

Mahomet-Seymour CUSD #3

Opening Plan for 2021-2022 School Year



THIS PLAN IS TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED UPON CHANGING GUIDANCE/AND OR MANDATES FROM CDC/IDPH/ISBE.

UPDATES/CHANGES AS OF AUGUST 4, 2021:

- Universal masking is required for all staff, students and visitors inside of our school buildings effective immediately.
- Masks are also required for indoor athletic activities.
- The mask requirement remains in place for everyone on a school bus.

Other pertinent information related to universal masking:

Per Illinois Department of Public Health and Champaign-Urbana Public Health departments, the following steps can be taken if ALL individuals (both vaccinated and unvaccinated) are masked indoors.

- We can now use **3ft for contact tracing** instead of 6ft
- We can implement **Test to Stay**, which means that a person who is identified as a close contact to a person who tests positive for COVID-19, may test on Days 1, 3, 5 and 7, and may remain in school as long as they remain negative and both individuals were wearing their mask at the time of contact. (this only applies to indoor school exposure, not to household exposures)
- Students engaged in Test to Stay after exposure may continue to participate in Extracurricular activities as long as they remain negative.

- Students do NOT have to wear a mask outdoors, and contact tracing is NOT required for outside activities at this time.

The simple act of wearing a mask at all times while inside all buildings will allow us to employ the strategies listed above, and ensure that students are **able to stay in school and enjoy extracurricular activities**.

In addition to the points listed above, any individual who is fully vaccinated (two weeks after the second dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, or single dose of J&J), does not have to quarantine unless they become symptomatic. If a vaccinated person begins to exhibit symptoms, they should be tested, and if positive, all isolation/quarantine rules will apply.

PLEASE SEE HEALTH PLAN ON WEBSITE.

LAYERED MITIGATION UPDATED:

Promotion of vaccination, recognizing that this is a personal choice.

Universal Masking in school buildings for students, staff and visitors

Staying Home When Sick

Maintain 3 feet of social distancing when possible

Screening/COVID 19 Testing

Hygiene Etiquette

Cleaning Protocols

GOAL:

Returning our students to a full educational experience in the Mahomet-Seymour Schools. This means academically, socially and emotionally, supported by a layered mitigation approach that provides an environment that promotes safety for our students and staff, combined with providing an environment of continuity for our families. This occurs with the understanding that we continue to operate in a fluid environment with the possibility of changing conditions, guidance and mandates.

Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in major upheaval to all aspects of life, including unprecedented school closures and changes in schedules and instruction in the spring and fall of 2020. To open schools for in-person instruction required strict health and safety protocols which created barriers and limitations to teaching and learning. It has been recognized and documented that students across remote and in-person settings faced significant academic, social, emotional, and mental health challenges as a result of the interrupted education and trauma caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pursuant to the May 19, 2021 Resolution passed by the Illinois State Board of Education, we have been preparing for in-person learning for full days, each student attendance day for the 2021-2022 school year.

Upon request, this plan will be provided in an alternative format accessible to parents who are individuals with a disability as defined by the ADA. This plan will also be made publicly available on the district's website.

As we move ahead, the Mahomet-Seymour Schools will continue to monitor the health and well-being of our students and staff as well as community transmission. *We will adjust accordingly if needed, and adjustments could include universal masking.*

School strategies in this plan may be removed or revised based upon:

- Conditions in the schools
- local conditions, levels of community transmission (i.e., low, moderate, substantial, or high)
- local vaccine coverage

- use of screening testing to detect cases in K-12 schools
- consultation with local public health officials to determine the prevention strategies needed.

School officials will communicate any changes in plans to staff members, students, and parents through the district's regular communication platforms.

Maintaining the Health and Safety of Students, Educators, and Other Staff

All Mahomet-Seymour CUSD #3 schools will be open fully for in-person learning for all student attendance days for the 2021-22 school year. Off-campus instruction will only be made available for:

- 1) Non-vaccinated or vaccine ineligible students who are under quarantine as directed by the local health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health.
- 2) Students that are medically unable to attend for an extended period of time will need to follow the procedures for home/hospital services pursuant to [105 ILCS 5/14-13.0](#).

