

River Forest
Public Schools

Administration Building
7776 Lake Street
River Forest, IL 60305
Phone: 708-771-8282
Fax: 708-771-8291

District 90 COVID-19 Protocols for **Exclusion** and Masking

Revised 3/1/22

District 90 schools is implementing the following COVID-19 protocols for **exclusion and masking pursuant to its local authority and responsibility to protect the health and safety of individuals within the school community and in consideration of state and local health guidance. As that guidance is amended, District 90 may adjust these protocols.**

Individuals with Positive COVID-19 Test Result:

- Regardless of vaccination status, students or staff who test positive for COVID-19 should isolate for a minimum of 5 days and a maximum of 10 days after the first day of symptoms or the specimen collection date from a positive viral test. If there are no symptoms or the symptoms have resolved after 5 days, they are released from isolation to return to school on the 6th day. **Students and staff who continue to have symptoms past the 5 days should wait to end isolation until they are fever-free without fever-reducing medication for 24 hours, diarrhea/vomiting have ceased for 24 hours, and other symptoms have resolved before returning to school.** Individuals are strongly encouraged to follow any additional directions from medical professionals.
- Students or staff who test positive must continue to wear a well-fitted mask around others for 5 additional days after returning to school. If this is not possible, the individual must isolate for a total of 10 days. If masks need to be removed (e.g., during lunch), at least 6 feet of physical distance will be maintained until 10 days after onset of symptoms or positive result. District 90 schools will implement protocols to ensure that student seating arrangements for lunch/snack are consistent with the IDPH/ISBE “adequate distance” guidance for students returning from isolation/quarantine after 5 days and that individuals continue to wear masks consistently upon return.

Individuals with COVID-19-Like Symptoms

- Any individuals with COVID-19-like symptoms, regardless of vaccination status, will be excluded from school for a minimum of five days and a maximum of 10 days until fever-free without fever-reducing medication for 24 hours, diarrhea/vomiting have ceased for 24 hours, and other symptoms have resolved **OR**, until receiving a negative PCR test result that confirms the symptoms are not attributed to COVID-19.

Implications from “Close Contact”

- **Individuals aged 5 or older who have completed the primary series of COVID-19 vaccines (with at least two weeks post second dose) and boosters, if appropriate (based on time from second-dose vaccination date), as well as individuals who have had a confirmed COVID-19 case within the last 90 days do not need to be excluded from school** if they are a close contact. They should wear a mask around others for 10 days and test on days 3-5, if possible. If symptoms develop, they should isolate until they receive a negative test result (see above).

- Individuals who have completed the primary series of recommended vaccine doses or the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine and **qualify for** but have not received a booster shot, as well as unvaccinated individuals, **are recommended to** stay home and wear a mask around others for 5 days after a close contact and test on day 5, if possible. If symptoms develop, they should isolate until they receive a negative test result.
- Children who have received the primary vaccination series but are not eligible for booster doses will **not be excluded** from school after a close contact unless symptoms develop and they test positive for COVID-19.
- **District 90 does not require asymptomatic “close contacts” to be excluded from school.**

Examples of Individuals Not Identified as “Close Contacts”

- A student who was within 3 to 6 feet in a classroom setting for at least 15 minutes with a confirmed or probable student case if both case and contact were consistently masked for the entire exposure period
- Students and staff who have received all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses, including boosters and additional primary doses for qualified immunocompromised individuals
- An individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 90 days from date of exposure
- An individual who is solely exposed to a confirmed case while outdoors, unless under higher-risk exposure

These individuals (above) **are recommended to** wear a mask around others for 10 days and may consider testing for COVID-19 on day 5, if possible. Any individual testing positive will be excluded from school and should follow guidance for persons testing positive.

Returning from Exclusion from School

Since individual health circumstances will vary about readiness to return to school, staff and students who are impacted by **exclusion from school** should contact the school nurse to finalize plans to return to school. The IDPH and ISBE recommend that students return to school after 5 days **if symptoms have resolved and other conditions are met as described above**, unless clinically recommended to continue exclusion by their medical provider.

