



# COVID-19 RESPONSE PLAN



Community Consolidated School District 146  
2021-22 School Year

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**Please note:** *The District 146 COVID-19 Response Plan may be adjusted based on changing District, State, and local metrics.*

## Background

In March of 2020, District 146 was charged with responding to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Staff, with the help of families, responded to the charge of “keeping the learning going” for District 146 students while prioritizing the health and safety of all members of the school community. District 146 swiftly implemented a full remote learning plan that took staff and students to the end of the school year. Staff also focused a great deal on the well-being of individual families, sharing public resources, and providing daily meals to all families in the District.

In June of 2020, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) released the “The 2020-21 School Year Part 3-Transition Joint Guidance,” as part of Phases 3 and 4 of Illinois’ reopening plan. District 146 started the school year with Full Remote Instruction for all students, in response to stringent health requirements. However, in an effort to bring as many students back as safely as possible, the District began offering two learning model options in November of 2020. Families were able to stay in a 100% remote learning model, or select a hybrid model with students attending in-person for half a day and learning remotely the other half of their day.

In February 2021, the District began to work on a plan to bring students back for full-day instruction. A plan was developed to safely allow students to return to school for a full day of learning and also offer a remote option for those families who chose it. On April 5, 2021, approximately 70% of the District’s students transitioned back safely to full-day instruction, while the other students continued to be supported at home through remote learning.

Throughout the 2020-21 school year, District 146 quarantine rates at the District and building levels were low, given the multiple mitigation strategies in place. Also, no reported outbreaks were reported while students were on-site, suggesting little to no person-to-person transmission. In the Spring of 2021, District 146 hosted a vaccination clinic for all students ages twelve and up. The District’s goal was to bring back as many students as possible, as safely as possible, while providing typical school experiences.

On August 4, 2021, Governor Pritzker announced that all preschool through 12th grade schools must require masks for students, staff, and other individuals while in school. District 146 will follow this mandate while focusing on the health and safety of students, staff, and the community. Additional targeted mitigation strategies to prevent the spread of COVID-19 will be implemented and followed as necessary. The District’s priority is to get back to the high quality, in-person instructional practices families and students are accustomed to.

Please [click here](#) for a link to the latest CDC guidance document summarizing their “Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 School,” which was fully adopted by ISBE and IDPH. Additional guidance for schools was updated on August 2, 2021. Please [click here](#) for the latest guidance document from IDPH and ISBE. The Governor’s Executive Order requiring masks can be found [here](#).

## Guiding Principles and Resources

The District 146 COVID-19 Response Plan for the 2021-22 school year is based on the most recent public health information, including guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) guidelines, and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). Links to guidance documents can be found at the end of this document. It is important to note that the District 146 COVID-19 Response Plan may be adjusted based on changing State, local, and District metrics. Any new guidance and/or updates will be posted online on the District's website and shared with families and employees.

## General Considerations based on CDC, IDPH & ISBE Guidance

The Illinois State Board of Education stated, "beginning with the 2021-22 school year, all schools must resume full, in-person learning for all student attendance days" (105 ILCS 5/10-30 and 105 5/34-18.66). The declaration includes the following:

- A return to full in-person learning for all students.
- A requirement for remote learning for students who (1) have not received a COVID-19 vaccine or are not yet eligible **AND** (2) are under quarantine consistent with IDPH or local health department guidelines.

On July 9, 2021, the CDC released "Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools". This guidance was fully adopted and supported by the ISBE and IDPH. Additional guidance was released by IDPH, in conjunction with ISBE, on August 2, 2021 clarifying COVID-19 guidance for K-12 schools. The key takeaways from the CDC and IDPH guidance are as follows:

- Students benefit from in-person learning, and safely returning to in-person school in the fall of 2021 is a priority.
- Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Masks should be worn by everyone indoors including teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools regardless of vaccination status.
- Masks must be worn on school buses at all times.
- Schools should maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students whenever possible.
- Students, teachers, and staff should stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care.
- Screening testing, handwashing, respiratory etiquette, ventilation, routine cleaning and disinfecting, and contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation are important layers of prevention to keep schools safe.
- Localities should monitor community transmission, vaccination rates, screening testing, and occurrence of outbreaks to guide decisions on the level of layered prevention strategies (e.g. increased physical distancing, mask requirements for all, daily health certification, etc.).

