

DIXON PUBLIC SCHOOLS #170

"A Place to Grow"

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2022-2023 Return to Learning Plan

DPS #170

August 10, 2022

We were notified that school districts in Illinois are still required to approve a Return to Learning Plan in order to remain eligible for ESSER funding. Dixon Unit School District #170's plan is modified from last year since masking is now optional and quarantine days are currently down to five (5) calendar days.

Below are the goals and expectations for students and staff for the 2022-2023 school year. Please note that the recommendations below are subject to change as additional guidance and recommendations are provided by the CDC, State of Illinois, Illinois Department of Public Health, and the Lee County Health Department.

Goals for the Plan for Return to Safe In-Person Learning:

- Maintaining the health and safety of our students and staff is our primary goal in our Return to Learning Plan.
- Limit the risk of exposure by following CDC/IDPH/LCHD guidance in conjunction with local health data.
- Limit the risk of liability and financial loss as a result of not following the state guidance.
- Conduct a normal school year for students and staff in a safe and orderly environment.

Expectations for the 2022-2023 school year:

Masking:

- Masking is optional for staff, students, and visitors to buildings.
- Masking on buses is optional for students and staff.
- Students in middle and high school who participate in extra-curricular activities will follow IHSA/IDPH COVID protocols and guidelines. At this time, there are no specific

protocols or guidelines in place. The District will be monitoring this website for updates.
<https://www.ihsa.org/Resources/COVID-19>

Physical Distancing:

To the extent possible, school staff are to help students commit to physical distancing as much as possible by:

- Arranging furniture, play spaces and materials to model and reinforce physical distancing of at least 3 feet when possible.
- Providing assigned seating for students and encourage students to remain in these seats.
- Developing paths of travel in classrooms and corridors if warranted.

Physical distancing measures, when done, will be conducted in an equitable manner that does not perpetuate academic, racial, or other tracking.

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette:

School staff will monitor, teach and reinforce frequent handwashing and respiratory etiquette by:

- Continuing to teach or remind students about handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Assisting young children with handwashing.
- Reminding everyone in the facility to wash hands frequently.
- Utilizing hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol (for teachers, staff, and students who can safely use hand sanitizer) when hand washing is not possible.
- Continuing to teach respiratory etiquette (e.g., covering coughs and sneezes).
- Providing adequate handwashing and hand sanitizer supplies that are safely stored (up, away, and out of sight of young children and used only with adult supervision for children under 6 years of age).

Facility and Transportation Cleaning, Disinfection and Ventilation:

- School custodial staff and transportation staff will continue to clean surfaces daily. To further reduce the risk of spreading infection, these staff will also use disinfectants on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency COVID “List N” to disinfect spaces occupied by someone who tested positive for COVID within the last 24 hours.

- Custodial/Maintenance staff will continue to regularly replace school ventilation system filters by using high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters. The ventilation system in all Dixon Public Schools have been updated due to the renovation that was done during the past few years.
- When appropriate, staff can open doors and windows, use child-safe fans, and have activities and/or classes outdoors.
- When it does not pose a safety risk, transportation staff will keep vehicle windows open at least a few inches to improve air circulation.

Contact Tracing/Isolation/Quarantine:

- Students and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as influenza (flu) or COVID, should stay home and contact their healthcare provider for testing and care, and are to follow the CDC guidelines to determine when they can return to school.
- Individuals in our school environments who show symptoms of COVID are to immediately report to or be escorted to the nurse's office to be evaluated by the school nurse. Individuals will be evaluated while awaiting pickup.
- Parents should ensure that ill students are picked up from school within 30 minutes (or as soon as possible) after being notified. Ill students will not be allowed to utilize the school bus to return home. To facilitate a COVID diagnosis and inform the need for isolation, a rapid COVID test can be administered on site **only with parental consent.**
- Students and staff who are not fully vaccinated should quarantine after a recent exposure to someone with COVID. Exposure is defined as 15 minutes of contact within a 24 hours period within a 6-foot radius of the person testing positive for COVID.
- Fully vaccinated people who were in close contact with someone who has COVID but **DO NOT** have COVID symptoms do not need to quarantine or be tested. Proof of being fully vaccinated must be presented to the school nurse in order to avoid being quarantined. **If someone cannot or refuses to present proof of being fully vaccinated, then they will be required to quarantine.**
- Student absences related to a COVID isolation or quarantine will be recorded as excused. To ensure continuity of services, school work missed during such an absence can be requested and made up in accordance with the school's policy; social, emotional, mental health, or other needs will be provided in accordance with a student's IEP or 504 Plan. Parents of students who have social, emotional, mental health, or other needs outside of an IEP or 504 Plan should contact their child's principal to discuss needs. Quarantine

instruction will only be made available for students who are under quarantine as directed by the local health department, the Illinois Department of Public Health, or their personal physician.

