



August 6, 2021

Harvard Families,

District 50 will return to **full in-person instruction five days a week** beginning Wednesday, August 18. Temporary distance learning will only be offered to students on a quarantine order, as the state requires. Unless a student is in an order of quarantine, they will be expected to attend full in-person instruction.

Mask Guidance

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Illinois Department of Health strongly recommend wearing masks indoors by all individuals (ages two and older) regardless of vaccination status. Governor Pritzker also announced on August 4, 2021, a P-12 mask mandate.

Once the governor's mask mandate is lifted, District 50 will communicate local masking requirements using a three-stage chart showing the mask requirements at that time: red (masks required), yellow (masks strongly recommended), and green (masks optional). District 50 may need to alternate guidance regarding mask-wearing throughout the school year as conditions and guidance change.

District 50 will start the year in the "Red" Masks Required stage.



Bus Travel Requirements (as ordered by the CDC):

While traveling on a D50 bus, masks are required, as ordered by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#). The order mandates that all bus occupants, students, and adults wear a mask while traveling on a school bus.

Preventative Measures in School Buildings

It is important to note that while masks are required, they are only one component of our detailed safety plan. CDC guidance emphasizes implementing layered prevention strategies.

D50's layered prevention strategies:

- Promoting vaccination and consistent/correct mask use (defined by the CDC)
- Physical distancing
- SHIELD screening testing to promptly identify cases, clusters, and outbreaks
- Ventilation and air purification in classrooms
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- Staying home when sick and getting tested when symptomatic
- Contact tracing, in combination with isolation and quarantine
- Building cleaning and disinfection
- Family symptom check and daily home screening

District administration will closely monitor possible exposure and transmission of COVID-19 in our schools, responding with additional measures if needed in consultation with our Board of Education.

All of these efforts are to do everything possible to ensure our students can stay in school for in-person instruction. The District encourages all students who are eligible to be vaccinated to receive the vaccination to protect them from sickness and potential quarantine as a close contact. Information on our optional SHIELD testing program will be shared soon.

Last year was very challenging for all of us, but we've learned a lot about staying safe and providing our students the best education possible. We are thrilled to return to in-person instruction on August 18.

Sincerely,



Dr. Corey Tafoya
Superintendent