



Plan to Reopen Schools FAQ

Published: October 2, 2020

All answers to the following questions are based on required IDPH and ISBE regulations. This document will be updated when new guidance is received.



FACE COVERINGS

1. Are all individuals in a school building required to wear a face covering at all times?

Yes. As required by IDPH, except while eating and during band, face coverings must be worn at all times in school buildings, even when social distance is maintained. All individuals in a school building must wear a face covering unless they have a medical contraindication, are under 2 years of age, have trouble breathing, or are unconscious, incapacitated, or unable to remove the face covering without assistance. The CDC found that two-ply masks are more effective when controlling the spread of COVID-19.

2. Are face coverings required when individuals are outside?

Face coverings are not required outside if social distance is maintained (if individuals remain 6 feet apart from each other).

3. Can face shields be used in lieu of face coverings (e.g. masks)?

Generally, no. Face shields are not effective protection against coronavirus and should only be used in situations when other methods of protection are not available. IDPH also appreciates that there may be a small minority of individuals who have a medical contraindication to using face coverings. If face shields can be tolerated, face shields might be utilized in these situations, understanding their limitations and the heightened need for strict adherence to social distancing. ISBE recommends that schools review information such as a physician's note documenting the medical contraindication for any individual who is not able to wear a face covering.

4. Can dividers be placed around student and staff desks in lieu of face coverings? No. Schools and districts may opt to utilize dividers around desks, especially for those individuals who have a face covering exemption; however, the dividers may not be used in lieu of face coverings for students without an exemption.

5. Are schools allowed to have a full class of students eat in their classrooms when they are not wearing their masks?

Yes. During planned meals, social distance should be maintained as much as possible.



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SOCIAL DISTANCING

6. Are all individuals in a school building required to maintain social distance (remain 6 feet apart) at all times?

Social distance must be observed as much as possible. Desks do not need to be spaced 6 feet apart; however, it is recommended that excess furniture be removed from classrooms to allow for as much space as possible in between desks.

7. Is social distance required to be maintained on school busses?

No. No more than 50 individuals may be on a bus at one time. All individuals on a bus must wear a face covering, unless they meet a face covering exception. Allow as much space as possible between each individual on a bus. It is recommended that students from the same household sit together on a bus.

8. How should schools handle passing periods and allowing students to move from class-to-class?

District 2 and District 157 will be following hallway procedures to adhere to social distancing requirements and IDPH limitations on gathering sizes, when possible:

- Limit the number of persons within hallways at any given time to the greatest extent possible
- Limit required movement of students between classes.
- Use marking to designate one-way paths in hallways and designate certain staircases one-way only, as possible.
- Place floor markings to delineate 6-foot distance between students in locations where they line up.
- Remove furniture or other items that may encourage congregating in certain areas.
- Limit number of riders in elevators to one or two students with an additional adult (when a student needs continuous support or supervision).
- Suspend the use of lockers, when possible. If lockers must be used, we will stagger locker assignments and create schedules to stagger locker access to allow for 6-foot distancing between students when possible. For example, students could be assigned to every other or every third locker depending on their width.



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SYMPTOM SCREENING AND TEMPERATURE CHECK

9. How should symptom screenings be administered?

Schools must conduct temperature and symptom screenings or require self certification and verification for all staff, students, and visitors entering school buildings. Schools not requiring self-certification should check for a temperature greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit/38 degrees Celsius and currently known symptoms of COVID-19, such as fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, fatigue, muscle and body aches, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. Individuals who have a temperature greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit/38 degrees Celsius or one known symptom may not enter buildings. Individuals who exhibit symptoms should be sent home and referred to a medical provider for evaluation and treatment and be given information about when they can return to school.

10. Can schools and districts utilize self-certification to verify that individuals in a school building are symptom free?

Yes. Schools can require individuals to self-certify that they are fever- and symptom free before entering a school building each day, in lieu of conducting symptom and temperature checks at the school building. Self-certification will be a "self-certification" slip that needs to be filled out each day by the parent. A self-certification may not be completed at the beginning of the year for the entire year. More information on self certification can be provided by the building principal.

11. Can students under the age of 18 self-certify?

Legally emancipated students under the age of 18 may self-certify. For students who are not legally emancipated, parents/guardians or the individual who enrolled the student may certify on behalf of the student. District 2 and District 157 will provide a "self-certification" slip that needs to be filled out each day by the parent. Students will give to school personnel upon entrance each day.

SELF QUARANTINE

12. Is a school required to transition to remote instruction if an individual who was in the building tests positive for COVID-19?

No. Only those individuals with close contact with someone who tested positive or who is suspected of having COVID-19 are required to self-quarantine for 14 days. The school will provide remote instruction to students who are self-quarantining, if they are well enough to engage in learning. Teachers and staff who are self-quarantining are expected to continue to work remotely if they are well enough to do so. Any individual who tested positive and is fully recovered will be in contact with the school nurse prior to returning to in person learning.



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13. What is considered “close contact”?

Close contact means the individual was within 6 feet of the individual who tested positive for COVID-19 or is suspected of having COVID-19 infection for more than 15 minutes.

14. What is the procedure if a student were to show symptoms mid-day?

District 2 and District 157 will provide a supervised quarantine space for students/staff who are experiencing COVID-19-like symptoms and may be awaiting evaluation and/or pickup. Students will never be left alone and will be supervised at all times while maintaining necessary precautions within the quarantine space. Judgment of nursing professionals or the administrator/designee (in the absence of a nurse) must determine who is placed in the quarantine space and the level of supervision (e.g., supervised by nurse or unlicensed personnel) required for persons within the quarantine space.

REMOTE LEARNING

15. Is a school required to transition to remote instruction if an individual who was in the building tests positive for COVID-19?

No. Only those individuals with close contact with someone who tested positive or who is suspected of having COVID-19 are required to self-quarantine for 14 days. The school will provide remote instruction to students who are self-quarantining, if they are well enough to engage in learning. Teachers and staff who are self-quarantining are expected to continue to work remotely if they are well enough to do so.

Alternative Option to in Person Learning

16. What options are available to students whose parents/guardians decide to keep them home due to COVID-19?

The school will continue to provide remote learning for students who are not in attendance. Instruction will continue to be provided by the teacher via Zoom and through the schools Learning Management System (LMS). The LMS for grades k-5 is Google Classroom and the LMS for grades 6-12 is Schoology. Parents/Guardians who choose full remote learning will be required to commit to remote learning for the entire 1st semester before a change can be made back to in person learning. Please refer to each school's reopening plan for specific details.

17. How is homeschooling different from the remote learning option?

Homeschooling is an option parents/guardians can choose. However, a student who is homeschooled does not register with our district and the district provides no academic resources to that student. When a parent/guardian homeschools their student, they take on 100% of the responsibility for the education of that student in accordance with the laws of the State of Illinois for homeschooling. The remote learning options allows you to register your child as a student in our district and all curriculum, instruction, assigned grades, and additional services will be done by the student's assigned teacher through an online platform.