

Crestwood School Reopening Plan

2021-2022 School Year

Frequently Asked Questions

What protective measures is the school district going to take?

- **School Day Schedule** - Students may enter the building at 7:50 AM. The first bell will ring at 8:15 AM. Students will be dismissed at 3:20 PM. *Please note this is a change from last year.*
- **Face Coverings** – Vaccinated students, employees and visitors are required to wear a face mask. Unvaccinated students, employees and visitors are required to wear a face mask. Modification to this practice may change if needed based on IDPH guidance.
- **Social Distancing** - Students will be spaced out to the greatest extent possible.
- **School-Wide Cleaning & Disinfecting** - The school district will continue to spray classrooms, the cafeteria, the playground, and other rooms with disinfectant. Rooms and surfaces will be regularly cleaned.
- **Hand Sanitizing Stations** – Each classroom has a hand sanitizer station.
- **Water Fountains** - All water fountains have bottle dispensers, so students may fill their water bottles without touching the fountain.
- **Hand Washing** – Students will wash their hands throughout the day. Touchless water faucets have been installed throughout the building.
- **Visitors** - No visitors will be allowed in the school during the school day.

How will this impact group settings?

- **Bussing** - Bussing will be provided to students. Students must wear a face mask on the bus. Family members will sit together on the bus. The school district encourages parents to transport students to school.
- **Playgrounds** - Playgrounds will be open to students and regularly disinfected. Students will use hand sanitizer before and after use of the playground. Students will be encouraged to stay six feet apart.
- **Cafeteria** – There will be a rotation of 50 students in the cafeteria each week. Other groups will eat in their classroom.
- **Field Trips** – Field trips will be allowed.
- **Extracurricular Activities** - Extracurricular activities will follow the association guidelines. If an activity is not part of an association (IESA/IHSA), they will follow school guidelines.

What happens if a student tests positive for COVID-19?

- **COVID-19 Positive Test Result** - A student that tests positive will be quarantined for at least 10 days.
- **Contact Tracing** – The school district will work with the Edgar County Health Department on contact tracing within the school.

What are my options for schooling this upcoming school year?

- **Remote Learning** – Remote learning will not be an option. All students are expected to attend school in person.

What will in-person learning look like?

- **Classroom** - Classrooms will be regularly disinfected. Students may engage in group work and socially distance to the greatest extent possible.

- **Art/Music/Technology** - Students will move for special classes. Between classes, the room will be disinfected to prevent the spread of the virus.
- **Band/Choir** - Choir students will be expected to spread out. The band students will receive lessons and perform in small groups. Proper protective equipment will be provided by the school and required in these classrooms.
- **Physical Education** - PE courses will be outside as much as possible. Junior high students will dress for PE class.
- **Moving from Classroom-to-Classroom** - Students will move from classroom-to-classroom and classrooms will be disinfected on a schedule to keep the classrooms clean.
- **Half-Day Preschool** - Half-day preschool programs will have rooms disinfected daily during the lunch hour to ensure the safety of the next group of students.
- **Lockers** – Junior high students will utilize every other locker.
- **COVID-19** - The school does not guarantee anyone's safety from COVID-19. We will do our best to promote a safe and clean environment; however, a parent that commits to this plan understands their child has the risk of contracting COVID-19 or coming in contact with someone that has COVID-19. The school will work with the health department to share information, and students and staff will be quarantined based on health guidelines.

When should I keep my child home from school based on COVID-19 symptoms?

- If your child is experiencing a cough, fever, chills, muscle pain, shortness of breath, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell, they should remain home until they receive an alternate diagnosis from a medical professional or receive a negative COVID test per health guidelines from the State of Illinois. If one child in the home is ill all siblings must also stay home until the ill child is cleared to attend school.

Please note: These procedures will be adjusted as needed as the safety of our students and staff is our number one priority.

Paris Community Unit School District No. 4

Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

August 12, 2021

Introduction

Sweeping through the world in early 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in major upheaval to all aspects of life, including unprecedented school closures in the spring and fall of 2020. To open schools for in-person instruction required strict health and safety protocols which created barriers and limitations to teaching and learning. Recognizing that students across remote and in-person settings faced significant academic, social, emotional, and mental health challenges as a result of the interrupted education and the trauma caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. Congress made emergency funds available to local school districts to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19. Most recently, funds available through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act require that school districts develop a *Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services*. As such, this plan has been developed in accordance with the ARP Act and the Illinois State Superintendent of Education declaration of July 9, 2021; is aligned with guidance provided by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and addresses adjustments needed in response to evolving COVID-19 pandemic circumstances. Taking the public's input into account, this plan was also developed through meaningful consultation with a collaborative of students, parents, school and district administrators (including special education administrators), teachers, school staff, food service staff, transportation service staff, labor association leaders, and county health department officials. Opportunity for the public to provide input was provided from July 23-30 through a web-based comment platform. Upon request, this plan will be provided in an alternative format accessible to parents who are individuals with a disability as defined by the ADA. This plan will also be made publicly available on the district's website. School strategies in this plan may be removed based upon local conditions, levels of community transmission (i.e., low, moderate, substantial, or high), local vaccine coverage, use of screening testing to detect cases in K-12 schools, and consultation with local public health officials to determine the prevention strategies needed. School officials will communicate any changes in plans to staff members, students, and parents through the district's regular communication platforms.

