

Fairfield PSD #112

Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction

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

In accordance with the Illinois State Superintendent of Schools July 9, 2021 declaration, Fairfield PSD #112 will be open fully for in-person learning for all student attendance days for the 2022-23 school year. Remote instruction will only be made available for students who are under isolation or quarantine for COVID-19 as directed by the local health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health. The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) have fully adopted the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Operational Guidance for K-12 Schools and Early Care and Education Programs to Support Safe In-Person Learning and related CDC FAQ (updated as of May 27, 2022). This updated guidance supersedes all prior COVID-19 school guidance documents and applies to all public and nonpublic schools that serve students in pre-kindergarten through grade 12 (pre-K-12). Fairfield PSD #112 will be in operation in accordance with the CDC's updated (May 27, 2022) *Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in Kindergarten (K)-12 Schools*

1. Mask Use

- Masks are optional.
- School staff are to model support for and encourage students to be supportive of people who continue to wear a mask as a personal choice or because of a personal medical reason.

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.
- Physical distancing measures are to be done in an equitable manner that does not perpetuate academic, racial, or other tracking (e.g., separating people into fully vaccinated and non-fully vaccinated cohorts).

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;
 - reminding everyone in the facility to wash hands frequently;
 - using hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol when handwashing is not possible;
 - continuing to teach respiratory etiquette (e.g., covering coughs and sneezes); and
 - providing adequate handwashing and hand sanitizer supplies

4. Facility and Transportation Cleaning, Disinfection and Ventilation

- School custodial staff and transportation staff will continue to clean surfaces daily. To further reduce the risk of spreading infection, these staff will also use disinfectants on the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency COVID-19 “List N” to disinfect spaces occupied by someone who tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 24 hours.

- When possible, staff will open doors and windows, use 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. Guidance for Isolation and Quarantine

- Students and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as influenza (flu), respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), gastrointestinal infections or COVID-19, should stay home and contact their healthcare provider for possible testing and further care.
- Individuals in our school environments who show symptoms of COVID-19 are to be assessed by the school’s medical personnel. professional’s office to be either sent home or be quarantined in the school’s supervised safe area while awaiting pickup/evaluation. Ill students will not be allowed to utilize the school bus to return home.
- A rapid COVID-19 test can be administered on site only with parental consent.
- Student absences related to a COVID-19 isolation or quarantine will be recorded as excused. To ensure continuity of services, school work missed during such an absence can be requested and made up in accordance with the school’s policy (refer to student handbook); social, emotional, mental health, or other needs will be provided in accordance with a student’s IEP or 504 Plan. Parents of students who have social, emotional, mental health, or other needs outside of an IEP or 504 Plan should contact their child’s principal to discuss needs. Remote instruction will only be made available for students who are under isolation or quarantine for COVID-19 as directed by the local health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health.
- Staff absences related to a COVID-19 isolation or quarantine will be recorded in accordance with the district’s sick leave policy and related professional negotiations agreements. To ensure continuity of services, staff members should contact the principal to discuss support for social, emotional, mental health, or other needs.
- To the extent allowable by privacy laws and other applicable laws, school health care professionals will continue to collaborate with the Wayne County Health Department officials to confidentially provide information about people diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19.
- The school’s health care professional will make 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 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 IDPH guidelines to determine when they can return to school.
- Following quarantine, students and staff returning from illness related to COVID-19 are to call to check in with the school’s health care professional.

6. Screening Testing

- When community transmission is at moderate, substantial, or high levels, parents can request COVID-19 screening testing for their students by contacting the school’s health care professional.
- At any level of community transmission, any staff member who can request COVID-19 screening testing by contacting the school’s health care professional.

7. Promoting Vaccination

- Achieving high levels of COVID-19 vaccination among eligible students as well as teacher, staff, and household members is one of the most critical strategies to help schools safely resume full operations.
- 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.

8. 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).
- Staff members who need accommodations, modifications, or assistance related to COVID-19 safety protocols, disabilities, underlying medical conditions, weakened immune systems, or a sincerely held religious belief or practice (covered by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964) should contact the principal to discuss the need(s). Staff members with weakened immune systems are advised to contact their healthcare professional about the need for continued personal protective measures after vaccination.

9. Collaboration with Public Health Officials

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

10. Plan Review

Through September 30, 2024, 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 IDPH, 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.