- Students who are quarantined as a result of COVID will receive quarantine learning services. However, quarantine learning services WILL NOT consist of five hours of instruction. They will follow the Quarantine Protocols established by grade levels.
- To the extent allowable by privacy laws and other applicable laws, school health care professionals will continue to collaborate with the Lee County Health Department officials to confidentially provide information about people diagnosed with or exposed to COVID, including making notifications to staff and parents as soon as possible regarding those who were in close contact of someone in the school who tested positive for COVID.
- The school's health care professional will inform the school community of outbreaks while maintaining student and staff confidentiality rights.
- Following quarantine, students and staff returning from illness related to COVID are to call to check in with the school's health care professional.

QUARANTINE LENGTHS:

The CDC currently recommends a quarantine period of five (5) days for vaccinated or unvaccinated individuals. The local health department will make the final determination on who is to be quarantined and for how long.

Symptom Based Strategy: Quarantine at home for five (5) calendar days and a maximum of 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared. Students and staff must be fever free without fever-reducing medication for 24 hours. Vomiting and diarrhea need to have ceased for 24 hours. COVID symptoms have improved. When returning to school, mask wearing is encouraged but not required. When calculating the date to return, the date of last exposure is considered day 0.

Test-Based Strategy: Students and staff experiencing symptoms of COVID may return after receiving a negative COVID test (PCR, Rapid Antigen, or Home Test) within 48 hours after symptom onset. Symptoms need to be improved or resolved and the criteria to return is met.

Alternative Cause Strategy: Students and staff may return after receiving a doctor's note diagnosing an alternative illness which confirms there is no suspicion for COVID, and the criteria to return is met.

Monitoring can be conducted using any method acceptable by the local public health authorities and could include self-monitoring using an approved checklist of signs and symptoms, direct contact daily by the public health department, or automated communications.

Screening Testing:

At any time, parents can request COVID-19 screening testing for their students by contacting the school's health care professional.

At any time, a staff member can request COVID-19 screening testing by contacting the school's health care professional.

Dixon Public Schools will continue to offer Binax Testing (Antigen Testing).

Vaccination:

The District will work with the Lee County Health Department and other health care professionals to provide vaccine clinic information to students, parents, and staff. Vaccine information will be promoted via our District website and via our social media sites.

Disabilities or Other Health Care Needs:

Parents of students who need accommodations, modifications, or assistance related to COVID safety protocols, disabilities, underlying medical conditions, or weakened immune systems should contact their student's case manager to discuss the need(s).

Staff members who need accommodations, modifications, or assistance related to COVID safety protocols, disabilities, underlying medical conditions, weakened immune systems, or a sincerely held religious belief or practice (covered by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964) should contact their school's principal to discuss the need(s). Staff members with weakened immune systems are advised to contact their healthcare professional about the need for continued personal protective measures after vaccination.

Collaboration with Public Health Officials:

District officials will continue to collaborate and consult with Lee County Health Department officials on various logistics and decision-making including, but not limited to, school health and safety protocols, screening testing, and vaccine clinics.

Doctor's Notes: Students who receive a doctor's note related to learning will receive five (5) hours of tutoring per week in addition to following our quarantine protocols.

Plan Review:

This plan will be reviewed as needed upon receiving updated guidance from LCHD, IDPH, ISBE, and the CDC and revised as appropriate after seeking Board, public, and legal input. Revisions will address the most recently updated safety recommendations by the CDC, provided in an alternative format accessible to parents who are individuals with a disability as defined by the ADA, and made publicly available on the district's website.

(Approved by the DPS #170 Board of Education on 8/10/22)