

Abingdon-Avon CUSD #276

**Amended and readopted on September 8.2021

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

Introduction

This plan applies to all grades Pre-K – 12 in the Abingdon-Avon CUSD #276 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 Abingdon-Avon CUSD #276 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, Abingdon-Avon CUSD #276 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. Part A: Mask Use

- Citing new evidence concerning the Delta variant of Covid-19, Executive Order 2021-18 Mandates universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. Per the IDPH, students should still return for full in-person learning this fall with layered Covid-19 prevention strategies in place.
- 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. Part B: Vaccines

- On August 26, 2021, The Governor of Illinois Issued Executive Order 2021-20:

Mandates that all school personnel be vaccinated against COVID-19. School Personnel is defined as any person who (1) is employed by, volunteers for, or is contracted to provide services for a School or school district serving students in pre-kindergarten through 12th

grade, or who is employed by an entity that is contracted to provide services to a School, school district, or students of a School, and (2) is in close contact (fewer than 6 feet) with other persons in the School for more than 15 minutes at least once a week on a regular basis as determined by the School. The term "School Personnel" does not include any person who is present at the School for only a short period of time and whose moments of close physical proximity to others on site are fleeting (e.g., contractors making deliveries to a site where they remain physically distanced from others or briefly entering a site to pick up a shipment).

- All School Personnel must have, at a minimum, the first dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series or a single-dose COVID-19 vaccine within 10 days after issuance of this Executive Order, and be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 within 30 days following administration of their first dose in a two-dose vaccination series. Any School Personnel who have not established that they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 must be tested consistent with the requirements of Subsection (d). To establish that they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, School Personnel must provide proof of full vaccination against COVID-19 to the School. Proof of COVID-19 vaccination may be met by providing one of the following: (1) a CDC COVID-19 vaccination record card or photograph of the card; (2) documentation of vaccination from a health care provider or electronic health record; or (3) state immunization records.
- Schools shall exclude School Personnel who are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 from the premises unless they comply with the testing requirements specified in Subsection (d).
- Beginning 10 days after issuance of this Executive Order, to enter or work at or for a School, School Personnel who have not been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 must undergo testing for COVID-19, as described below, until they establish that they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19:
 - School Personnel who are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 must be tested for COVID-19 weekly, at a minimum. The testing must be done using a test that either has Emergency Use Authorization by the FDA or be operating per the Laboratory Developed Test requirements by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.
 - Such testing for School Personnel who are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 must be conducted on-site at the School or the School must obtain proof or confirmation from the School Personnel of a negative test result obtained elsewhere.
 - IDPH recommends that School Personnel be tested using a PCR test if available.

- Individuals are exempt from the requirement to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 if (1) vaccination is medically contraindicated, including any individual who is entitled to an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act or any other law applicable to a disability-related reasonable accommodation, or (2) vaccination would require the individual to violate or forgo a sincerely held religious belief, practice, or observance. Individuals who demonstrate they are exempt from the vaccination requirement shall undergo, at a minimum, weekly testing as provided for in Subsection (d).
- State agencies, including but not limited to IDPH and the Illinois State Board of Education, may promulgate emergency rules as necessary to effectuate this Executive Order.
- The District will continue efforts to work with local Health Departments in sharing and/or providing vaccination opportunities to the school community
- **As a Directive from the Abingdon-Avon CUSD #276 Board of Education, all employees, regardless of vaccination status will be required to be tested weekly for COVID 19.**

3. 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). Students and staff who are fully vaccinated do not need to socially distance while eating.

4. 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).

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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 daily at the end of morning and evening routes and allowed to sit overnight for maximum disinfectant time.

8. Driver's Education Behind-the-Wheel

- Only two students and one instructor allowed per vehicle.
- Face masks are required to be worn by all occupants.
- 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, seatbelt fastener, controls/dials, keys, seats, etc. will be disinfected in between each behind-the-wheel session.

