Dr. Diego Giraldo
Superintendent

August 23, 2022

Dear Mannheim District 83 Parents and Guardians,

Now that we have returned to in-person instruction, we have been receiving questions on where to find the guidance for our students who are potentially exposed, confirmed exposed, or test positive for COVID-19. In addition, we have been asked for an overview of this guidance as it applies to student attendance.

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has taken the CDC COVID-19 school recommendations and created a decision-making guide for Illinois Schools to use when determining when a student should be in-person or be at home. District 83 follows this guidance when determining if your student should participate in-person or remain at home. The guide may be found here:

https://dph.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/idph/covid19/guidance/school/school-decision-tree_8.23.2022.pdf

Please note that as the CDC learns more about COVID-19 and its new variants, it issues updated guidance. These CDC updates then provide the knowledge base for IDPH school guidance updates. Since updates are expected, you may want to bookmark this website so that you have access to the latest Illinois in-person learning guidance we are following in District 83.

Important items in the IDPH guidance that you should be aware of includes:

Remain at Home Reasons:

- 1. Your child should be kept home and will be sent home if they develop any of the following symptoms regardless of their vaccination status.
- a. Fever of 100.4°F or higher
- b. Moderate to Severe Headache
- c. Shortness of Breath
- d. Cough
- e. Sore Throat
- f. Vomiting
- g. Diarrhea
- h. Loss of Taste or Loss of Smell
- i. Fatigue from unknown cause
- j. Muscle or Body Aches from unknown cause



IDPH recommends medical evaluation and testing if any of these symptoms occur.

- 2. Your child should be kept home and will be sent home if they:
- a. Have tested positive for COVID-19
- b. Unvaccinated and have been in close contact with a confirmed or probable COVID-19 person
- Close contact is currently defined as someone who was within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more within 2 days prior to illness onset, regardless of whether the contact was wearing a mask. In the K-12 classroom the distance between students for this definition is decreased to 3 feet.

Return to School Options:

- 1. Provide documentation of a negative RT-PCR or Real Time RT-PCR test. The Rapid Test is not acceptable by District 83 due to its low accuracy.
- 2. Quarantine for between 5 and 10 days depending on the circumstances involved with your child. Please consult with your School Nurse or Health Clerk for further guidance should this arise.
- 3. If there has been no close contact with a known or probable COVID-19 person, provide a doctor's note explaining that the COVID-19 common symptom(s) are from another cause.

Additional information will be provided by District 83 as it becomes available.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Gaffney District Nurse Mannheim District 83