Outbreak Testing – Classrooms or Small Group

District 90 is implementing classroom or small group outbreak testing in accordance with directions from the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) when a confirmed outbreak has occurred. CCDPH has indicated that classroom or small group COVID-19 outbreaks require that families either consent for student participation in outbreak testing or that the student be excluded from school, with certain considerations/exemptions (please see below). Students excluded from school qualify for remote learning, as per Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) guidance. Outbreak testing consists of the collection of a saliva sample at school twice a week for a testing cycle of 28 days and is conducted by our testing partner, SHIELD.

Please note the following considerations indicated by CCDPH related to outbreak testing:

- Students and staff who have completed their primary series and/or booster doses (vaccinations “up-to-date”) and are associated with the identified outbreak classroom or small group are recommended to participate in the outbreak testing regimen to assist in curtailing ongoing transmission. However, **individuals** with vaccinations “up-to-date” are not required to participate in the outbreak testing or be excluded from school.
- Outbreak testing for individuals who have recovered from a PCR-confirmed COVID-19 infection is not recommended if less than 90 days have passed from symptom onset or previous positive test, but testing should resume once the 90 days have passed. Families are requested to provide confirmation of past positive PCR test results to the school nurse for outbreak testing exemption, if applicable.
- Consent for student participation in outbreak testing or school exclusion is required for students who are unvaccinated or have not completed their primary series and/or booster doses and are part of the identified outbreak testing classroom or small group. CCDPH has indicated that school exclusion **should last for 10 days**. In this case, school exclusion qualifies for remote learning.
- Participation in outbreak testing is required for personnel who are unvaccinated or have not completed their primary series and/or booster doses and are part of the identified outbreak testing classroom or small group.

Face Masks

Wearing face masks will be optional indoors and outdoors at all D90 school facilities for students, staff and school visitors, unless health conditions requirement reinstatement (please see District 90 “COVID-19 Mask Tiers” below). Schools will provide face masks for students and staff as needed. However, individuals choosing to mask will be permitted to supply a face mask of their own choosing. Students or staff who test positive must continue to wear a well-fitted mask around others for 5 additional days after returning to school (please see “Individuals with Positive COVID-19 Test Result” above). Additional details include:

- Wearing face masks is optional for individuals on school transportation.
- Please note that individuals participating in interscholastic programs/events will be required to adhere to the host school’s mask/mitigation requirements to participate in the interscholastic event.
- The nurse’s office at each school remains a “mask required” location.
- Individuals should wear face masks in elementary classrooms that have been placed in outbreak status by the CCDPH for up to 14 days after the most recent class-related diagnosis.
- School or grade-level outbreaks may necessitate mask reinstatement to contain transmission if directed by the CCDPH as a condition to sustain in-person instruction.
- District 90 is committed to providing a caring, responsive and safe environment free from harassment, bullying, teasing and/or exclusion. This commitment includes and extends to individuals’ decisions about the choice to wear a face mask or covering.

In alignment with CDC guidance, District 90 will require masking again in its school buildings if the community is designated at a “High Community Level.” Additionally, District 90 will return to a masking requirement if the state or local government, or local health department (CCDPH), impose a masking mandate.

Additional Considerations

Please note that all other COVID-19 protocols currently being implemented in District 90 that are not addressed in this communication remain unchanged at this time. These include mitigation protocols addressing the following :

- promoting vaccinations for all qualifying individuals
- requiring COVID-19 testing or school exclusion for symptomatic individuals
- providing face masks, as needed
- implementing physical distancing, as appropriate
- offering unobserved screening testing
- continuing outbreak testing protocols
- adhering to ventilation and air circulation recommendations
- promoting handwashing regimens
- maintaining school cleaning and disinfection efforts

If you have questions about this communication or implications for you, your child, or your family, please contact the nurse at your child's school. Questions pertaining to COVID-19 procedures or safety mitigation protocols can also be directed to the D90 Infection Control Officer, Sam Martini at martinis@district90.org

District 90 COVID-19 FACE MASK TIERS

Derived from CDC "Mask Requirement" Guidance, Updated 2/25/22

District 90 schools will utilize the following elements to determine masking protocols, pursuant to its local authority and responsibility to protect the health and safety of individuals within the school community and in consideration of state and local health guidance. As that guidance is amended, District 90 may adjust these protocols.