Maintaining the Health and Safety of Students, Educators, and Other Staff

In accordance with the Illinois State Superintendent of Schools July 9, 2021 declaration, Paris Community Unit School District No. 4 will be open fully for in-person learning for all student attendance days for the 2021-22 school year. Remote instruction will only be made available for non-vaccinated or vaccine ineligible students who are under quarantine as directed by the local health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health. Absent an order from the Illinois State Board of Education and/or the Illinois Governor's Office, Paris Community Unit School District No. 4 will be in operation in accordance with the CDC's updated (July 9, 2021) *Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in Kindergarten (K)-12 Schools*, also adopted by the IDPH on July 9, 2021. These guidelines include the following:

1. Mask Use

- Mask use is recommended. Students, employees, and visitors are not required, whether vaccinated or not, to wear a mask in school buildings, but may, at their own discretion, choose to wear a facial covering. The Superintendent is authorized to require masks for certain courses, including in-car drivers education instruction, choir, or the like in alignment with local public health department discussion and recommendation.
- Any student or employee on District buses or transportation must wear a facial covering while on the District bus or vehicle, unless otherwise excused in accordance with law.
- The Board recommends, but does not require, that unvaccinated individuals wear a facial covering in school buildings.

- The Board, by its Superintendent or designee, will maintain consistent contact with the local health department to monitor metrics related to COVID-19 in order to monitor community COVID-19 transmission and vaccination rates to guide its local decisions on layered prevention strategies during the school year.
- The Board, by its Superintendent or designee, shall consistently monitor CDC/IDPH /ISBE guidance changes on prevention strategies as the school year progresses, and will implement any changes required by said guidance.
- The Board has adopted the ISBE, IDPH, and CDC Guidance and authorized the Superintendent to develop, implement, and / or modify COVID-19 mitigation measures, including decisions on the use of face coverings and social distancing practices, in consultation with local public health departments, based on local geographical and student and staff COVID-19 vaccination and transmission data, including modifications made on an emergency basis.
- The monitoring of current metrics is an ongoing process, and changes may be made to the plan to align with consultation with the local public health departments, local geographical and student and staff COVID-19 vaccination and transmission data, and positivity rates within the area.

2. Physical Distancing

- To the extent possible within school and classroom structures so that it does not exclude students from full day in-person learning, school staff are to help students commit to physical distancing as much as possible by:
 - arranging furniture, play spaces and naptime materials to model and reinforce physical distancing of at least 3 feet (at least 6 feet for those who are not fully vaccinated) and movement;
 - providing assigned seating for students and encourage students to remain in these seats to the greatest extent possible; and
- School staff will maximize physical distance as much as possible when moving through food service lines and while eating indoors.

3. Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

- School staff will monitor and reinforce frequent handwashing and respiratory etiquette by
 - continuing to teach handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds;
 - assisting young children with handwashing;
 - reminding everyone in the facility to wash hands frequently;
 - using hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol (for teachers, staff, and older students who can safely use hand sanitizer) when handwashing is not possible;
 - continuing to teach respiratory etiquette (e.g., covering coughs and sneezes); and
 - providing adequate handwashing and hand sanitizer supplies that are safely stored.

4. Facility and Transportation Cleaning, Disinfection and Ventilation

- School custodial staff and transportation staff will continue to clean surfaces daily.
- When possible, staff will open doors and windows, use child-safe fans, and have activities, classes, or lunches outdoors when circumstances allow.
- When it does not pose a safety risk, transportation staff will keep vehicle windows open at least a few inches to improve air circulation.

5. Contact Tracing in Combination with Isolation and Quarantine

- Students and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as influenza (flu) or COVID-19, should stay home and contact their healthcare provider for testing and care.
- Individuals in our school environments who show symptoms of COVID-19 are to immediately report to or be escorted to the school's health care professional's office to be either sent home or be quarantined

in the school's supervised safe area while awaiting pickup/evaluation. Parents should ensure that ill students are picked up from school within 30 minutes of being notified. Ill students will not be allowed to utilize the school bus to return home.

- Students and staff who are not fully vaccinated should quarantine after a recent exposure to someone with COVID-19. Fully vaccinated people who were in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 but do NOT have COVID-19 symptoms do not need to quarantine or be tested. Quarantine decisions will be made and communicated by the Edgar County Health Department.
- To the extent allowable by privacy laws and other applicable laws, school health care professionals will continue to collaborate with the Edgar County Health Department officials to confidentially provide information about people diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19, including making notifications to staff and parents as soon as possible regarding those who were in close contact of someone in the school who tested positive for COVID-19.
- The school nurse will inform the school community of outbreaks while maintaining student and staff confidentiality rights.
- Students and staff suspected of having COVID-19, whether they were tested or not, are to follow the CDC guidelines to determine when they can return to school.

6. Promoting Vaccination

- The Edgar County Health Department has vaccines available. Information is sent via text to parents on how to get vaccinated.
- Respectful of peoples' varying levels of vaccine confidence, those who want to get vaccinated against COVID-19 can visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to find out where they can get vaccinated in our community.

7. Disabilities or Other Health Care Needs

- Parents of students who need accommodations, modifications, or assistance related to COVID-19 safety protocols, disabilities, underlying medical conditions, or weakened immune systems should contact their student's case manager to discuss the need(s).

8. Visitors

- Visitors will not be allowed in the building during the school day. Visitors will be allowed at evening activities such as concerts, open house, athletic events, etc.

9. Collaboration with Public Health Officials

- District officials will continue to collaborate and consult with Edgar County Health Department officials throughout the pandemic on various logistics and decision-making including, but not limited to, quarantines, school health and safety protocols, screening testing, contact tracing, vaccine clinics, and emergency school closings.

10. Plan Review

- Through September 30, 2023, this plan will be reviewed no less frequently than every six months and revised as appropriate after seeking and considering public input. Revisions will address the most recently updated safety recommendations by the CDC, provided in an alternative format accessible to parents who are individuals with a disability as defined by the ADA, and made publicly available on the district's website.