

Lincoln-Way Community High School District 210

Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan

In May of 2021, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) passed a [resolution](#) that all schools must resume full in-person learning for all student attendance days for the 2021-2022 school year.

On July 9, 2021, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) fully adopted [CDC guidance](#). The Lincoln-Way District 210 Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan incorporates the guidance from ISBE, CDC, and IDPH which are all subject to change.

On August 4, 2021, Governor Pritzker issued [COVID-19 Executive Order No. 85](#). That order was made pursuant to the governor's time-limited powers during a health crisis under the Emergency Management Agency Act (20 ILCS 3305). The order adopts current [CDC guidelines](#) regarding protocols for schools and specifically directs all schools in the state to mandate the wearing of masks for all students, staff members, and persons visiting school buildings with exceptions only for children under two years old and those who cannot medically tolerate face coverings.

This is a legally enforceable state mandate applicable to Lincoln-Way District 210 and its schools.

The governor's order also directs all schools to comply with CDC protocols on the quarantining of students presenting COVID-19 symptoms. Specifically, schools are to implement policies "advising individuals to stay home when sick and get tested, [and do] contact tracing in combination with appropriate quarantine and isolation."

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) updated their guidance that incorporates guidelines from the CDC and aligns with the Governor's Executive Order. Their updated guidance, released August 9, can be found [HERE](#).

The Lincoln-Way District 210 Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan has been updated to reflect the governor's latest mandate. The plan also now includes procedures for if and/or when COVID-19 Executive Order No. 85 expires.

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Safe Return to In-Person Learning

Overview:

Lincoln-Way District 210 will follow COVID-19 Executive Order No. 85. During this time, Lincoln-Way District 210 will continue to monitor community transmission of COVID-19 as outlined in this document using the following zip codes: 60423, 60442, 60448, and 60451 with data found on the COVID-19 dashboard: [Covid Data by Zip Code](#) and will implement additional layered mitigation strategies if necessary.

If and/or when the Executive Order expires, the administration will utilize the CDC indicators and Thresholds for Community Transmission of COVID-19 to determine any necessary shifts in mitigation practices. Shifts to a higher transmission in the mitigation practices will occur when both indicators have been met for three consecutive days over a seven-day monitoring period. Shifts to a lower transmission in the mitigation practices will occur when both indicators have been met for seven consecutive days.

Administration may change mitigation strategies if conditions other than those mentioned above change. Mitigation strategies could also be modified due to updated guidelines or recommendations from the CDC, IDPH, ISBE or Will County Health Department.

	Low Transmission	Moderate Transmission	Substantial Transmission	High Transmission
Both Indicators must be met for 3 consecutive days to move to the higher transmission category				
Indicators				
Covid Cases per 100,000 (Over the last 7 days)	Case Count less than 10	Case Count 10 -49	Case Count 50 – 99	Case Count Over 100
Positivity Rate	Less than 5%	5% - 7.99%	8% - 9.9%	Over 10%

Updated Mitigation Procedures

Cleaning:

Cleaning will be conducted daily using approved sanitation equipment. The district will follow recommendations per the CDC, IDPH, and local health department.

Contact Tracing and Quarantine:

It is understood that student and staff medical confidentiality will be maintained and respected. Lincoln-Way District 210 will follow quarantine orders set forth by the IDPH and Will County Department of Health when a positive or suspected COVID-19 case is reported.

Fully vaccinated persons who remain asymptomatic and those with documented COVID-19 infection within the past 90 days are excluded from quarantine.

CDC defines a close contact as an individual not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 who was within six feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. For students in the indoor classroom setting, contacts who were within three to six feet of an infected student do not require quarantine so long as both the case and the contact were consistently masked. If they were not consistently masked, then close contacts are classroom students who were within six feet of the infected student for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.

The IDPH states that any individual who has been fully vaccinated, and does not have symptoms, does not have to quarantine if identified as a close contact. However, individuals who are identified as a close contact and are vaccinated must remain out of school if presenting symptoms. They may return when their symptoms subside for 24 hours. All individuals will be required to submit proof of COVID-19 vaccination to the school nurse in order to avoid quarantine after being identified as a close contact. Likewise, the IDPH states that a student and/or staff member who were previously diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last three months does not have to quarantine. See the most updated IDPH guidance related to COVID-19 symptoms, contact tracing, quarantine, and isolation at the link [HERE](#).

Hand-Washing and Respiratory Etiquette:

All staff, students, and visitors must practice appropriate hand hygiene when inside district facilities including all the following guidelines:

- Frequently wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. When soap and running water are unavailable, use an alcohol-based hand rub with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands that are visibly soiled. More information about proper handwashing is available from the [CDC Handwashing Website](#).
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Practice effective respiratory etiquette, including covering coughs and sneezes.

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HVAC:

The district will monitor air quality on a regular basis. The district will:

- Maximize the filtration power of the HVAC system by using the filter with the highest level of air filtration possible and changing the filters on a routine basis to ensure they perform at an optimum level.
- Maximize the amount of outdoor air brought into the building. Depending on the weather and outdoor air quality conditions, the district will bring in between 25-100% outdoor air.

