



# UPDATE



CCSD59 Families,

I hope you are all enjoying your days of summer and getting excited for the start of our 2021-2022 school year. We are thrilled to welcome all students back to full in-person learning this year.

At the end of last week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated their [Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#), and shortly after, the Illinois School Board of Education (ISBE) issued a [statement](#) fully adopting the CDC guidance.

With the newly issued guidance, CCSD59 is in the process of updating our Return to School Plan for the 2021-22 school year. The board of education held initial discussions about the new guidance at the July 12, board meeting, but there are still several details that need further clarification before our planning can be finalized. At this point, we are building our plan on the following highlights:

- Full in-person learning five days a week with a return to pre-COVID-19 standard school day schedules
- Return of recess and use of playground equipment
- Regular breakfast and lunch will return following guidance from ISBE/IDPH
  - All meals served in schools will be free for students during the 2021-22 school year thanks to the extension of a federal program by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- No daily self-certification form to complete, but we will continue to ask families to monitor your child's health each morning and keep students home if they are exhibiting any symptoms of illness
- Cubbies and lockers will once again be utilized by students
- Extracurricular activities and in-person events will be gradually re-introduced
- Volunteers and essential visitors will be welcomed back into our schools
- The period of time for student quarantine due to close contact will be reduced to 10 days as directed by our local health department
- Kids' Club will resume through the Elk Grove Park District

Along with these plan highlights, CCSD59 will also continue to utilize a variety of mitigation strategies to help reduce the risk and spread of COVID-19-related illness. Our established strategies include:

- Observing social distancing as much as possible
- Maintaining an increase in schoolwide cleaning, disinfection, and maintenance of healthy environments
- Maintaining adherence to handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Along with the mitigation strategies above, we are also working to finalize the details of the additional strategies listed below:

- **Masks:** The CDC, IDPH, and ISBE have stated, "Masks should be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated." CCSD59 will provide further clarification on this guidance as quickly as possible. Due to the start of school for our balanced calendar approaching next week, we will maintain our current mask policy until the board of education has had time to review and approve any potential changes.

According to CDC guidance, all students must continue to wear masks while riding the school bus.

- **Quarantine:** The requirement for quarantine is based on close contact, and the CDC recently updated the definition of close contact to **exclude “students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student where both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting masks.”** The recommended duration for quarantine has also been reduced from 14 days to 10 days if supported by our local health department. Students in quarantine will also have the option to continue their learning through remote learning, but this model will look different than it did last school year. Details for remote learning for quarantined students will be shared in the near future.
- **Testing:** According to the CDC, “In K-12 schools, screening testing can help promptly identify and isolate cases, quarantine those who may have been exposed to COVID-19 and are not fully vaccinated, and identify clusters to reduce the risk to in-person education.” CCSD59 is exploring opportunities for on-site testing as an added layer in its mitigation plan.

We recognize how important the safety and health of all students are as we prepare for a full return to in-person learning. Your patience is greatly appreciated as we review all guidance and work with our board of education to finalize these elements. The 2021-22 Return to School Plan will be presented at the August 2, board meeting.

All plans and mitigation strategies are dependent on the level of community transmission of COVID-19 and may need to be adjusted at any time in response to our local health data. We will continue to provide ongoing updates to families as our planning is finalized and the details are ready to be shared.

One final piece that we previously shared with all families is the reminder that the CDC has approved the use of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 12 and older. Cook County Health continues to offer everyone ages 12 and older this vaccine free of charge at vaccination sites across the suburbs. Locations can be found by clicking on “Find a vaccine” on the [Cook County Department of Public Health](#) site. No appointment is needed, and vaccinations are free regardless of insurance or immigration status. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Individuals can still make appointments for the mass vaccination sites at [vaccine.cookcountyil.gov](https://vaccine.cookcountyil.gov) or by calling 833-308-1988 (Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.). **As a reminder, vaccinated students and staff will not be required to quarantine or get tested after possible exposure to someone with COVID-19.**

Thank you again for your ongoing support and patience with our return to school planning process. The most important focus of our work is to keep our students, families, staff, and communities as safe as possible while still offering our students the best environment in which they can successfully learn. We look forward to accomplishing that goal as we finalize our plans for the start of the 2021-22 school year.

*Dr. Terri Bresnahan*  
*Superintendent of Schools, CCSD59*

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