On August 4, 2021, Governor Pritzker announced that all preschool through 12th grade schools must require masks for students, staff and other individuals while in school. The mask requirement includes sports and activities, with masks now required for all indoor extracurriculars and sports. In line with CDC guidance, masks are not required for activities outdoors where transmission risks and rates are lower.

## School Environment Practices and Protocols

All District 146 campuses will open for full day in-person instruction. Steps will be taken to keep students, staff, and community members safe in relation to COVID-19 transmission.

All staff, students, and visitors will be expected to practice the protocols below.

### Requirements for School Building Entry

- All students, staff, and visitors are required to review the [Daily Health Screener](#) before arriving at a building and prior to boarding the bus.
- Students, teachers, and staff presenting with symptoms of any infectious illness are expected to stay home, report symptoms to the school, and follow-up with their health care provider prior to returning to school/work.
- Face masks must be worn by all individuals in school buildings where students are present, regardless of vaccination status (8/9/21 D146 BOE).

### Arrival/Dismissal

- All students, staff, and visitors should maintain safe distances while in vestibules and holding areas to the greatest extent possible (3 feet or greater).

### Classrooms/Seating Arrangements

- Students will maintain 3 feet physical distance while in the classroom, when possible.
- Students may be seated at tables, in desks, or access flexible seating arrangements as appropriate.
- Students will be assigned seats, when possible, to assist with contact tracing.

### Hallways/Restroom/Locker Usage

- Students and staff should maintain 3 feet of physical distance, when possible, while using the locker rooms, restrooms, and moving about the hallways.
- Individual student lockers may be utilized to hold students' personal items.
- Buildings may develop individual schedules to support staggered hallway times, restroom use, and locker access. Hallway and locker use may vary depending on individual school procedures.

### Food Services/Lunchroom Etiquette

- Students will eat in the lunchroom and/or other large common area with physical distancing of 3 feet or more maintained whenever possible.
- Students will be assigned seats to assist with contact tracing.
- Hot lunch will be reinstated and available to all students.
- Lunch lines will be reinstated, with physical distancing of 3 feet whenever possible.
- Students will be encouraged to sanitize and/or hand wash prior to and after eating.

## Outdoor Recess/Playground Equipment

- Outdoor recess will be made available to all students along with access to all playground/gym equipment with no restrictions.
- Mask use is not required outdoors.
- Gym equipment will be sanitized regularly.

## Extracurricular Clubs, Sports, and Other Activities

- Extracurricular clubs, sports, before and after school care, and other activities will resume in-person.
- All activities must follow health guidelines and mitigation strategies as set forth by the District and/or individual school building, including masks while indoors.
- Field trips, assemblies, and other large gatherings will resume, following safety protocols.
- Additional mitigation strategies will be used for band and choir, as necessary.

## Transportation

- Face masks must be worn at all times while students are entering, exiting, and riding the bus.
- Assigned seats will be required to and from school. Students will be seated with siblings or classmates as much as possible.

## Visitors

- Limits will be placed on nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities with external groups.
- Visitors will be asked to verify they are symptom free upon signing in to any building.
- All visitors to school buildings must wear masks covering their mouth and nose.

## Cleaning

- All custodial staff have completed updated training on new CDC and OSHA guidelines, and will utilize EPA approved products for COVID and other viral pathogens.
- Increased daily cleaning protocols will continue at all facilities with an emphasis on repeated cleaning of high-touch/high traffic areas.
- Hand sanitizer is available in every room.
- Disinfectant will be provided to all staff so cleaning can occur throughout the day as needed.
- All areas where students eat will be disinfected after use.
- Shared objects and equipment will be cleaned and sanitized before and after use, when possible.
- Any area used by an individual showing signs of illness will be closed until proper cleaning and disinfection can be completed.

## General Health, Wellness, and Mitigation Strategies

### Daily Health and Hygiene Practices

- Proper hand washing guidelines will be reviewed with all students and visual reminders will be posted in classrooms and around the school.
- Increased hand washing and sanitizing will occur throughout the school day including upon arrival, dismissal, before eating, after restroom use, and recess.
- Increased signage is posted throughout the buildings, with health and safety reminders.

