regarding health protocols and hygiene.
- Multiple locations of hand sanitizer, tissues, and disinfectant wipes will be available in several locations to limit student and staff movement.

Lunch

- Students must bring their own healthy snack and lunch from home.
- Food cannot be shared.
- Classroom tables used for lunch will be cleaned and disinfected after eating prior to resuming classroom activities.

Bathrooms

- Bathrooms will be cleaned and sanitized throughout the day, with physical dividers between sinks and urinals and no touch dispensers for drying towels
- Two people at a time will be allowed in the restrooms

Water

- Every child should bring a labeled water bottle filled every day. A refill station is available
- To limit the number of people in contact with the refill stations, staff and/or volunteers will refill student water bottles

Dismissal

- Parents picking up students during the day will call ahead so that students can be sent to the office or accompanied to parent vehicles
- Sibling connections will be done outside the building