

NORTHBROOK SCHOOL DISTRICT



Teaching Learning Caring

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July 12, 2021

Dear District 28 families:

Recently released guidelines are bringing into clearer focus what next year will look like for students and staff. While the District 28 leadership team continues to work out details, I want to share some key points with you today.

The Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Public Health on Friday released **partial guidance** for the 2021-22 school year, reinforcing recommendations outlined by the Centers for Disease Control, including:

- All schools must resume fully in-person learning for all attendance days. Exceptions will be granted only to students who are required to quarantine as allowed by state guidelines.
- Physical distancing should be at least 3 feet whenever possible, combined with mask-wearing by individuals who are not fully vaccinated to reduce transmission risk.
- Quarantine will be required for close contacts unless the individual is fully vaccinated and is asymptomatic. The state is reviewing physical distancing requirements for this guideline.

Voluntary Testing Program

The district leadership team is evaluating a voluntary weekly saliva testing program for unvaccinated students and staff. A testing program would eliminate quarantine for tested individuals who are close contacts but have no symptoms. We are awaiting further information from IDPH.

Face Mask Policy

We are also working to determine if it is feasible to allow vaccinated students the option to forgo wearing masks. In order to do so, the district would need to verify student vaccination status at the junior high where there will be a mix of students who are vaccinated and unvaccinated. Since the vaccine is currently only available to children age 12 and older, all of our younger students will be required to wear masks indoors. Beyond that, no final decisions have been made regarding mask requirements for vaccinated individuals.

Vaccination Survey

To help us gauge the vaccination rate among our eligible students, if you have children 12 years or older, please complete a brief survey for each child after you have finished reading this letter. [Click to complete the survey.](#)

Vaccinations Available

If your child is eligible for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine but has not yet received one, the following dates apply in order to be fully vaccinated by the first day of school:

- first dose by Saturday, July 17
- second dose on Saturday, August 7
- fully vaccinated 10 days after the second dose: Wednesday, Aug. 18

Vaccinations are available on a walk-in basis at many local pharmacies or find a location through the [IDPH website](#). Please check for availability and if appointments are necessary.

More Information to Follow

As has been the case throughout the pandemic, we continue to monitor local health conditions as we identify appropriate health and safety protocols. Thankfully, COVID infections have remained low. Local rates continue to be monitored on the [Northfield Township COVID-19 Elementary School Local Public Health Dashboard](#).

The guidance released last Friday will help shape our plans for August. However the IDPH guidelines are incomplete, and they will be issuing additional updates as the summer progresses. Therefore, not every detail is yet worked out and more information will be forthcoming as we prepare for the new school year.

Please enjoy your time this summer, and we look forward to opening school with a greater sense of normalcy.

Sincerely,

Larry Hewitt, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools