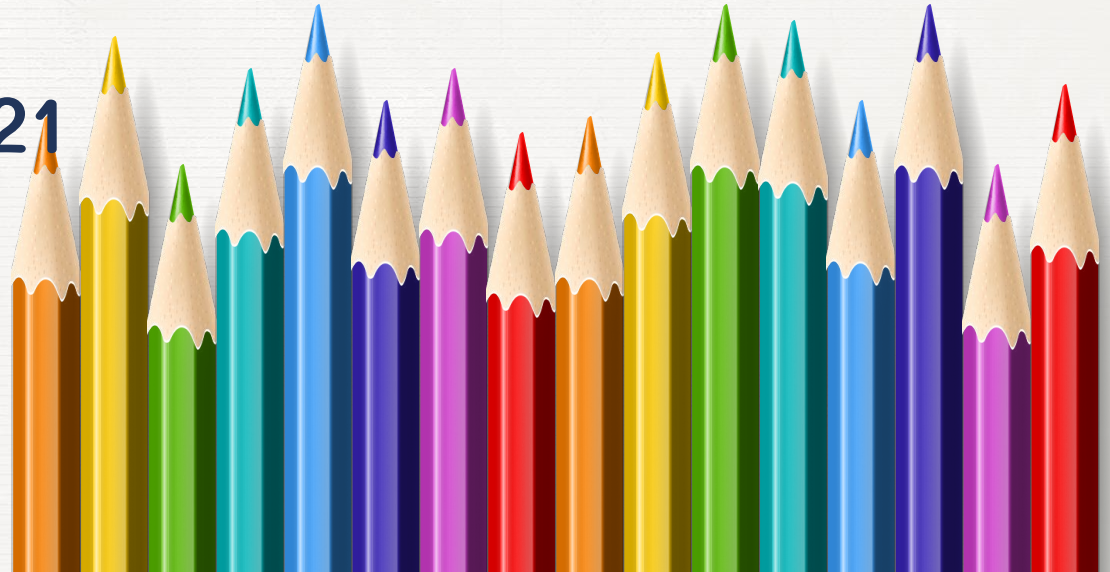




Tentative Return to Learn Plan for 2021-2022

Bloomington School District 13

August 11, 2021



Why is this called a “Tentative Plan”?

- ★ The District is experiencing changing guidance regularly and wants to comply in order to make a safe and meaningful in person educational experience for every student.
- ★ The Governor released an executive order August 4 to mandate universal masking for all people indoors in all K-12 schools.
- ★ Local health metrics may change what can and cannot be accomplished safely inside schools.



2020-2021 was a different year...
for all of us



But there is a lot to look forward to in 2021-2022!

- ★ In Person Instruction for All Students
- ★ Flexible Mitigation Strategies for COVID-19
- ★ Continued Focus on Student Growth and Social Emotional Support

By maintaining focus on student achievement, honoring & respecting one another throughout this year, and working together, this will be a year to remember for all the right reasons!



1. In Person Instruction for All Students

What does that look like?



⁶⁶ 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 have not received a COVID-19 vaccine or who are not eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine, only while they are under quarantine consistent with guidance or requirements from a local public health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health.⁹⁹

Dr. Carmen Ayala
Illinois State Superintendent of Schools

In Person Instruction

Elementary Schools:

- ★ Desks in rows;
- ★ Class size to accommodate 15-24 students per room;
- ★ Specials/Exploratory classes on regular schedule;
- ★ Extra curricular activities will be offered

Middle School:

- ★ Desks in rows;
- ★ Schedules will determine where students go;
- ★ Exploratory classes will be in person;
- ★ Extra curricular activities will be offered;
- ★ Team sports are under discussion



In Person Instruction

Will there be remote instruction available?

Students who qualify for remote instruction (available for students who have not received a COVID-19 vaccine or who are not eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine, only while they are under quarantine consistent with guidance or requirements from a local public health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health) will receive the following:

- ★ At least one hour of instruction each school day or five hours in each school week provided by a certified teacher.





2. Flexible Mitigation Strategies for COVID-19

What does that look like?



⁶⁶ Our goal is to protect the health of students, teachers, and staff so that in-person learning can resume as safely as possible,” said IDPH Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike. “The CDC is right: vaccination is the best preventative strategy. As school board members, parents, teachers and superintendents plan for a return to in-person learning in the fall, we strongly encourage those who are not vaccinated to continue to mask.”⁹⁹

DuPage County Health Department

The DCHD shared their recommendations for DuPage County Schools in a statement released on July 20.

[DCHD Statement](#)



Flexible Mitigation Strategies

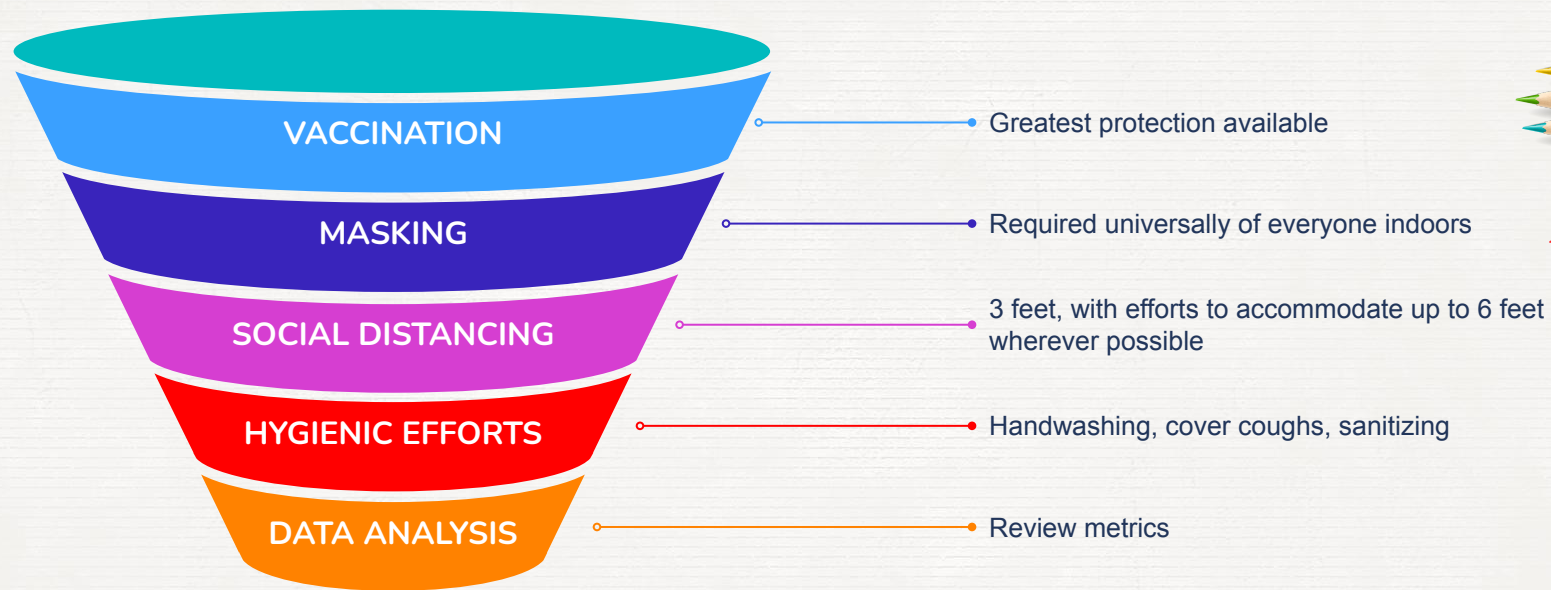
Reducing COVID-19 transmission in schools is a shared responsibility. Schools can limit transmission by layering the following effective prevention strategies:

- ★ Promoting COVID-19 vaccination for those eligible
- ★ Consistent and correct use of masks by people who are not fully vaccinated
- ★ Physical distancing among people who are not fully vaccinated
- ★ Screening testing in K-12 schools
- ★ Improving ventilation
- ★ Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- ★ Staying home when sick and getting tested
- ★ Testing and contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine
- ★ Routine cleaning with disinfection under certain conditions.

Source: [CDC Update Guidance, July 9](#)



Flexible Mitigation Strategies -Layered Protection Strategies in D13



Flexible Mitigation Strategies

Vaccination:

- ★ “Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic.” - Centers for Disease Control guidance
- ★ Parents asked (not required) to share child’s vaccination status which will help with contact tracing and hopefully avoid quarantine.
- ★ Vaccines will continue to be strongly encouraged as they become available to all.



Flexible Mitigation Strategies

Masking:

Masks will be required of all students and staff based on the Governor's mandate. Once the mandate has been lifted, the District will look to providing greater flexibility in the use of masks throughout the school day, pending updated guidance and other safety mitigations are in place.

- ★ Face masks must be worn at all times indoors by all staff and students to start the year.
- ★ Students and bus drivers are required to wear a face mask while riding on the bus.



