

# Monticello CUSD #25

## Office of the Superintendent of Schools

December 30, 2021

### COVID UPDATE FOR SCHOOLS

#### Staying Home When Sick

Staying home when sick is important for everyone at all times. As was the case pre-COVID, the school expectation is that students stay home if they have a fever of over 100.4 and/or have new COVID-like symptoms (severe headache, shortness of breath, cough, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of taste/smell, muscle/body aches from an unknown cause). Vaccinated individuals (with verified vaccination status) may return to school once symptoms have subsided for 24 hrs or they have a negative COVID test. Unvaccinated individuals may return to school after five calendar days as long as no symptoms are present, with a negative COVID test or upon the presentation of a doctor's note with an alternative diagnosis.

#### Contact Tracing and Student Exclusions

Contact tracing will now be done at the State level with assistance from the local health department - close contacts will be excluded from school as determined by State and local health departments. Students who have a positive COVID test will be excluded by our schools for a minimum of five days unless symptoms remain after that time.

#### COVID Testing/Screening

COVID testing is available at Walgreens, CVS, and Walmart pharmacies in Champaign, Urbana, and Decatur, at Market Place on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, and a number of SHIELD testing facilities. Parents are responsible for submitting negative test results prior to students returning to school.

#### LINCOLN School Testing Site

Symptomatic students and employees may go to the district testing site at Lincoln School Mondays-Thursdays 11AM-2PM for BINAX Now Rapid Antigen testing. You must obtain and complete a form from your student's school office prior to going to the testing site. The nasal swab will be completed by the parent (or student if older) and the test will be completed by the tester. You will be contacted by 2:30PM only if your test is positive. At this time we will be limited to 20 tests per day.

#### Masking

Masks are still required for all individuals during the school day and at after school events regardless of vaccination status. Refusal to wear a mask during the school day will result in the student being excluded from school unless a medical note is presented to the Principal.

#### Vaccinations

Vaccines are available for everyone over 5 yrs of age and are currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID pandemic. While this is a personal choice and a family decision, getting the vaccination can also help schools stay open for in-person learning and activities and sports. The CDC guidance differs for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals in schools. If you are not fully vaccinated you can go to Walgreens or check with your healthcare provider or go to [www.vaccines.gov](http://www.vaccines.gov) for more information. Students/Employees with a verified positive COVID case are treated as if they are vaccinated for 90 days after being verified COVID positive.