



# Return to School Plan

Updated Mitigations & Instructional Models  
Manhattan School District - August 2021

# AUGUST 2021 UPDATE

On August 4, 2021, the Governor issued [Executive Order 85](#). Executive Order 2021-18 (Executive Order 85) requires that all teachers, students, staff, and visitors to P-12 schools who are two years of age or older must wear a mask indoors, regardless of vaccination status. Students and visitors must wear a mask indoors at all District 114 facilities, regardless of vaccination status. All athletes, participants and spectators must wear masks at indoor events. All students must wear a mask at all times on school bus transportation. Any student who has a medical contraindication (e.g. difficulty breathing) that prevents him or her from wearing a mask must submit a medical certification, [MSD114 Mask Exemption Form](#), from the student's health care provider to the District Office, in order to be exempt from the mask requirement due to medical or disability reasons.

**Once the mandate is no longer in effect, the district will move forward with the remaining provisions of the 2021-2022 Return to School Plan.**

# SAFELY RETURNING TO FULL DAY IN-PERSON LEARNING

Manhattan School District 114 is prepared to resume full day, in-person learning as of the first day of school, Wednesday, August 25th for K-8 and Monday, August 30th for preschool.

The District will welcome students under the following plan that includes :

- Local transmission rates will be monitored through [Northwestern.edu](https://www.northwestern.edu)
- Per the CDC order and current federal mandate, all individuals must wear masks on the bus, regardless of vaccination status.
- Social distancing of three feet will be observed as much as possible.
- Families will no longer be required to self-certify their child.
- Students will be encouraged to isolate until at least 48 hours fever and symptom free without medication.
- School nurses will collaborate with Will County to complete contact tracing and those who are considered close contacts will be contacted with quarantine information and options.
- Additional cleaning and disinfecting will remain in place.

**To be implemented upon the lifting of Executive Order 85:**

- Manhattan School District 114 recommends indoor masking for all teachers, students, and visitors to K-2 schools, regardless of vaccination status. While local and/or district rates email low, moderal, or substantial, MSD 114 will not require universal masking.
- An increase in COVID-19 transmission rates at the local or district level may result in increased mitigation practices such as required mask use. Further explanation of the layered mitigation plan are included in the plan.

# HEALTH & WELLNESS

## District Health Plan

An updated, comprehensive health plan which will include information regarding student absences, quarantine, and COVID-19 protocols will be shared with MSD114 families prior to the start of student attendance.

## Symptom Awareness

Students should stay home and contact the school nurse when they have:

- A fever over 100.4
- Cough not related to asthma or allergies
- Shortness of breath, difficulty breathing
- Chills, muscle pain
- Sore throat
- New onset of runny nose or congestion
- New loss of taste or smell
- Gastrointestinal symptoms: nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19

## Personal Hygiene

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

- Frequently wash hands with soap and water for at least (20) seconds. When soap and running water are unavailable, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Always wash hands that are visibly soiled.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Practice effective respiratory etiquette, including coughs and sneezes.

# COVID-19 MITIGATION STRATEGIES

## School and Community Transmission Surveillance

Following the IDPH/CDC guidelines, Manhattan School District 114 will monitor positivity rates at the three District schools. The administrative team will review this information weekly to assess trends, anomalies, clusters, and indications of in-school transmission over the previous 7 days.

Per IDPH, five COVID-19 infections (laboratory-positive by PCR or antigen testing) occurring within 14 calendar days of each other in individuals meet the case definition for an outbreak in a Pre-K-12 school. The cases need to be epidemiologically linked by known exposure with respect to place (same classroom) and time (within 14 calendar days).

Likewise, the MSD114 administrative team will monitor the Lincoln-Way Community using the following zip codes; 60423, 60442, 60448, and 60451 with data found on the COVID dashboard, [Covid Data by zip code](#), on a weekly basis to help Manhattan School District 114 determine the level of layered mitigation measures needed to safely continue in-person learning. Our administrative team will utilize the “CDC Indicators and Thresholds for Community Transmission” (see table below).