### Daily Monitoring of Illness

- Students, teachers, and staff should use the [Daily Health Screener](#) to verify they are free of symptoms daily prior to arrival at school/work.
- Students, teachers, and staff exhibiting symptoms should stay home, follow-up with a health care provider, and seek testing as directed.
- Students sent to school with symptoms will be assessed and sent home for follow-up with a health care provider.
- Siblings of students with symptoms should be kept home until test results are known and /or an alternative diagnosis is made by a health care provider.
- School nurses and/or designees will call parents, ask about symptoms, and provide guidance when absences are reported.
- Separate rooms will be available at school for any student or staff who exhibit symptoms while at school. If a student has been placed in quarantine at school, parents/guardians are expected to pick up their child within 30 minutes.

### Face Coverings

- Face masks must be worn by all individuals in school buildings, in the presence of students, regardless of vaccination status. (8/9/21 D146 BOE)
- Face masks are required for bus transportation and must be worn at all times when entering, riding, and exiting the bus.
- Face masks should be worn indoors by all individuals that are unvaccinated, even in the absence of students. (8/9/21 D146 BOE)
- Additional PPE may be made available to teachers and staff upon request.

### Mitigation Metrics

District 146 will be using District, local, and State metrics to determine necessary adjustments to the mitigation strategies. Metrics will be reviewed each Friday to identify the high or total metric for the previous seven days. Metrics must remain the same or decrease for a two-week period. The District will use these metrics to closely monitor the Test-to-Stay strategy (see page 8) to determine its success in providing an alternative to quarantining. Mitigation strategies may be affected by executive orders from the governor and changes to CDC/IDPH guidelines.

In order to consider changes to mitigation strategies, the following must be true:

### School Metrics

1. The number of schools in the district experiencing a COVID-19 Outbreak equals 0. (The number of cases in the school must be epidemiologically linked by place and time; According to IDPH five or more positive cases in 14 days is considered an outbreak.)

**And;**

### District Metrics

1. The number of positive cases in the previous week was three or fewer (not due to close contact at school).
2. The number of positive cases due to close contact at school in the previous week was three or fewer.

**And one or both of these are true;**

### Community Metrics

(Oak Forest - 60452, Orland Park - 60462, and Tinley Park – 60477)

1. COVID-19 Positivity Rate is less than 10% (7-day rolling average) or;
2. Number of new cases (7-day) per 100,000 population is less than 100.

### Mitigation Strategies

Mitigation strategies can be added or loosened at any time. Mitigation strategies can be different across buildings and/or within buildings, as they will be strategic in response to the conditions noted. The Board empowers the Superintendent to add or remove individual mitigation strategies, as needed.

For example:

- An increase in students arriving at school with symptoms could result in daily health slips and/or temperature checks being reinstated.
- An outbreak in a classroom or grade level could result in remote learning for that class.
- Low positivity rates within the community and/or District could result in “masks recommended” for unvaccinated individuals instead of “masks required by all”.

Mitigation strategies may include but are not limited to the following:

- Mask use required for all individuals within a school building, regardless of vaccination status.
- Mask use required for all unvaccinated individuals within a school building.
- Mask use recommended for individuals that are unvaccinated while in a school building.
- Required physical distancing of 3 feet in the classrooms.
- Increased physical distancing from 3 feet to 6 feet in the classrooms.
- Increased physical distancing from 3 feet to 6 feet during lunch periods.
- Capacity limits for indoor activities and spaces.
- Daily self-certification slips upon entry to a building.
- Daily temperature checks upon entry to a building.
- Quarantine close contacts at 6 feet versus 3 feet.
- Identifying close contacts but monitoring on-site, rather than requiring quarantine.
- Full remote learning for entire classes, grades, cohorts and/or buildings for a quarantine period.



**Please note:** Any change in mitigation strategies will be communicated to all stakeholders.

## COVID-19 Symptomatic and/or Confirmed Cases

Students who arrive at school with symptoms or develop symptoms of infectious illness while at school will be assessed by the school nurse. Students sent home due to COVID-like symptoms are encouraged to follow up with their healthcare provider and possibly seek COVID-19 testing.

Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 or are a probable case should contact the school nurse and/or their supervisor.

Contact Tracing will be implemented to identify those in close contact at school with individuals identified as a confirmed COVID-19 positive or probable case. A probable case is anyone who is symptomatic and known to be in close contact with a confirmed case.