9. 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

10. 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

11. 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 3-6 feet will be implemented during meals to the greatest extent possible

12. 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.
 - o Students and staff who are COVID-19 positive will quarantine as directed by the health department.
 - o Students and staff who are identified as close contacts will be quarantined as directed by the health department.
 - o 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 for evaluation by the school nurse. Students will be either sent home or be quarantined in the school's supervised safe area while awaiting pickup/evaluation.
 - o Students and staff are required to wear masks while in the safe area.
 - o Sick students will not be allowed to utilize the school bus to return home.
 - o 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.

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). Remote instruction will only be made available for vaccine ineligible students or those who are under quarantine as directed by the local health department or Illinois Department of Public Health

- If a student has a qualifying medical condition, the student may be provided home/hospital instruction (See Board Policy 6:150)
- Students can only receive an incomplete grade when a situation occurs that is beyond their control.

- 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

13. 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 from their healthcare provider or the County Health Department. If school based testing becomes available, a parent may request such an on-site test.

14. Vaccination

15. Visitors

- Nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations are discouraged from visiting schools when students are present 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. Visitors will remain in the main office or other designated area for the duration of the visit. Students or staff will be asked to meet the visitor to conduct business as needed. Visitors will not have 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: Fever, loss of taste/smell, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea and/or body aches

16. Collaboration with Public Health Officials

- District officials will continue to collaborate and consult with Knox, Fulton, 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.
- To the extent allowable by privacy laws and other applicable laws, school health care professionals will continue to collaborate with the Knox, Fulton, and/or Warren County 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.

16. Students with Special Education Services

- Students who receive Special Education services in the General Education setting will continue to receive assignments from their General Education teacher. The Special Education Teacher will continue to make modifications and accommodations for the students based on each of their individual IEPs. They will continue to check in with the students in their classes to check for understanding and provide assistance in completion of assignments and learning activities.

17. Related Services: Speech, Social Work, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Adapted PE

- Each student's case manager and related service provider(s) should collaborate with the parents/guardians of the students on their caseloads to determine the service delivery model that will work best for the student including tele therapy on an approved tele therapy platform. Additional resources may be posted to the District backpack and/or emailed/mailed to parents/guardians which may include home practice activity resources, including videos, website links, etc. These team decisions should be based upon the student's goals and objectives outlined in their IEPs and take into consideration available technology as well as the Return to Learn Plan amount of time the student will need to dedicate to their core academics. The related service provider and parents/guardians will develop an agreed upon schedule and mode to deliver the services. These plans should be revisited often and adjusted as necessary to meet each student's individual needs.

18. Diagnostic and Assessment Screening:

- District reopening plans will include a diagnostic assessment component for all students returning to school to determine learning loss, to inform

modifications to curriculum standards and expectations and to identify support services that may be required.

- A kindergarten screening tool will be implemented and given to all incoming kindergarten students.
- Elementary students in grades K-6 will be assessed using STAR Reading and Math. These tools will identify students needing tier 2 and tier 3 intervention services. The data will also be used to group students for small group instruction within the classroom, determine after school tutoring groups, and provide enrichment opportunities for those students meeting benchmarks.
- Middle school students in grade 7-8 will be assessed using STAR Reading and Math. to identify those needing additional academic support, MTSS services, tutoring, and enrichment.

- High school students in grades 9 and 10 will be assessed using classroom formative assessments in all subjects. High school English and Math departments will also analyze 8th grade data to determine course placements and additional supports, such as MTSS, learning strategies, and tutoring services.
- ***The district implemented a month-long summer school in 2021 to address learning recovery. The district intends to provide similar services in 2022.***
- ***The district has implemented a new diagnostic tool to accurately assess and provide appropriate interventions to assist students in learning recovery.***
- **students/ and staff social, emotional, mental health needs**
 - ***The district has set aside time for building level counselors, nurses, and school/family liaisons to do mental health screenings with students and staff.***

19. 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.
- This plan has been made public on our district's website and will be revisited and reviewed every 6 months during regular Board meetings giving all public stakeholders the opportunity for input.