Two indicators are used to determine the incidents and spread of COVID in the Lincoln-Way Community. These indicators are the total new cases per 100,000 in a 7-day period, and the percentage of positive cases in that same 7-day period, in the Lincoln-Way Community. Shifts to a higher transmission in the mitigation practices will occur when both indicators have been met for three (3) consecutive days over a 7-day monitoring period. Shifts to a lower transmission in the mitigation practices will occur when both indicators have been met for seven (7) consecutive days.

## CDC Indicators and Thresholds for Community Transmission of COVID-19

	<b>Low Transmission</b>	<b>Moderate Transmission</b>	<b>Substantial Transmission</b>	<b>High Transmission</b>
Total New cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days	Count less than 10	10-49.99	50-99.99	Over 100
Percentage of NAATs <sup>1</sup> that are positive during the past 7 days	Less than 5%	5-7.99%	8-9.99%	Over 10.0%

\*\*Both school positivity rates, and Lincoln-Way Community positivity/transmission rates can cause increased layered mitigation strategies in any, or in all, of our three schools. School positivity rates will outweigh local community transmission rates in determining mitigation measures. We ask families to please understand that while the pandemic continues, our school-based plans must be altered due to response to this data. If changes are to be made to the applied mitigation strategies, District families and staff will be notified in advance, to the greatest extent possible, to plan accordingly.

## MSD 114 Layered Mitigation Plan: Community Transmission of COVID-19 Decision Chart

INDICATORS				
<i>County transmission rates monitored for two-week indicator data</i>				
	Low	Moderate	Substantial	High
Cases Per 100k	Case Count Less than 10	Case Count Between 10 – 49.9	Case Count between 50 – 99.99	Case Count equal or greater than 100
Positivity Rate	Less than 5%	Between 5 – 8%	Between 8 – 9.99%	Equal or Greater than 10%
MITIGATION GUIDANCE				
Social Distancing	3-6 feet in classrooms and lunchrooms	3-6 feet in classrooms and lunchrooms	3-6 feet in classrooms and 6 feet or the greatest extent possible in lunchrooms	3-6 feet in classrooms and 6 feet or the greatest extent possible in lunchrooms
Quarantine	Quarantine per IDPH recommendation.	Quarantine per IDPH recommendation.	Quarantine per IDPH recommendation.	Quarantine per IDPH recommendation.
MASK GUIDANCE <sup>1</sup>				
Classroom	Mask strongly recommended for unvaccinated individuals but Optional	Mask strongly recommended for unvaccinated individuals but Optional.	Mask recommended for vaccinated individuals. Masks strongly recommended for unvaccinated individuals but Optional.	Mask required for all individuals.
Lunch Space	Mask strongly recommended for unvaccinated individuals but Optional when not eating.	Mask strongly recommended for unvaccinated individuals but Optional when not eating.	Mask recommended for vaccinated individuals. Masks strongly recommended for unvaccinated individuals but Optional 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/ Recess	Outdoor activities: no mask is necessary.  Indoor activities: Mask recommended for unvaccinated individuals but Optional.	Outdoor activities - no mask is necessary.  Indoor activities: Mask strongly recommended for unvaccinated individuals but Optional.	Outdoor activities - no mask is necessary.  Indoor activities: Mask recommended for vaccinated individuals. Masks strongly recommended for unvaccinated individuals.	Mask may be recommended.  Mask required for all individuals.
Athletics <sup>2</sup>	Indoor Activities-Low/Medium/High risk activities:  Mask recommended for unvaccinated individuals but Optional.	Indoor Activities-Low/Medium risk activities: Mask recommended for unvaccinated individuals but Optional.  High Risk Activities: Masks strongly recommended for all 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

1 - Additional mitigating layers may be added pending community transmission data; i.e., Requiring masking by unvaccinated individuals for first two weeks after major holidays/breaks

