

# United CUSD 304 (DRAFT)

## 2021-2022 Plan for continued In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

### **Introduction**

This plan applies to all grades Pre-K – 12 in the United CUSD 304 school district. School strategies in this plan may be removed/modified based upon local conditions, levels of community transmission (i.e., low, moderate, substantial, or high), local vaccination coverage, use of screening testing to detect cases in K-12 schools, and 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**

In accordance with the Illinois State Superintendent of Schools July 9, 2021 declaration, all United CUSD 304 schools will be open fully for in-person learning for all student attendance days in the 2021-22 school year. Beginning with the 2021-22 school year, all schools must resume fully in-person learning for all student attendance days, provided that, pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/10-30 and 105 ILCS 5/34-18.66, remote instruction be made available for students who are not eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine and are under a quarantine order by a local public health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health. Absent an order from the Illinois State Board of Education and/or the Illinois Governor's Office, United CUSD 304 schools will be in operation in accordance with the IDPH's updated (July 9, 2021) *Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in Kindergarten (K)-12 Schools*, also adopted by the IDPH on July 9, 2021. *or additional IDPH/IDPH guidance as it becomes available.*

#### **1. Mask Use**

- Citing the current Executive Order, United 304 will follow the direction of masking indoors within our schools when part of and through the life of the most current order. Whatever that order is includes all students, staff, and visitors regardless of vaccination status.
- We expect each person in our schools to follow IDPH guidance.
- Unless exempt by IDPH Order, passengers and drivers **MUST** wear a mask on school buses. Drivers do not need to wear a mask if he/she is the only person on the bus.

#### **2. Physical Distancing**

- To the extent possible within school buildings 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:
  - IDPH recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms, combined with indoor classrooms.
  - arranging furniture, play spaces and naptime materials to model and reinforce physical distancing of at least 3 feet to the greatest extent possible;

- providing assigned seating for students and encouraging students to remain in these seats to the greatest extent possible; and
- developing 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 may be utilized when available and feasible (e.g., weather permitting).

### 3. Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

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

- People should practice handwashing and [respiratory etiquette](#) (covering coughs and sneezes) to keep from getting and spreading infectious illnesses including COVID-19. Schools can monitor and reinforce these behaviors and provide adequate handwashing supplies.
- Teach and reinforce [handwashing](#) with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Remind everyone in the facility [to wash hands frequently](#) and assist young children with handwashing. If handwashing is not possible, use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol (for teachers, staff, and older students who can safely use hand sanitizer). Hand sanitizers should be stored up, away, and out of sight of young children and should be used only with adult supervision for children under 6 years of age.
  - continuing to teach handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds;
  - assisting young children with handwashing;
  - reminding everyone in the facility to wash hands frequently;
  - using hand sanitizer when handwashing is not possible;
  - continuing to teach respiratory etiquette (e.g., covering coughs and sneezes); and
  - 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).

### 4. Facility and Transportation Cleaning, Disinfection and Ventilation

- School staff will continue to clean surfaces daily.
- When possible, staff will open doors and windows (when it does not pose a safety risk), use child-safe fans, and have activities, classes, or lunches outdoors when circumstances allow.
- When it does not pose a safety risk, transportation staff will keep vehicle windows open at least a few inches to improve air circulation.

### 5. Other Programs

- All extra-curricular activities will follow the most current IDPH, CDC, and ISBE guidance.
- Athletics will follow the guidelines provided by IDPH, IHSA and IESA.

### 6. Transportation to and from School

- Transportation for all students who qualify will be provided.
- **Students who ride the bus will be required to wear a face mask on the bus at all times.** Students will be assigned a seat as far away from other riders as possible. **Students must remain in their assigned seat and continue to wear their face mask throughout the bus ride.** Students assigned a morning bus, an

afternoon bus, and/or a shuttle bus must ride their assigned bus on a consistent basis. For safety reasons, daily changes to busing will not be allowed. School buses will be disinfected weekly and allowed to sit overnight for maximum disinfectant time.

#### **7. Driver's Education Behind-the-Wheel**

- Only two students and one instructor allowed per vehicle.
- Face masks are required to be worn.
- Eating and drinking are prohibited while in the vehicle.
- Windows will be open whenever possible.
- No unnecessary stops during the training will occur.
- Hand hygiene with soap & water or hand sanitizer will occur before and after driving.
- The steering wheel, door handles, seat belt fastener, controls/dials, keys, seats, etc. will be disinfected in between each behind-the-wheel session.

