



2022-23 School Opening Plan-DRAFT

Introduction

District 28 developed this school reopening plan in collaboration with the other township school districts and updated Guidance of Schools on the Prevention of COVID-19 issued on June 23 and July 5 by the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Public Health. The district reserves the right to update protocols and policies as warranted throughout the school year.

Defining Transmission

The community-level transmission levels as [defined by the CDC](#) will be used to guide mitigation strategies. The CDC community-level transmission rate includes local cases, hospitalizations and hospital beds occupied by COVID-19 patients. If the community level changes to high, the district may change mitigation and safety practices.

Prevention

The district will continue to follow prevention strategies that remain important in protecting students, staff and community members as identified by the CDC, IDPH and Cook County Department of Public Health, including:

- enhanced ventilation and filtration;
- handwashing and respiratory etiquette;
- cleaning and disinfecting;
- encouraging students and staff to stay up to date on vaccinations;
- having students and staff stay home when sick and get tested,
- isolation for positive cases,
- quarantine for close contacts, and
- contact tracing when possible in coordination with IDPH and CCDPH guidance.

SHIELD At-Home Testing

District 28 will offer voluntary take-home SHIELD tests for students. Students will bring home the test kits for specimen collection and then drop in collection boxes on the

designated day. Lab results will be available in 24 to 48 hours. This new procedure will be less disruptive to the instructional day while still providing continued security to our District 28 families and staff. Specific instructions on administering the test will be forthcoming.

Social Distancing

The district will balance the benefits of effective learning environments with student and staff mitigation safety measures. The district will return to normal classroom setup and the regular use of cafeterias and gyms. If the area experiences a high transmission period, the district may need to consider other mitigation measures including a return to social distancing and highly recommending the use of face masks.

Face Masks

Face masks remain optional for anyone who wishes to wear them. Schools no longer require universal face masks while the community-level transmission is low or medium as [defined by the CDC](#). If the community level changes, the district may again require face masks. Masks are required, however, in health offices of schools.

Quarantine & Isolation

The [What to do if...](#) diagram illustrates the decision tree for quarantine and isolation.

Staff or students who test positive for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, should isolate for 5 days after onset of symptoms, or from the specimen collection date if no symptoms are present.

This practice aligns with CDC guidance for P-12 schools. People who are in isolation should separate from others or wear a well-fitting mask when they need to be around others. People in isolation should stay in a specific room or area and use a separate bathroom if available.

Staff or students may return to school after five days if asymptomatic or fever-free without medication for 24 hours, diarrhea/vomiting have ceased for 24 hours, and other symptoms have improved.

Anyone who continues to have a fever or whose other symptoms have not improved after 5 days of isolation should wait to end isolation until they are fever-free without medication for 24 hours and their other symptoms have improved.

To calculate the 5-day isolation period, day 0 is the first day of symptoms or specimen collection date if asymptomatic.

All Staff or students returning after 5 days must:

- wear a well-fitting mask around others while indoors for 9 additional days after release from isolation; and
- when masks are removed to consume food, maintain a minimum of 6 feet from others.

Staff will continue to receive COVID-19 leave as granted by the State of Illinois.

When Quarantine Is Not Required

Students under 18 who have received their primary series of vaccines and vaccinated individuals over 18 years old who are [up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines](#) are not required to quarantine due to close contact. However, students who are identified as close contacts are recommended to:

- get tested (using an at-home or PCR test) on or after day 5 from exposure unless symptoms develop; and
- wear a mask around others for 14 days while indoors.

Individuals who have tested positive in the last 90 days are not required to quarantine or test unless they develop symptoms. It is highly recommended that they wear a mask for 14 days while indoors around others.

When Quarantine Is Required

Students or staff who are not fully vaccinated and vaccinated individuals 18 and older who are not [up to date on their COVID vaccines](#) are required to quarantine for close contact. The quarantine must be at least 5 days after exposure to someone diagnosed with COVID-19. They may return to school on day 6 under the following guidelines:

- remain asymptomatic;
- provide a negative home test or one negative PCR test within 24 hours of administration of the test on day 5 of exposure; and
- wear a mask while indoors around others for 9 additional days. Students and staff must maintain a distance of at least 6 feet before removing their masks to eat.

Those who do not or cannot wear a face mask should quarantine for 14 days. Those who test positive or develop symptoms should isolate and follow recommendations for isolation. The district will provide remote learning for any student who is under isolation or quarantine for COVID-19.

Remote Learning During Quarantine

Please review the [expectations for remote learning](#) when children are quarantined.

Monitoring

An ad hoc committee of staff, nurses and administrators will review the updated guidance and review the district's response to community-level transmission, making recommendations when warranted.

COVID Dashboard

The District 28 COVID Dashboard is updated daily when school is in session. Daily emails reporting case numbers to parents and staff will be suspended. A link to the dashboard will be shared in the weekly school newsletters.

Travel Guidance

Please review travel guidelines for domestic and international travel for vaccinated and unvaccinated students.

Visitors

Vaccination is the current leading public health prevention strategy to prevent adverse outcomes related to COVID-19. The state guidelines continue to require school personnel to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or submit to weekly testing.

Northfield Township is part of a Cook County region designated by the CDC. As long as a low or medium transmission level is maintained, volunteers who come to school will be allowed in the schools:

- who are fully vaccinated or
- can produce an at-home negative test within 24 hours of coming to school or
- a negative PCR test within the last 72 hours.

Please show a photo of the test results when signing in at school. If the transmission level moves to moderate or high, this modification will be rescinded and reverted. Community Testing Sites

The Cook County Department of Public Health provides an updated list of community testing sites that are open to all regardless of symptoms and do not require an appointment.