- For the purposes of contact tracing, District 146 will define a **close contact** as being within 3 feet of a COVID-19 positive or probable case for a total of 15 minutes or more, with or without a face mask, over a 24 hour period during the infectious period. The infectious period is within 48 hours of onset of symptoms (if symptomatic), or a positive COVID-19 test (if asymptomatic).
- Any individual coming in close contact with a person who tested positive for COVID-19 or is suspected of having COVID-19 will be required to quarantine at home and monitor symptoms for 10 calendar days. This period of 10 calendar days is required even if the individual in close contact tests negative.
- Students required to quarantine due to a confirmed case of COVID-19 will be contacted by the school or local health department. Students will receive asynchronous remote learning with support during their quarantine period.
- Individuals fully vaccinated or those with documented COVID-19 infection within the past 90 days are excluded from quarantine requirements but should be observed for onset of any symptoms.

Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 or are probable cases may return to school (a) once symptoms improve, and (b) there is no fever for 24 hours without fever reducing medication, and (c) a minimum of 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

Students or staff returning from illness related to COVID-19 will be required to check in with the school nurse or HR/building administration and provide necessary paperwork and documentation.

## Quarantine Procedures and Practices

### Close Contact Occurring at School

District 146 is implementing the **Test-to-Stay Strategy** to monitor those identified as close contacts based on exposure to a COVID-19 positive or probable case while at school. The Test-to-Stay Strategy is only applicable when both the COVID-19 confirmed student/staff and close contact were engaged in consistent and correct use of masks. The Test-To-Stay Strategy is not applicable when exposure to a COVID-19 positive or probable case occurs at home or in the community.

**Quarantine Option 1:** The Test-to-Stay Strategy will be implemented as follows:

- Schools will test those identified as close contacts on days one, three, five and seven from the date of exposure by a PCR or rapid antigen or molecular emergency use authorization (EUA)-approved test. Tests will be performed by a nurse or designated trained staff member.
- If tests remain negative, students/staff identified as a close contact are allowed to stay in school with further monitoring throughout the quarantine period.
- If a student/staff identified as a close contact becomes symptomatic and/or tests positive, the student must begin a 10-day isolation period.
- In the event masks are no longer required for all, those in the Test-to-Stay program will still need to be masked.

If a parent or individual does not consent to the Test-to-Stay Strategy, an identified close contact must follow one of the following quarantine procedures:

**Quarantine Option 2:** Quarantine for seven calendar days after last exposure if:

- No symptoms develop during daily monitoring, AND
- The individual has a negative SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic test (PCR) administered on day 6 or after, post exposure.
- Individuals must produce documentation of negative test results to return to school/work.

**Quarantine Option 3:** Quarantine for ten calendar days after last exposure if:

- No symptoms of COVID-19 developed during daily monitoring, AND
- The individual can maintain physical distancing of at least three-feet and masked at all times.
- The individual will be monitored days 10-14 at home and school.

**Please Note:** Fully vaccinated individuals who remain asymptomatic and those with documented COVID-19 infection within the past 90-days are excluded from quarantine requirements.

### Close Contact Occurring at Home/Community

Students and staff identified as a close contact based on exposure to a COVID-19 positive or probable case outside of school are expected to report this information to their school's designated nurse, principal and/or supervisor (staff only).

Test-to-Stay Strategy cannot be implemented if the close contact occurred outside of school. Siblings of COVID-19 positive or probable students are not eligible for the Test-to-Stay Strategy.

When a close contact is reported in response to exposure in the home or community, Quarantine Option 2 (Seven Days with Negative PCR Test on Day 6) or Quarantine Option 3 (Ten Days with Monitoring) will be implemented. *See description of each option in the section above.*

### Supporting Student Instruction During Quarantine Periods

Students quarantined due to being a close contact at school, home, or in the community or isolated due to illness will be supported through remote learning. This will include support from a student's assigned classroom teacher(s) and may include support from a District/Building substitute teacher. If or when a student is quarantined and/or isolated due to illness, the building principal will communicate the remote instruction plan with parents within 24 hours.

**Please note:** The District 146 COVID-19 Response plan may be adjusted based on changing District, local, and State metrics.

## Resources

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
- [Illinois Department of Public Health](#)
- [Illinois State Board of Education](#)
- [ISBE Quarantine Decision Tree](#)