The Community Levels and Indicators metrics issued by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on February 25, 2022 provides the foundation for decisions related to school face mask requirements (please see CDC matrix below). In addition, the District will utilize the following constellation of metrics to further assess classroom, school or school district risk and inform decision making. A combination of these metrics existing at high levels may result in the reinstatement of mask wearing, determined in consultation with the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH):

- Number and distribution of active COVID-19 cases in the school community
- Number and distribution of active COVID-19 cases in the local community (60305)
- Number and distribution of classroom or grade-level COVID-19 outbreaks
- Student/staff vaccination rates

District 90 Face Mask Tiers

<i>CDC Community Level</i>	<i>D90 Masking Status</i>	<i>Actions for Individuals</i>
LOW	<i>Mask Optional</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stay up to date with vaccines - Get tested if symptomatic
MEDIUM	<i>Mask Optional</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Talk to healthcare provider if high risk - Stay up to date with vaccines - Get tested if symptomatic
HIGH	<i>Mask Required</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wear a mask indoors, including school - Stay up to date with vaccines - Get tested if symptomatic - Possible extra precautions for high risk

Reference: CDC's COVID-19 Community Levels and Indicators (County Level)

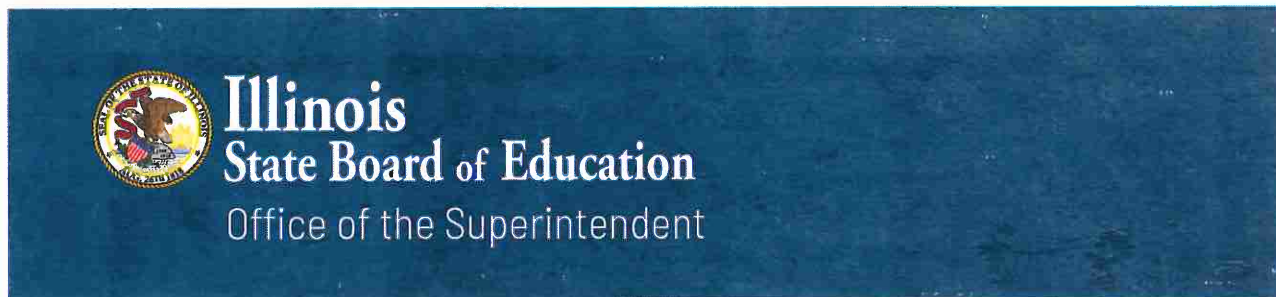
New Cases (per 100,000 population in the last 7 days)	Indicators	Low	Medium	High
Fewer than 200	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	<10.0	10.0-19.9	≥20.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	<10.0%	10.0-14.9%	≥15.0%
200 or more	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	NA	<10.0	≥10.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	NA	<10.0%	≥10.0%

The COVID-19 community level is determined by the higher of the inpatient beds and new admissions indicators, based on the current level of new cases per 100,000 population in the past 7 days

From: Illinois State Board of Education hello@isbe.net
Subject: Masks optional for all schools starting Monday
Date: February 25, 2022 at 6:57 PM
To: condone@district90.org



Click [here](#) if you are having trouble viewing this message.



Dear Colleagues:

I try to avoid sharing important information late on a Friday afternoon, but two very big announcements happened today, and I hope you will be happy with the news I have to share. The Illinois Supreme Court issued its decision in the Austin, Graves, Hughes, and Allen cases. Also, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated its guidance on masking to recommend masking in schools only in areas of high transmission, based on new key metrics.