[Home/Hospital Instruction](#)

Resources

Our approach to mitigating risk to our students/staff this fall uses the following resources:

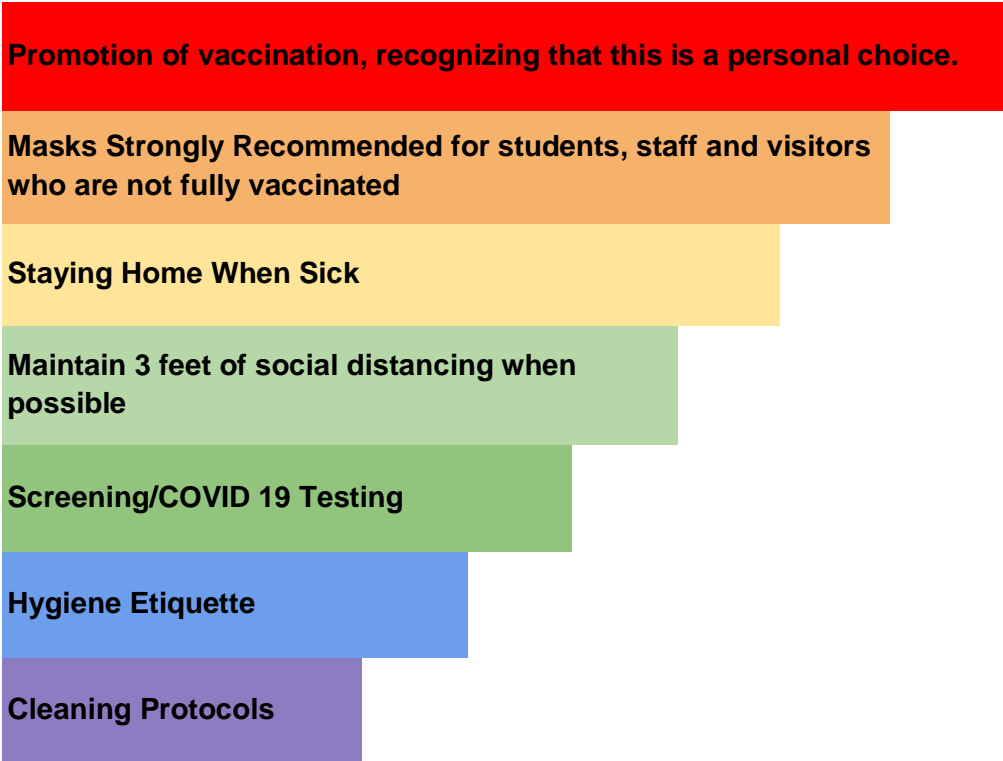
- [Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in Kindergarten-12 Schools](#) - CDC
- [Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in Kindergarten-12 Schools](#) - IDPH
- [Coronavirus Updates and Resources](#)- ISBE

Absent an order from the Illinois State Board of Education and/or the Illinois Governor's Office, Mahomet-Seymour CUSD #3 schools will be in operation in accordance with the CDC's updated (July 9, 2021) *Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in Kindergarten (K)-12 Schools*, also adopted by the IDPH on July 9, 2021.

In following these guidelines, we ensure appropriate adherence to safety protocols while preserving our priorities of providing equitable instruction, safety for students and staff, and supporting our community.

Layered Mitigation

A “layered mitigation plan” is key to this opening plan for the Mahomet-Seymour Schools for the 21-22 school year:



In addition to the mitigation strategies listed above, it is important to continue monitoring data, including conditions in the schools, vaccination rates, community transmission, and reported cases in the Mahomet-Seymour Schools.

Guidelines for following a “layered mitigation” plan for the Mahomet-Seymour Schools, include:

1. Promoting Vaccination

- Working with the CUPHD, COVID-19 vaccination clinics were offered in May and June to eligible recipients. The District nurse will continue to assess the community interest and need and possibly offer future vaccination clinics, especially if vaccinations are approved for those under 12 years of age.
- Respectful of peoples’ varying levels of vaccine confidence, those who want to get vaccinated against COVID-19 can visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to find out where they can get vaccinated in our community.