2 - IPDH referenced [Risk stratification levels for sports developed by NCAA \(p. 19- 21\)](#)

# MITIGATION STRATEGIES (cont.)

## MSD 114 Layered Mitigation Plan: Positivity Rates at District Schools

Positive cases will be monitored weekly and posted on MSD 114 website			
	Classroom Transmission Data	Athletics or Extracurricular Transmission Data	School Transmission Data
Number of epidemiologically linked cases from same location/time (2-week period)	3-4	3-4	5 or more Cases
MASK GUIDANCE			
Classroom	All individuals in classroom are required to mask	N/A	All individuals in school are required to mask
Lunchroom	All individuals in classroom of linked cases are required to mask when not eating	N/A	All individuals in school are required to mask 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.
PE/ Recess	All individuals in classroom are required to mask	N/A	All individuals in school are required to mask
Athletics	N/A	All individuals on that team or in that extracurricular are required to wear a mask.	All individuals in school are required to mask

# MITIGATION STRATEGIES (cont.)

## 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.

For anyone who is still looking for a COVID-19 vaccine, please visit [www.vaccines.gov](http://www.vaccines.gov) to find a vaccination location near you.

## Cleaning

Custodial staff will conduct additional daily cleaning using approved sanitation equipment. Daily and evening procedures will be updated to reflect an increase in frequency. The District will follow recommendations per the CDC, IDPH, and local health departments.

## Contact Tracing and Quarantine:

It is understood that student and staff medical confidentiality will be maintained and respected at all times. Manhattan School District 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.

- For teachers, staff and students in the indoor K-12 classroom setting, CDC defines a close contact as an individual not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.
- According to the new CDC close contact definition, classroom students who were within 3 to 6 feet of the infected student are not treated as close contacts as long as both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of a well-fitting masks and other K-12 school prevention strategies (such as universal and correct mask use, physical distancing, increased ventilation) were in place in the K-12 setting.
- In other words, only classroom contacts within 3 feet require quarantine as 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 6 feet of the infected student for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.
- In exposures outside of the classroom, for staff and for students in the classroom where masks were not correctly and consistently worn by the infected person and/or the student, close contacts would be defined as individuals who are not fully vaccinated or who have not had lab-diagnosed COVID-19 within the last 90 days who were within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. In general, individuals who are solely exposed to a confirmed case while outdoors should not be considered close contacts.



# MITIGATION STRATEGIES (cont.)

## 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.

## 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 or by clicking the link [APPLICATION OF NEED FOR REMOTE LEARNING SERVICES](#).

## Social Distancing

3 – 6 Feet 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, or vomiting.

Students who show symptoms or have temperatures above 100.4 degrees will be sent home after a parent is contacted.

## References

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

IDPH Press Release:

<http://www.dph.illinois.gov/news/illinois-department-public-health-adopts-cdc-covid-19-prevention-school-guidance>

Will County Department of Health & Community Health Center: <https://willcountyhealth.org>

Northwestern COVID data Dashboard: <https://Covid-dashboard.fsm.northwestern.edu>

# QUARANTINED LEARNER SUPPORT

**Kindergarten--2nd Grade:** Quarantined students will be provided with materials and asynchronous work in order to further their learning and allow them to keep pace with the class during their absence. Materials that families are unable to come to school to pick up will be delivered by building or district administration. Kindergarten--2nd Grade teachers will provide additional small group or individual attention upon student's return to address any missed learning due to the absence.

**3rd--8th Grade:** Quarantined students will be provided a combination of synchronous and asynchronous work for the duration of their quarantine. Synchronous work will be provided via **livestream** with the child's classroom teacher(s) in the core academic areas: English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Students will be livestreamed for the **shared (whole group)** portion of the instructional blocks and small groups in which the student was scheduled to participate.

Livestreaming will begin 24 hours after notification of the beginning of quarantine. Absences for non-COVID related quarantines, such as vacation or other illness, will be handled as such absences were handled pre-COVID and will NOT livestream during their absence.