Therefore, Governor Pritzker has announced the following:

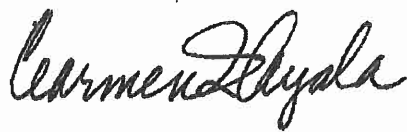
"I'm gratified that the Supreme Court vacated the lower court's restraining order, meaning that if a school mask mandate needs to go into effect in the future, we continue to have that authority.

"I'm also extremely pleased to say that because the CDC has recommended that masks are needed only in areas of high transmission, the State of Illinois will move forward to remove our school mask mandate, effective Monday. We will recommend that all school districts follow CDC guidance and will update our existing guidance in the coming days."

Per the Governor's announcement, masks are optional for all schools and school districts starting Monday, Feb. 28. ISBE will work with the Illinois Department of Public Health to update our guidance documents as soon as possible.

The past two years of leading through a global pandemic have been the most challenging of my career - and I know many of you would say the same. I am deeply grateful for your partnership in keeping our students and educators

deeply grateful for your partnership in keeping our students and educators safe. Thank you for all that you do.



Dr. Carmen I. Ayala
State Superintendent of Education
Illinois State Board of Education

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The Illinois State Board of Education is the State Education Agency for Illinois. Our mission is to provide each and every child with safe and healthy learning conditions, great educators, and equitable opportunities by practicing data-informed stewardship of resources and policy development, all done in partnership with educators, families, and stakeholders.

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From: Ed Condon, Superintendent Notification@target1013.brightarrow.com
Subject: Letter to the Community - Optional Mask Wearing
Date: February 27, 2022 at 11:00 AM
To: condone@district90.org



River Forest
Public Schools

Administration Building
7776 Lake Street
River Forest, IL 60305
708-771-8282

Dear Students, Staff, and Families,

On Friday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued new COVID-19 guidance, including information related to school masking. Governor J.B. Pritzker also announced on Friday that the State of Illinois will proceed to remove the school mask mandate, effective Monday, February 28. Finally, the State Superintendent of Education indicated that “per the Governor’s announcement, masks are optional for all schools and school districts” starting Monday, February 28.

For these reasons, and since Cook County has been now designated by the CDC as having a low COVID-19 Community Level, **District 90 will shift to a “mask optional” mode effective tomorrow (Monday, February 28).**

The CDC no longer recommends universal indoor mask wearing in K-12 schools or early education settings in areas with a low or medium COVID-19 Community Level. In addition, the CDC no longer directs the wearing of masks on school transportation, including early care and education/child care programs. Please note that the shift to optional mask wearing in District 90 is provisional until the Board of Education meets on Tuesday, March 1 at the Committee of the Whole Meeting. At that time, the Board of Education will review the essential details about how the District will support optional mask wearing and have the chance to affirm the mask optional shift through Board action. It is expected that the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) will issue guidance in the coming days reflecting the change to optional mask wearing in schools. District 90 will update and broadly communicate revised D90 safety mitigation protocols to reflect any essential details. Face masks will continue to be available to all students and staff who desire them.

We understand that this change will be received differently by different individuals and may surface questions and strong feelings, especially for our students. Please be assured that our building Principals and Assistant Principals have been envisioning plans to support students as the shift to optional mask wearing is introduced. They will work with our outstanding faculty and staff to frame the change in a supportive and reassuring way when students return to school tomorrow. Helping students to understand and accept others’ decisions, respect individuals’ choices, and continue to find common ground amidst varying opinions will all be encouraged. We will be grateful if families would please assist us in making the transition successful by preparing children for the change and explaining family decisions about masking. We have attached links to two short videos that may be of assistance as you dialogue with children about these topics.

[NBC Chicago News](#)

[ABC 7 Chicago News](#)

Thank you for your patience and understanding, and your unyielding support of the District 90 school community during these extraordinary times.

