



WOOD DALE
SCHOOL DISTRICT 7
STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE

Wood Dale District 7
COVID-19
Plan & Protocols
2022/23 School Year

Introduction

All District 7 staff members are responsible for implementing this plan. Additionally, while we recognize our students need adult support and guidance, they too will be assisting us in implementing this plan, when appropriate. We are grateful to our families for their ongoing patience and support. Our goal is to mitigate the potential for transmission of COVID-19 in our school and community, and that requires full cooperation from all of us.

Note: Protocols described in this plan are subject to change as guidelines evolve.

Vaccination

The CDC states that COVID-19 vaccination among all eligible students (3 years of age or older) as well as teachers, staff, and household members is the most critical strategy to help schools safely resume full operations. For more information on vaccination [CLICK HERE](#).

Social & Physical Distancing

A distance of at least 3 feet is recommended between unvaccinated students, but not required. A distance of at least 6 feet is recommended between unvaccinated adults or between unvaccinated adults and students, but not required. All seating in District 7 classrooms has been arranged to provide three feet of social distance between students to the greatest extent possible.

Visual reminders have been posted throughout our school buildings and visuals have been designated (signs, tape, etc.) as indicators of safe distances in areas where students congregate or line up (e.g., arrival and departure, hallways, etc.). Staff and students should continue to abstain from physical contact, including, but not limited to, handshakes, high fives, hugs, etc.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Face Coverings

Face coverings are recommended but optional for all District 7 students, staff, and visitors.

Hygiene

Frequent hand washing and hand sanitizing are key to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Staff members and students must clean hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol must be used. Staff and students must avoid touching their mouth, eyes, or nose as much as possible. Staff and students must use hand sanitizer upon entering and exiting the classroom each time. Hand sanitizer is available in all classrooms and is placed in common areas throughout each school building. Each building has signage in place reminding everyone of the need for proper hand hygiene in the appropriate areas. If assisting a student requires close contact, hand washing, or sanitizing must be done before and after contact with students. It is recommended that hand hygiene is performed upon arrival to and departure from school; after blowing one's nose, coughing, or sneezing; following restroom use; before food preparation or before and after eating; before/after routine care for another person, such as a child; after contact with a person who is sick; upon return from the playground/physical

education; before touching ones face, and following removal of any PPE. District 7 has posted handwashing posters in the bathrooms and in other common areas throughout the school.

Appropriate PPE including face covering, shield, gloves, and gown will be made available to all staff working 1:1 with a student.

Air Circulation/Ventilation

All District 7 HVAC units were serviced this summer to ensure maximum performance. All units were cleaned and filters were changed. The HVAC is set to maintain a 20% fresh air flow. Additionally, the district has bi-polar ionization air cleaners throughout the district buildings' HVAC systems to better purify the air circulating through the buildings. Staff members are not permitted to have fans in their classrooms or offices.

Staff & Student Health Monitoring

Only students and staff who are healthy should come to school/work. Staff and students are encouraged to stay home when not feeling well. Students and staff with any of the following symptoms* of COVID-19 **must** remain home:

- Measured temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or greater
- New cough
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue from an unknown cause
- Muscle or body aches from an unknown cause
- New onset of moderate to severe headache
- New loss of sense of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Known close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 - unless you are up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters (if required)..

*As recommended by the Illinois Department of Health (IDPH)

If a child has been diagnosed with allergies, asthma or other chronic health conditions that would exhibit COVID-19-like symptoms, we encourage the family to discuss this matter with their healthcare provider for any needed recommendations to attend school. It is recommended that parents contact their child's healthcare provider if the child is immunocompromised prior to the start of school.

If a child comes to school with any of the COVID-19 symptoms, they will be sent to the quarantine room/space. Students will remain in the quarantine area until a parent or guardian picks the student up, or alternative transportation home is arranged. Students who exhibit

symptoms should be referred to a medical provider for evaluation, treatment, and information about when they can return to school.

Staff who are absent due to COVID-19 symptoms will follow the recommended guidelines for return to school per the health department. Staff must report COVID-19 symptoms, diagnoses or exposures when reporting absences. Confirmed cases will be reported to the health department.

Contact Tracing

The District 7 Nurse and Health Clerks conduct all contact tracing. The health staff have been trained in contact tracing and will follow-up with any student's family or staff member who test positive for COVID-19.

Transportation

District 7 will continue to offer eligible students daily transportation. The following procedures will be followed for transportation:

- Students have the option to wear their masks on the bus.
- Students will have the option to clean their hands with hand sanitizer upon boarding the bus.
- Students will have assigned seats on the bus.
- Students will be seated as far apart as possible on the bus.
- Siblings will sit together on the bus.
- Students will not be allowed to eat on the bus.
- Bus windows will be kept open (weather permitting) to increase ventilation.
- Buses will be disinfected after each route by the bus drivers.

Any questions regarding the transportation program should be directed to Mrs. Pam Wawczak 630-546-2859 (pwawczak@wdsd7.org)

School Environment

- Students will be provided with direct instruction to support their understanding of social distancing, hand washing, and wearing a mask appropriately if they choose to wear one.
- Classrooms will be completely cleaned and disinfected (with CDC approved disinfectants) at the end of the school day.
- Students are asked to bring a water bottle that can be filled at water bottle filling stations.
- Restrooms will be cleaned throughout the day.

Preparing for When a Student or Staff Member Becomes Sick

Any individual who tests positive for COVID-19, or who shows any signs or symptoms of illness, should stay home. Families and staff should also report possible cases to the school where the individual attends school or works, to initiate contact tracing. Attendance personnel will request specific symptoms when absences are reported, along with COVID-19 diagnoses and

COVID-19 exposure. Information will be documented and shared with the health staff or other appropriate personnel and the local health department. In accordance with state and federal guidance, school community members who are sick should not return to school until they have met the criteria to return.

District 7 will use the symptom checklist and exclusionary criteria developed by the Illinois Department of Public Health for students and staff to determine if they are well enough to attend that day. These guidelines will also be used to determine whether students and staff can return to school.

[IDPH COVID-19 EXCLUSIONARY CRITERIA](#)

It is recommended that families who have medically fragile and/or immunocompromised students consult their medical provider prior to attending school. Students or staff returning from illness related to COVID-19 should call to check in with Ms. Delia Mercado, District Nurse (630-766-6210) (dmercado@wdsd7.org) following quarantine. Any individual within the school environment who shows symptoms will be immediately separated from the rest of the school population. Individuals who are sick will be sent home. Individuals who did not have close contact with the person who is sick can return to work immediately. Those who had close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 or is suspected of having COVID-19 infection will be provided further instructions regarding the need to quarantine and/or monitor symptoms by the District Nurse.