#### **8. Physical Education, Gymnasiums, and Locker Rooms**

- Physical Education activities will be designed to allow for physical distancing as much as possible. When weather permits, Physical Education classes will be held outside.
- Equipment will be cleaned and disinfected frequently. Students and staff should wash their hands or use hand sanitizer at the start and end of each class period.
- Locker rooms will be open. Students will be required to change into P.E. clothing

#### **9. Lockers**

- Middle School and High School: Lockers will be available for use at the beginning of the day, before lunch and at the end of the day
- Elementary Schools: Lockers will be available for use when scheduled by the classroom teacher.

#### **10. Meals**

- Breakfast and lunch meals that meet USDA standards will be served at school on student attendance days free of charge.
- Physical distancing of at least 3 feet will be implemented during meals to the greatest extent possible

#### **11. Contact Tracing in Combination with Isolation and Quarantine**

- Students and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as influenza (flu) or COVID-19, should stay home, contact their child's school, and/or consider contacting their health care provider for testing and care.
  - Students and staff who are COVID-19 positive will quarantine as directed by the health department
  - Students and staff who are identified as close contacts will be quarantined as directed by the health department.
  - Students and staff, who are diagnosed with a non-COVID illness must meet the following criteria. Fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication AND a healthcare provider's note documenting the alternative diagnosis or a negative COVID-19 test result should

accompany a student or staff member returning to school.

- Individuals in our school environments who show symptoms of COVID-19 are to immediately report to or be escorted to the Building 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. Sick students 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, if available, may be administered on site with parental consent.
- Fully masked 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.
- 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.
- 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 District Student Handbook).
- Staff absences related to a COVID-19 isolation or quarantine will be recorded in accordance with the district's sick leave policy and collective bargaining agreement.
- To the extent allowable by privacy laws and other applicable laws, school health care professionals will continue to collaborate with Health Department 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 District Superintendent will inform the school community of outbreaks while maintaining student and staff confidentiality
- Students and staff suspected of having COVID-19, whether they were tested or not, are to follow the IDPH and local health department guidelines to determine when they can return to school.
- Following quarantine, students and staff returning from illness related to COVID-19 are to call to check in with the school's health care professional prior to returning to school

## **12. Screening Testing**

- Parents should keep their children home from school if they are sick or exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. Symptoms include (fever, loss of taste/smell, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea and/or body aches).
- Parents can request COVID-19 screening testing for their students by contacting

the school's health care professional. COVID-19 screening testing may also be available at the Health Department.

### **13. Vaccination**

- The District will publicize local Health Departments for vaccination opportunities to the school community
- Those who want to get vaccinated against COVID-19 can contact the Health Department to find out where and when they can get vaccinated in our community.

### **14. Visitors**

- Nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations are discouraged, but allowed from visiting schools when students are allowed as long as they follow the prescribed nature of this plan during the academic day.
- To protect the safety of our students and staff, parents will be required to drop-off and pick up their students at designated locations at each school.
- In addition to the normal sign-in procedures, all visitors to any building must properly wear an appropriate and approved face mask. All visitors should report directly to the main office of the building. Students or staff will be asked to meet the visitor to conduct business as needed. Visitors will not have individual access to the building during the regular school day as to protect the safety of our students and staff.
- Visitors should not enter the building if they are exhibiting any of the following symptoms: loss of taste/smell, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea and/or body aches

### **15. Collaboration with Public Health Officials**

- District officials will continue to collaborate and consult with Knox, Mercer, and/or Warren County Health Department officials throughout a pandemic on various logistics and decision-making including, but not limited to, school health and safety protocols, screening testing, contact tracing, vaccine clinics, and emergency school closings.

### **16. Plan Review**

- We will continue to monitor the health and well-being of our students and staff and adjust accordingly. Students and staff members should be prepared to wear masks if our local data metrics require use of masks.
- This plan will be reviewed and revised as appropriate. Revisions will address the most recently updated safety recommendations by the IDPH/CDC and will be made available on the school district website.

### **17. Continuity of Services**

- **appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies**
  - Provide accommodations, modifications, and assistance for students, teachers, and staff with disabilities and other health care needs when implementing

## COVID-19 Protocols

- work with families to better understand the individual needs of students with disabilities
  
- **including services for students' academic needs**
- **students/ and staff social, emotional, mental health needs**
- **student health and food services**
- **other student needs**