

Illini West High School District # 307

Return to School Plan with Universal Masking



2021-2022

Tier-Based COVID Mitigation Measures

In accordance with [Executive Order 2021-18 \(COVID-19 EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 85\)](#) issued by Governor Pritzker on August 4th, 2021, Illini West High School District #307 will be open fully for in-person learning for all student attendance days for the 2021-22 school year with the following requirements.

In-Person Learning: ISBE has mandated in-person instruction for the 2021-2022 school year. Accordingly, absent an order from the Illinois State Board of Education and/or the Illinois Governor's Office, Illini West High School District #307 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:

Remote Instruction: 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.

These guidelines include the following:

Schedule: All students will be provided a full day of in-person instruction five days per week, per the district calendar.

Face Coverings: The indoor use of face coverings by students, staff, and visitors who are age 2 and older and able to medically tolerate a face covering is required, regardless of vaccination status, consistent with CDC guidance.

Vaccinations: All School Personnel must have, at a minimum, the first dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series or a single-dose COVID-19 vaccine on or before September 19th, and be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 within 30 days following administration of their first dose in a two-dose vaccination series. Any School Personnel who have not established that they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 must be tested for COVID-19 weekly, at a minimum.

Transportation: Face coverings are mandatory for all passengers and drivers of district buses and other vehicles transporting students.

Visitors: All visitors to school facilities are required to follow the Tier-Based COVID Mitigation Measures.

Contact Tracing 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. COVID positive students and staff will have mandatory quarantines in accordance with local health department guidelines. Students and staff who have had close contact with a COVID positive individual will have mandatory quarantines in accordance with local health department guidelines.

The District will cooperate with the Hancock County Health Department in providing information related to close contacts of COVID-19 positive and probable cases for contact tracing purposes. In addition, the District will enforce all lawful quarantine directives issued by the Hancock County Health Department including any court orders for quarantine periods over 48 hours. In the event that recommended State or Federal guidance provides for a longer period of quarantine, the school district will request but will not require parents to quarantine their healthy children for the duration of the recommended time period or participate in the District's test to stay protocol.

Individuals in our school environments who show symptoms of COVID-19 are to immediately report to or be escorted to the school'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.

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 non-vaccinated or vaccine ineligible students who are under quarantine as directed by the local health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health as per guidelines of the CDC, IDPH, and ISBE.

Absent COVID-related leave days previously provided by Federal law, 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 their principals 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 Hancock 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.

Disabilities/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 the principal. Medical documentation may be required. 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 issue. Medical documentation may be required.

Plan Review: This plan will be reviewed by the Illini West High School District #307 Board of Education whenever changes in guidelines are published by the CDC, IDPH, or ISBE that substantially change public health guidelines, or whenever local circumstances – especially those related to an outbreak may

warrant. School district administration will continuously monitor local health data and consult with local public health officials to determine if policies/practices need revision.

Masking for Indoor Sports: The [IDPH All Sports Guidance](#) poses the question, “Should masks be worn for all sports played indoors?”. The IDPH guidance responds with guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics stating, “Yes. However, participants may need to remove masks under certain circumstances, such as when wearing a mask poses an undue risk of injury during certain sports. The American Academy of Pediatrics(AAP) recommends participants not wear masks for competitive cheerleading (tumbling/stunting/flying)... because of the theoretical risk that the mask may get caught on objects and become a choking hazard or accidentally impair vision. AAP also recommends participants not wear masks during wrestling contact where masks could become a choking hazard, unless an adult coach or official is closely monitoring for safety purposes. **If other sport-specific scenarios arise in which a face mask may obstruct a participant’s view or become a choking hazard, sports organizers should use their discretion to determine whether risk of mask use outweighs risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission.**

As a sports organizer, Illini West High School District #307 feels that the potential for a choking hazard or vision impairment of student-athletes outweighs the risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission and will implement the following as a means to mitigate these risks while not disrupting the policies of other districts:

1. Athletes while actively participating during practice or a contest in indoor sports do not need to mask.
2. All coaches and players on the bench or indoors while not competing will properly mask.
3. Athletes and team personnel will mask while on the bus.
4. Athletes not actively engaged during practice will mask.
5. Spectators will be required to mask.
6. Illini West High School teams will follow the request of any school which we visit or host in order to ensure our students have the safest environment while allowing either district to use their discretion to determine whether the risk of mask use outweighs the risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission.