2. Mask Use--REVISED AS OF AUGUST 4, 2021.

UNIVERSAL MASKING REQUIRED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

- ~~Mask use is strongly recommended indoors for students, staff and visitors who are not fully vaccinated. Mask use is recommended outdoors during activities (e.g., participating in outdoor play, recess, physical education, sports, extra-curriculars) that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated, particularly in areas of substantial to high transmission.~~
- ~~School staff are to model support for and encourage students to be supportive of people who choose a different mask decision than their own.~~
- Please note: Unless exempt by CDC Order, passengers and drivers must wear a mask on school buses.

3. Physical Distancing

To the extent possible within school and classroom structures and so that it does not exclude students from full day in-person learning, school staff are to help students commit to physical distancing as much as possible by implementing the following, if possible:

- arranging furniture, play spaces and naptime materials to model and reinforce physical distancing of at least 3 feet (at least 6 feet for those who are not fully vaccinated) and including movement;
- providing assigned seating for students and encourage students to remain in these seats to the greatest extent possible; and
- developing marked paths of travel in classrooms and corridors.

School staff will maximize physical distance as much as possible when moving through food service lines and while eating indoors. Aside from the cafeteria, additional spaces for mealtime seating could be utilized when available and feasible (e.g., weather permitting). Students and staff who are fully vaccinated do not need to distance while eating.

Physical distancing measures are to be done in an equitable manner that does not perpetuate academic, racial, social economic or other tracking (e.g., separating people into fully vaccinated and non-fully vaccinated cohorts).

4. Hand washing and Respiratory Etiquette

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

- continuing to encourage and teach hand washing for at least 20 seconds with soap and water
- assisting young children with handwashing;
- reminding everyone in the facility to wash hands frequently
- using hand sanitizer

- continuing to teach respiratory etiquette (e.g., covering coughs and sneezes); and
- providing adequate handwashing and hand sanitizer supplies that are safely stored

5. Facility and Transportation Cleaning, Disinfection and Ventilation

- School custodial staff and transportation staff will continue to clean surfaces daily.
- Maintenance staff will continue to regularly replace school ventilation system filters by using MERV-8 filters. Although regular tests indicate a high quality of indoor air in our schools, aged ventilation systems are being replaced by new systems to improve the control and reliability of air circulation.
- When possible and safe, staff will open doors and windows, use child-safe fans, and have some activities, classes, or lunches outdoors when circumstances allow and when appropriate.
- When it does not pose a safety risk, transportation staff will keep vehicle windows open at least a few inches to improve air circulation.

6. Contact Tracing in Combination with Isolation and Quarantine

- Students and staff who have symptoms of any infectious illness, such as influenza (flu) or COVID-19, should stay home and contact their healthcare provider for testing and care.
- Individuals in our school environments who show symptoms of COVID-19 are to immediately report to or be escorted to the school's health care professional's office to be either sent home or be quarantined in the school's supervised safe area while awaiting pickup/evaluation. Students and staff are required to wear masks while in the safe area. Parents should ensure that ill and/or symptomatic students are picked up from school within 30 minutes of being notified. Students who are ill will not be allowed to utilize the school bus to return home. To facilitate COVID-19 diagnosis and inform the need for quarantine of close contacts and

isolation, a rapid COVID-19 test can be administered on site with parental consent.

- Students and staff who are not fully vaccinated must quarantine after a recent exposure to someone with COVID-19. Fully vaccinated people who were in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 but do NOT have COVID-19 symptoms do not need to quarantine or be tested.
- Per CDC Guidelines, in K-12 indoor classroom settings, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3-6 feet of an infected student where:

-----both students were wearing masks

and

-----other prevention strategies such as universal mask wearing and physical distancing and increased ventilation are in place.

This does not apply to teachers, other staff and other adults.

