



2021-2022 SCHOOL OPENING PLAN

(Updated 8/4/21)

Earlier this month, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) fully adopted the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) updated *Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools (July 9, 2021)*. The guidance allows for individual school districts to collaborate with their local health departments in determining the COVID-related mitigations that will be implemented during the 2021-2022 school year. On August 4, 2021, Governor J.B. Pritzker issued a directive that students in all Illinois schools will be required to wear masks while indoors and regardless of vaccination status. This recent change is now reflected in the current plan. All of the following information aligns to CDC/IDPH/ISBE guidance while also layering in additional mitigations as deemed necessary by regional and school district COVID metrics. **Please note this plan is highly subject to change based on regional/district health conditions and/or updated guidance issued by the CDC/IDPH/ISBE.**

IN-PERSON LEARNING

All Alton CUSD #11 schools will reopen for in-person learning five days per week and under a full-day schedule. The school schedules are:

ALTON HIGH SCHOOL:

8:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

ALTON MIDDLE SCHOOL:

8:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

EAST, NORTH AND WEST ELEMENTARY:

8:00 a.m. to 2:25 p.m.

EUNICE SMITH, GILSON BROWN, LEWIS AND CLARK AND LOVEJOY ELEMENTARY:

8:15 a.m. to 2:40 p.m.

MARK TWAIN SCHOOL:

K-8: 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. 9-12: 8:40 a.m. to 2:22 p.m.

EARLY CHILDHOOD:

Lewis and Clark and Gilson Brown Sites:

A.M. Session – 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. P.M. Session – 12:30 to 3:00 p.m.

Eunice Smith and Alton High Sites:

A.M. Session – 8:20 to 10:50 a.m. P.M. Session – 12:20 to 2:50 p.m.

Per a declaration from the Illinois State Superintendent on July 9, all students will return to in-person learning. Alternate learning options will only be available for non-vaccinated or vaccine-ineligible students who are also under an order to quarantine as directed by the local health department. In rare cases, the District may also approve alternate learning plans for students who are medically fragile. Alternate learning services will not be provided in the same format as remote instruction last year since teachers will be required to prioritize in-person learning. The District will provide alternate instructional services similar to homebound instruction for the period of school/classes missed. Alternate instructional plans, similar to homebound instruction, will be developed individually and only with qualifying students and their families.

MASK USE AND COVID SCREENINGS***COVID SCREENINGS***

Weekly COVID screenings will be provided for all Pre-K through 12th grade students. The District will partner with SHIELD Illinois to provide weekly COVID screenings/testing. The screenings are a non-invasive, saliva-based PCR test that can detect COVID up to two days before the onset of symptoms or shedding of viral symptoms. Students simply spit or “drool” a very small sample of saliva into a testing container. The average test takes approximately 5 minutes to complete and is conducted at the school. Results are then sent directly to the school nurse and families within 24 hours. School screenings will begin the week of August 30. Screening/testing is another layered mitigation recommended by the CDC, IDPH and Madison County Health Department. Screenings also provide each school, and the District as a whole, with important health data that can be used to make decisions in protecting the health and wellness of our students and staff while continuing to support in-person learning. Families will have the ability to opt their child in for COVID screenings using Skyward Family Access. Additional information on opting your child in for COVID screenings will be provided before school begins. The following link provides additional information and videos on

SHIELD Illinois testing in schools (the screenings/tests are free to our district and provided through the University of Illinois and Illinois Department of Public Health). LINK: <https://www.uillinois.edu/shield>

MASK USE

On August 4, 2021, Governor Pritzker announced that students, staff and visitors in all PreK-12 schools will be required to wear a mask while inside of schools regardless of vaccination status. Masks will not be required for outdoor activities and sports. Per CDC order, all students will also be required to wear a mask on the school bus at all times. ***Students should have a mask to wear on the bus and at school each day.***

PHYSICAL DISTANCING AND COHORTING

The CDC recommends that schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students (or more where possible). School staff will once again utilize physical distancing in all areas including the spacing of classroom desks, food service and restroom lines, marked entrance and exit paths and other locations. Additional safety measures, such as Plexiglas separators, seating charts, forward-facing desks and other mitigation supports will remain in place for the start of school.

Cohorting will also be utilized. Cohorting means keeping students together in smaller groups or pods throughout the day where possible. A student could have more than one cohort in a school day (example: one student may have a classroom cohort, bus cohort, and an athletic team or music cohort). Cohorting is important should a student test positive for COVID as it assists the contact tracing process and allows schools to notify students and families immediately.

HAND HYGIENE AND SANITIZING

Good hand hygiene practices will continue to be encouraged and supported. Regular handwashing and handwashing techniques will be emphasized. Hand sanitizing stations will again be available in all classrooms, hallways and other common areas. At the middle and high school level, students will continue to be provided with approved disinfectant wipes to sanitize their desk in between users before each class. Additionally, schools will continue to be cleaned and disinfected at higher levels and frequencies.

STAYING HOME WHEN ILL, ISOLATIONS AND QUARANTINES

Families must once again screen their child(ren) for COVID symptoms each day prior to placing them on a bus or sending to school. Children who have COVID-

like symptoms or are otherwise ill, must stay home. Students who present any symptoms at school will be sent home and should be picked up within 30 minutes of being contacted. Students who are not fully vaccinated should quarantine after an exposure to an individual with COVID-19 and be tested. Fully-vaccinated students who were exposed to an individual with COVID-19 but are asymptomatic, do not need to quarantine or be tested. The District will work directly with the Madison County Health Department regarding decisions involving quarantines and isolations. Any student absences related to COVID-19 isolations or quarantines as directed by the health department (or medical exclusions as directed by the District) will be entered as excused. Students who are not vaccinated and symptomatic will still be required to provide proof of a negative COVID test or a note indicating an alternate diagnosis from a physician in order to return to school. Instructional supports, related services and assignments will be provided to students via remote methods when required to quarantine or isolate.

VISITORS TO SCHOOLS

Nonessential visitors, volunteers and/or activities will be strictly limited at this time due to the complications with contact tracing while also limiting the potential for external exposures inside of the school.