Tier-Based COVID Mitigation Measures

	Low Transmission: Positivity rate increasing by <10% for two consecutive weeks in community	Moderate Transmission: Positivity rate increasing for 2 consecutive weeks by more than 10%, but less than 20% each week in community	Substantial or High Transmission: Positivity rate increasing for 2 weeks, by > 20% each week in community
Screening	No health screening	Self health screening required for all students and staff prior to attending school or work.	Self health screening required for all students and staff prior to attending school or work
Face Coverings	<p>The indoor use of face coverings by students, staff, and visitors who are age 2 and older and able to medically tolerate a face covering is required, regardless of vaccination status, consistent with CDC guidance.</p> <p>Transportation: Required during student transportation for all students and staff.</p> <p>Indoor Sports: See page 3.</p>	<p>The indoor use of face coverings by students, staff, and visitors who are age 2 and older and able to medically tolerate a face covering is required, regardless of vaccination status, consistent with CDC guidance.</p> <p>Transportation: Required during student transportation for all students and staff.</p> <p>Indoor Sports: See page 3.</p>	<p>The indoor use of face coverings by students, staff, and visitors who are age 2 and older and able to medically tolerate a face covering is required, regardless of vaccination status, consistent with CDC guidance.</p> <p>Transportation: Required during student transportation for all students and staff</p> <p>Indoor Sports: See page 3.</p>
Vaccination Status	All School Personnel must have, at a minimum, the first dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series or a single-dose COVID-19 vaccine on or before September 5th, and be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 within 30 days following administration of their first dose in a two-dose vaccination series. Any School Personnel who have not established that they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 must be tested for COVID-19 weekly, at a minimum	All School Personnel must have, at a minimum, the first dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series or a single-dose COVID-19 vaccine on or before September 5th, and be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 within 30 days following administration of their first dose in a two-dose vaccination series. Any School Personnel who have not established that they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 must be tested for COVID-19 weekly, at a minimum	All School Personnel must have, at a minimum, the first dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series or a single-dose COVID-19 vaccine on or before September 5th, and be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 within 30 days following administration of their first dose in a two-dose vaccination series. Any School Personnel who have not established that they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 must be tested for COVID-19 weekly, at a minimum
Social Distancing	6 feet between students when practical	6 feet between students when practical	6 feet between students when practical
Quarantine	Per Hancock Public Health Guidelines	Per Hancock Public Health Guidelines	Per Hancock Public Health Guidelines
Hand Washing Protocols	Cleaning hands at key times with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water is not readily available	Cleaning hands at key times with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water is not readily	Cleaning hands at key times with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water is not readily available

		available	
Cleaning Protocols	Standard cleaning protocols..	Standard cleaning protocols.	Enhanced cleaning protocols.
Low and Intermediate Risk Sports/Activities	No screening	Self health screening required for all students and staff prior to participation	Self health screening required for all students and staff prior to participation
High Risk Sports/Activities	No screening	Self health screening required for all students and staff prior to participation	Staff administered health screening required for all students and staff prior to participation

Definitions:

1. **Levels of Community Transmission:** Defined as positivity rate in the community in the last 7 days. For purposes of this plan, the community is defined as Hancock County.
 - a. Low = 0-10%
 - b. Moderate = 10%-20%
 - c. Substantial/High = > 20%
2. **Risk Stratification for Sports:** The NCAA risk stratification of sports will be used to determine risk status for this Plan.
 - a. **Low Risk:** Golf, Cross Country, Track and Field
 - b. **Medium Risk:** Baseball, Softball
 - c. **High Risk:** Basketball, Football, Volleyball, Wrestling, Band, Chorus.
3. **Enhanced Cleaning Protocols:** High Touch surfaces and objects.
 - a. Clean high touch surfaces and objects (such as, door handles, sink handles, drinking fountains) within the school and on school transport vehicles (such as, buses) at least once a day or as often as needed (for example, when visibly dirty).
 - b. Limit sharing of high touch objects that are difficult to regularly clean (such as, electronic devices, pens, pencils, books, games, art supplies, lab equipment).
 - c. If certain conditions apply (such as, low mask usage or high community transmission), do not use difficult-to-clean shared objects for 72 hours. If items need to be reused within 24 hours they should be disinfected.
 - d. Staff should wash hands after removing gloves or after handling used items or other objects near students who are unmasked.
 - e. Regularly (at least once a day or as often as needed) clean surfaces using soap or detergent.
4. **Close Contact:** Within 6 feet for an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.
5. **COVID Health Screening:** Self or staff administered. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19: Fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.