Respectfully,

Ed Condon, Ph.D.
Superintendent

From: Mark Klaisner mklaisner@west40.org
Subject: Fwd: CCDPH Press Release: Issued 02/27/22
Date: March 1, 2022 at 8:16 AM
To: Superintendents sups@west40.org



----- Forwarded message -----
From: Cook County Department of Public Health <donald.bolger@cookcountyhealth.org>
Date: Mon, Feb 28, 2022 at 4:54 PM
Subject: CCDPH Press Release: Issued 02/27/22
To: <mklaisner@west40.org>



Monday, February 28, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Media Contact: Don Bolger
Feb. 27, 2022 donald.bolger@cookcountyhealth.org email
312-465-3281 cell

**Cook County Department of Public Health to end Mitigation Order 2021-11 on Monday,
February 28, 2022**

The Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) is issuing a new mitigation Order, rescinding Order 2021-11 in its entirety. The new Order, Mitigation Order 2022-1, does not contain any mitigation measures, and goes into effect at 6 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 28, 2022.

Rescinding Mitigation Order 2021-11 lifts the vaccination and masking requirements for CCDPH's suburban Cook County jurisdiction. Substantial improvements in COVID-19 case counts, positivity rates, and hospital occupancy allow CCDPH to lift Order 2021-11, coinciding with the removal of similar orders in the city of Chicago and state of Illinois.

Masking as part of isolation after infection and quarantine after exposure is still necessary to prevent COVID-19 transmission. This includes in workplaces and schools.

Masks are required in airports and interstate transportation by federal order.

Healthcare facilities including hospitals, clinics and long-term care facilities should continue masking in accordance with the Illinois Department of Public Health and CDC guidance.

CCDPH continues to recommend masking with a well-fitting high-quality mask, such as a KN95 or N95 respirator, for those who are considered **at high risk for severe COVID-19 illness** when they are in public indoor spaces or other places where individuals near them may be unvaccinated.

Vaccines protect people from contracting COVID-19 and especially from severe disease and death. To find a vaccination location near you, please visit myshotcookcounty.com.

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Click on the buttons below to download the press release (PDF) and Mitigation Orders 2021-11 and 2022-1 referenced above.

Press Release

Mitigation Orders

COVID-19 INFORMATION

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COVID-19 DATA



Cook County Department of Public Health | 7556 Jackson Blvd, 15900 S. Cicero Avenue,
Admin,
Forest Park, IL 60130 healthycook@cookcountyhhs.org

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COOK COUNTY
HEALTH

Cook County ^{DEPT}
Public Health

Leadership

Toni Preckwinkle
President, Cook County Board of Commissioners

Israel Rocha, Jr.
Chief Executive Officer, Cook County Health

Rachel Rubin, MD, MPH, FACP
Co-Lead and Senior Medical Officer

Kiran Joshi, MD, MPH
Co-Lead and Senior Medical Officer

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Karen E. Kim, MD, MS

Mike Koetting
David Ernesto Munar
Heather M. Prendergast, MD, MS, MPH
Robert G. Reiter, Jr.
Otis L. Story, Sr.

**ORDER OF THE
COOK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
No. 2022-1
COVID-19 MITIGATION
Effective: February 28, 2022**

WHEREAS, On January 27, 2020, the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services declared that COVID-19, a respiratory illness spread by close contact through respiratory droplets, presents a public health emergency, and the World Health Organization characterized the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic on March 11, 2020.

WHEREAS, The Cook County Department of Public Health is the Illinois certified local health department for suburban Cook County, Illinois, with the exception of Evanston, Skokie, Oak Park, and Stickney Township, serving 127 municipalities.

WHEREAS, The Cook County Department of Public Health is responsible for determining when a danger to the public health exists within its jurisdiction, and to order measures deemed necessary to protect the public health until such time that the danger to the public health is eliminated or reduced in such a manner that an immediate threat no longer exists.