Flexible Mitigation Strategies

Masking (continued):

- ★ Once the mandate has been lifted and guidance has been amended, flexibility will be provided to students 12 and older who have had access to the COVID-19 vaccine for over two months.
- ★ There will be face mask breaks as often as possible throughout each day.
- ★ Staff members will remind students of opportunities where they may take their masks off.
- ★ Face masks do not need to be worn outside.



Flexible Mitigation Strategies

Social Distancing:

- ★ 3 feet of social distancing will be observed in all instructional spaces
- ★ Opportunities will be sought to increase social distancing to up to 6 feet, whenever possible
- ★ Contact tracing will involve any student or staff member that is inside 3 feet of an individual identified as COVID-19 positive for more than 15 minutes a day.



Flexible Mitigation Strategies

Hygienic Efforts:

- ★ Frequent handwashing, use of hand sanitizer, and covering coughs will be reviewed and practiced across the District
- ✗ Cleaning and disinfection, and ventilation, protocols in place last year will continue.



Flexible Mitigation Strategies

Data Analysis:

- ★ Data will be reviewed at both county and local levels each week
- ★ Decisions will be made to peel mitigation layers based on trends over time (a minimum of two weeks)
- ★ Superintendent will share any changes with families and staff in weekly communications



Flexible Mitigation Strategies

In School COVID Testing:

- ★ The CDC and IDPH both have encouraged schools to consider engaging in COVID testing in school to curtail the spread of the virus and to reduce quarantine periods for those who do not know if they are infected.
- ★ The District is looking into different options for this service and should this be implemented, a communication will be released to parents regarding the details.





3. Frequently Asked Questions

About Procedures Related to Health and Safety
Protocols for 21-22



Frequently Asked Questions

- ★ Are masks required? - For all preK-8 students, staff and visitors, yes while indoors. No masks outdoors. ON BUS all must be masked per CDC
- ★ Will COVID-19 vaccinations be required? - Not at this time
- ★ Will quarantine after travel be required? - Not at this time
- ★ Will we require COVID-19 testing for people who travel? Not at this time



Frequently Asked Questions

- ★ Is it possible to have different rules at different schools? - Possibly, depends upon school transmission rates --we will mitigate locally at specific schools as needed
- ★ Will we provide remote learning? - Only for students who need to quarantine (unvaccinated) who will be out of school per doctor's orders for an extended length of time.
- ★ What would that look like? Remote learning would be at least one hour of instruction each school day or five hours each week provided by a certified teacher.



Frequently Asked Questions

- ★ Will recess be restricted (K-5)? - Not at this time; we will revisit if transmission increases
- ★ Will we have to keep seating charts for classes, buses, lunch, etc. for contact tracing purposes? - Yes
- ★ Can we gather in a large group, like for a "Back to School Assembly" with students and staff? - Yes
- ★ Will lunch require 6ft distancing? - Not at this time, but social distancing will be observed to the greatest extent possible.



Frequently Asked Questions

- ★ Are we going to require students to wash or sanitize hands upon arrival and before eating? - Yes, hand sanitizer in all schools - we will continue to encourage good hygiene.
- ★ Will all staff and students still be required to self-certify via Raptor each morning? - Not each morning; however, an agreement will need to be signed for each student this year indicating should they be ill, they will be kept home while symptoms are present.
- ★ Will PTO Food Days be allowed to resume? - Yes



Frequently Asked Questions

- ★ Are we relaxing material sharing for recess & classes? - Yes
- ★ Will we be able to resume before/after school clubs/activities in person? - Yes for clubs, hopeful for the same regarding athletics
- ★ Can students take masks off during outdoor recess and outdoor PE if they are not vaccinated? - Yes; no masks needed outdoors



Frequently Asked Questions

- Close Contact and Quarantine



- ★ Close Contact - For K-12 school setting, unvaccinated individuals who are less than 3' of a positive individual for more than 15 cumulative minutes in a 24-hour period. [CDC Close Contact Link](#)
- ★ Close Contact Quarantine - Individuals determined to be a close contact will be required to quarantine for 7 to 14 calendar days
- ★ Close Contact Exceptions - vaccinated asymptomatic individuals; asymptomatic individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 within 3-months

Frequently Asked Questions

- ★ Just a reminder that the plan is considered “tentative” because the District is experiencing changing guidance regularly and wants to comply in order to make a safe and meaningful in person educational experience for every student.
- ★ For access to the most current information regarding the District’s preparations for in person learning this fall, please visit the Return to Learn page on the website, www.sd13.org

