

School Re-Opening, 2021-22: School Guidance and Program Operations

*District 90 Board of Education Mtg.
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Presentation Topics

- Key Principles for D90 COVID-19 Response
- Established D90 School Re-Opening Parameters
- Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) COVID-19 Health Guidance
- River Forest Education Association (RFEA)/Administration Work Group Progress
- Pending Health and Safety Mitigation Matters
- Communicating School Re-Opening Information
- Board of Education Q&A

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Key Principles: D90 COVID-19 Response

As in the past, programming and operational decisions made during response to COVID-19 conditions will adhere to the following principles:

- **Safety of students and staff**
- **Equity**
- **Social emotional and physical wellness**
- **High quality instruction**

Established D90 School Re-Opening Parameters

While several D90 safety mitigation protocols must still be defined, the following elements have been established for the coming year (barring evolving guidance changes):

- All D90 students will receive in-person instruction beginning the first day of school
- Remote instruction will be provided consistent with ISBE directives (May 2021 ISBE resolution indicates concurrent vaccine ineligibility and mandated quarantine compliance)
- Students with documented medical vaccination restrictions will be provided with homebound instruction services, consistent with current practice

Established D90 School Re-Opening Parameters

Established D90 safety mitigation protocols (continued):

- Social distancing requirements will be maintained:
 - minimum 3 feet for instructional locations
 - minimum 6 feet for necessary mask-less time (i.e. lunch)
- Current quarantine requirements for unvaccinated symptomatic individuals and close contacts:
 - District nursing team currently reviewing shorter quarantine option for children endorsed by CCDPH (10-day quarantine with negative PCR test)
- Established handwashing regimens, classroom and facility disinfection protocols, heightened air circulation/ventilation

ISBE and IDPH COVID-19 Health Guidance

In response to updated guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), ISBE and IDPH issued a joint statement indicating their full adoption of the CDC recommendations (7/9/21). Highlights include:

- Masks should be worn indoors by all individuals who are not fully vaccinated
- At least 3 feet of social distancing by all individuals – 6 feet when mask-less
- Layering of mitigation strategies (masking, social distancing, testing), as well as ventilation, handwashing and proper quarantine practices should be maintained

RFEA/Administration Work Group Progress

To address COVID-19 operational considerations in advance of the new school year, members of the River Forest Educational Association, nursing team, and administration have and will be collaborating to problem-solve key issues:

- Terms for provision of remote instruction, as directed by ISBE and the IDPH
- Lunch locations (especially at elementary schools)
- Quarantine requirements
- Classroom cleaning and use of classroom materials
- Relaxing of prior safety protocols, as permitted by health guidance (i.e. recess grouping restrictions, temperature checks, outdoor mask wearing mandates)

Pending Health and Safety Mitigation Matters

Due to the lack of definition in existing guidance, or the need for further clarification, consultation or investigation of alternatives, recommendations on the following significant matters are currently pending:

- Specific mask-wearing requirements in District 90 schools
- Details of COVID-19 testing (i.e. continuation of BinaxNOW testing vs. transition to COVID Shield)
- Establishing expectations for whether employees and/or families should provide information re: vaccination status

These items will continue to be investigated. Suggestions will also be sought from Rush Infection Prevention Team, and recommendations made for BOE approval in August.

Communicating School Re-Opening Information

School re-opening information will be communicated to families, students and staff as soon as finalized.

Avenues for communication will include:

- “District 90 School Re-Opening Student and Parent Handbook Addendum, 2021-22”
- District 90 “Primer”
- Back-to-school newsletter communication from school principals and assistant principals
- Safety mitigation information video(s) for faculty and staff
- Teacher outreach communications to students’ families
- Informal communications through D90 partner organizations (i.e. school PTO’s)

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Thank You!

Questions?



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