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Cook County, Illinois, Code of Ordinances Sec. 38-33(b), a law enforcement officer with proper jurisdiction shall be authorized to enforce orders issued by the Cook County Department of Public Health with respect to public health measures and shall assist in enforcing such orders.

WHEREAS, The Cook County Department of Public Health has determined that the immediate danger to the public health at this time has reduced in such a manner that mandatory mitigation measures are no longer necessary.

NOW, THEREFORE, in accordance with the authority delegated to it by the Illinois Department of Public Health pursuant to the Illinois Public Health Act (20 ILCS 2305/1.1 *et seq.*); the Illinois Department of Public Health Powers and Duties Law (20 ILCS 2310/2310-15 *et seq.*); and the Cook County, Illinois, Code of Ordinances (Chapter 38, Article II *et seq.*), the Cook County Department of Public Health hereby directs and orders:

Cook County Department of Public Health Order 2021-11 is hereby repealed.

Cook County Department of Public Health encourages businesses to follow any Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and Illinois Department of Public Health policy and guideline updates.

Cook County Department of Public Health further encourages Pre-K through 12th grade schools to follow any guidance issued by the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Illinois State Board of Education and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Nothing in this Order shall, in any way, alter or modify the legal authority of the State or any county, or local government body.



Dated: 2/27/22
Effective: 2/28/22, 6am
Name: Rachel Rubin
Senior Medical Officer, Co-Lead
Cook County Department of Public Health



Leadership

Toni Preckwinkle
President, Cook County Board of Commissioners

Israel Rocha, Jr.
Chief Executive Officer, Cook County Health

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February 22, 2022

Cook County Department of Public Health Plans to Lift Mitigation Order 2021-11 on February 28, 2022

The Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) plans to lift Mitigation Order 2021-11 on February 28, 2022.

CCDPH will act in alignment with the state of Illinois and the city of Chicago as improvements are continuing throughout the region in key COVID-19 metrics. The COVID-19 positivity rate in CCDPH's suburban Cook County is 3%, and the 7-day rolling average for confirmed cases as of 2/18/22 is 285. The region's ICU and Non-ICU admissions numbers, and the positivity rate are both in the 'lower transmission' risk category, and confirmed cases continue to decrease and are approaching the lower transmission category.

Lifting Mitigation Order 2021-11 would mean:

- Masks will no longer be required in all indoor public places for the general public.
 - **Masks will continue to be required in those settings as required by federal or State Order or CDC guidelines (healthcare settings, public transportation and transportation hubs, congregate care settings)**
- In the settings covered by Order 2021-11 (those where food or drink are served for on-premises consumption and health and fitness centers):
 - Proof of vaccination for patrons in businesses that are covered by the order will no longer be required.
 - Proof of vaccination or weekly testing for employees covered by the Order will no longer be required.

"We are glad to be able to move with the rest of the state to lift these measures," said Dr. Rachel Rubin, CCDPH Co-lead and Senior Medical Officer. "We thank the residents for their cooperation, and the suburban Cook County business community for their support and

compliance of the mask mandate and vaccination requirements. We urge those who have not been vaccinated to do so.”

Although masks will not be required, many residents will choose to continue to wear a mask – especially those who are immunocompromised and children under the age of 5 who are not eligible to be vaccinated.

“We ask for continued understanding and kindness to those who choose to wear a mask,” added Dr. Kiran Joshi, CCDPH Co-lead and Senior Medical Officer.

Additionally, CCDPH strongly recommends wearing a face mask in schools. Only 48% of suburban Cook County residents younger than 20 have received one dose of COVID vaccine.

In addition to schools, CCDPH continues to recommend masking in any crowded indoor public setting where physical distancing cannot be maintained such as at large indoor events. We will continue to monitor COVID-19 metrics in our suburban jurisdiction and may recommend additional mitigation measures in the future if the healthcare system is overwhelmed or if transmission rate increases warrant such action.