Health and Safety Protocols:

Only students and staff who are healthy should report for in-person learning. Students and staff with any of the following symptoms of COVID-19 must remain home:

- Cough
- Fatigue
- Fever or chills
- Headache
- Known close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 (if unvaccinated)
- Measured temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or greater
- Nausea or vomiting
- New loss of taste or smell
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Sore throat

Masking:

Under COVID-19 Executive Order No. 85, all individuals must wear a mask regardless of vaccination status while indoors and on school buses/transportation.

Students who do not follow this mandate will be subject to appropriate, progressive, disciplinary action.

If and/or when COVID-19 Executive Order No. 85 expires, the district will follow these metrics:

	Low Transmission	Moderate Transmission	Substantial Transmission	High Transmission
Classroom	Mask strongly recommended for unvaccinated individuals.	Masks recommended for vaccinated individuals. Masks strongly recommended	Mask recommended for vaccinated individuals. Masks strongly recommended for	Mask required for all individuals.

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		for unvaccinated individuals.	unvaccinated individuals.	
Lunch Space	Mask strongly recommended for unvaccinated individuals when not eating.	Masks recommended for vaccinated individuals. Masks strongly recommended for unvaccinated individuals, when not eating	Mask recommended for vaccinated individuals. Masks strongly recommended for unvaccinated individuals, when not eating.	Mask required for all individuals when not eating.
Bus	Per CDC/IDPH guidelines, all individuals must wear a mask on the bus.	Per CDC/IDPH guidelines, all individuals must wear a mask on the bus.	Per CDC/IDPH guidelines, all individuals must wear a mask on the bus.	Per CDC/IDPH guidelines, all individuals must wear a mask on the bus.
PE	Outdoor activities: No mask is necessary. Indoor activities: Mask strongly recommended for unvaccinated individuals.	Outdoor activities: No mask is necessary. Indoor activities: Mask recommended for vaccinated individuals. Masks strongly recommended for unvaccinated individuals.	Outdoor activities: No mask is necessary. Indoor activities: Mask recommended for vaccinated individuals. Masks strongly recommended for unvaccinated individuals.	Outdoor Activities: Mask may be recommended. Indoor Activities: Mask required for all individuals.
Athletics May change based upon IHSA guidance	Outdoor activities: No mask is necessary. Indoor Activities: Masks recommended for unvaccinated individuals	Outdoor activities: No mask is necessary. Indoor activities: Mask recommended for vaccinated individuals. Masks strongly recommended for unvaccinated individuals.	Outdoor activities: No mask is necessary. Indoor activities: Mask recommended for vaccinated individuals. Masks strongly recommended for unvaccinated individuals.	Masks will be required for all individuals. Possible discontinuation of athletic events for a period of time

**The district shall continue to monitor the effectiveness of its COVID-19 prevention strategies. Local COVID-19 transmission rates, changes to vaccination recommendations, and/or local outbreaks of COVID-19 may cause the district to require the use of face coverings for all individuals regardless of vaccination status. Any change shall be based upon an analysis of all local COVID-19 data as a part of an overall risk assessment.*

Need for Remote Learning Services Application:

Remote learning is being provided as an exception to in-person learning and only under limited circumstances. The application can be found on our district webpage under [FORMS and DOCUMENTS](#).

Test to Stay:

Testing can be used to keep students in school when identified as a close contact through the Test to Stay protocol. This allows asymptomatic students to avoid quarantine by testing on days one, three, five, and seven after exposure so long as they continue to test negative.

(See IDPH's [Interim Guidance on Testing for COVID-19 in Community Settings and Schools](#) for specific details on testing in schools.)

- Test to Stay is only applicable when both the COVID-19 confirmed case and close contact were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting masks, regardless of vaccination status, as required by Executive Order 2021-18.

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- Test to Stay may be used for any indoor exposure, with the exception of household exposure, for both students and staff who are not fully vaccinated.
- Students or staff who are not fully vaccinated and engaged in Test to Stay after an exposure may participate in extracurricular activities.
- However, if the close contact is identified five days or more from the date of exposure, testing will be adjusted accordingly, ideally on days five and seven after the last exposure.
- When testing on days one, three, five and seven is not possible due to weekends and holidays, students and staff who are not fully vaccinated should be tested at the earliest possible opportunity.
- At the conclusion of the Test to Stay modified quarantine period, the school should notify the local health department that the individual has successfully completed testing and remained negative.

Social Distancing:

Three to six feet of social distancing will be observed as much as possible.

Students with Disabilities:

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety protocol will be considered on an individual basis.

Symptom Checks:

Parents are responsible for keeping their child home if they show any signs of COVID-19, including but not limited to, fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, fatigue, muscle and body aches, headache, sore throat, nausea, and/or vomiting.

Students may have their temperature taken upon arrival to school. Students who show symptoms or have temperatures above 100.4 degrees will be sent home after a parent is notified.

Vaccination:

According to the CDC, evidence suggests that people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are less likely to have an asymptomatic infection or transmit COVID-19 to other people who are not fully vaccinated.

Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. People who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are at low risk of symptomatic or severe infection.

People who are fully vaccinated can safely resume activities they did before the pandemic, except when prevention measures are required by federal, state, local tribal or territorial laws, rules, regulations, including local business and workplace guidelines.

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For anyone who is still looking for a COVID-19 vaccine, please visit www.vaccines.gov to find a vaccination location near you.