- Student absences related to a COVID-19 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 (refer to student handbook); social, emotional, mental health, or other needs will be provided in accordance with a student's IEP, 504 Plan, or other needs.
- 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. Remote instruction will only be made available for non-vaccinated or vaccine ineligible students who are under quarantine as directed by the local health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health.
- Staff absences related to a COVID-19 isolation or quarantine will be recorded in accordance with the district's sick leave policy and related professional negotiations agreements. To ensure continuity of services, staff members should contact their principals to discuss support for social, emotional, mental health, or other needs.
- To the extent allowable by privacy laws and other applicable laws, the district nurse or designee will continue to collaborate with CUPHD officials to confidentially provide information about people diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19, 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-19.
- The superintendent or his/her designee will inform the school community of outbreaks while maintaining student and staff confidentiality rights.

- Students and staff suspected of having COVID-19, whether they were tested or not, are to follow the IDPH/C-UPHD guidelines to determine when they can return to school.

7. Binax Rapid COVID-19 Testing

COVID 19 Testing is available in each of our buildings upon request.

Reasons for engaging in regular COVID 19 Testing:

- Regular COVID 19 testing quickly identifies individuals who may be positive for the COVID-19 virus, enabling District staff to minimize potential spread of the virus among students and staff.
- Regular COVID 19 testing prior to extracurricular activities allows students and staff to participate fully, minimizing potential exposure during the activity.
- Parents can request COVID-19 screening testing for their students by contacting the school's health care professional.
- Any staff member can request COVID-19 screening testing by contacting the school's health care professional.

8. Disabilities or Other Health Care Needs

- Parents of students who need accommodations, modifications, or assistance related to COVID-19 safety protocols, disabilities, underlying medical conditions, or weakened immune systems should contact their student's case manager or building principal to discuss the need(s).
- Staff members who need accommodations, modifications, or assistance related to COVID-19 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.

9. Visitors

- Nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations with people who are not fully vaccinated are discouraged from visiting schools.
- Visitors to schools will be handled on a case by case basis by the principal of each building.

10. Collaboration with Public Health Officials

- District officials will continue to collaborate and consult with CUPHD officials throughout the pandemic on various logistics and decision-making including, but not limited to, quarantines, school health and safety protocols, screening testing, contact tracing, vaccine clinics, and emergency school closings.

11. Plan Review

This plan will be regularly reviewed throughout the 21-22 school year. Revisions will address the most recently updated safety recommendations by the CDC, IDPH and C-UPHD, 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.

While student and staff attendance at school is important, it should not be at the expense of possibly spreading illnesses of any kind to others. Please stay home when you are sick.

Mitigation Level 1 - Minimal:

Local metrics indicate minimal transmission and Champaign County is moderate or lower.

- Masks recommended for non-vaccinated students and staff - **required on buses.**
- Parents screen students for any illness prior to coming to school. Students who are ill should stay home.
- Social distancing (3-6 feet) between students when possible. This should not interfere with in person learning.
- Quarantines for students/staff identified as close contacts in situations where the students/staff involved were not vaccinated and not wearing masks. (Students/staff who have had Covid within the last 3 months are not required to quarantine.)

Mitigation Level 2 - Moderate:

Local metrics indicate moderate transmission and/or Champaign County moderate or lower.

- Masks recommended for non-vaccinated students and staff - **required on buses.**
- Parents screen students for any illness prior to coming to school. Students who are ill should stay home.
- Social distancing (3-6 feet) between students when possible. This should not interfere with in person learning.
- Quarantines for students/staff identified as close contacts in situations where the students/staff involved were not vaccinated. See Section #5, Bullet Point #4 above. (Students/staff who have had COVID-19 within the last 3 months are not required to quarantine.)
- Implement temporary remote learning for individual classrooms, grade level or building if needed. [Assuming this is permitted by ISBE]

Mitigation Level 3 - Substantial:

Local metrics indicate substantial transmission and/or Champaign County moderate to severe.

- Universal masking for students and staff.
- Parents screen students for any illness prior to coming to school. Students who are ill should stay home.
- Increased social distancing, modified lunch protocols, and capacity limits in common areas.
- Quarantines for students/staff while in close contact with a positive case, unless student/staff vaccinated or had COVID-19 within the last 3-months.
- Implement temporary remote learning for individual classrooms, grade level or building if needed. [Assuming this is permitted by ISBE]