



Hardin County CUSD #1

Where Students Are Achievers

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DATE: August 6, 2021
TO: Hardin County CUSD #1 Board Members, Faculty, Staff, and Community
FROM: Andy Edmondson, Superintendent
RE: Hardin County CUSD 1 Return to Learn 2021-2022 Plan

- **The following document is in draft form for consideration and planning.**

Hardin County CUSD #1 2021-2022 Return to Learn Plan

The State of Illinois, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) have approved the usage of the CDC guidelines for schools. These guidelines emphasize the value of in-person instruction for Pre-K-12th grade. According to ISBE, "Schools should work with local public health officials to determine the prevention strategies needed in their area by monitoring levels of community transmission (i.e., low, moderate, substantial, or high) and local vaccine coverage, and use of screening testing to detect cases in K-12 schools." Our metrics could determine more or less mitigation strategies throughout the school year based on our local conditions at hand. The following table is a list of guiding principles for our district returning to school this fall.

Categories	Hardin County CUSD #1 Plan
School Day/Hours	School Days – 5 days <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elementary – 8:00 a.m. – 2:42 p.m.• Junior High – 8:00 a.m. – 2:42 p.m.• High School – 8:00 a.m. – 2:42 p.m.
Mask Use	On August 4, 2021, Governor Pritzker announced a new mandate requiring universal masking in all pre-kindergarten through grade 12 public and nonpublic schools to be effective immediately. Executive Order No 2021-0018 requires the indoor use of face coverings by students, staff, and visitors who are over the age of two and able to medically tolerate a face covering, regardless of vaccination status, and consistent with CDC guidance. This masking mandate is in addition to implementing other layered prevention strategies, such as physical distancing, screening testing, contact tracing in combination with appropriate quarantine and isolation, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, advising individuals to stay home and get tested when ill, ventilation, and additional cleaning and disinfecting. The executive order also requires school districts to take into consideration community transmission of the virus, vaccination coverage, the use of screening testing and the occurrence of outbreaks, consistent with CDC guidance. The order notes that the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) will be issuing updated guidance and recommendations to

	<p>allow schools serving pre-kindergarten through grade 12 students to conduct in-person teaching and learning.</p> <p>The mandate extends to pre-kindergarten through grade 12 indoor recreational sports. However, outdoor activities, where transmission risks and rates are lower, will not require masking by athletes and coaches.</p>
Quarantine & Contact Tracing	<p>Fully vaccinated persons do not have to quarantine. Our district will continue to collaborate with our local health departments, to the extent allowable by privacy laws, about students and staff diagnosed or within close contact (6 feet/15 minutes) of a positive case. 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. Contact tracing is subject to change based on the most current guidance from IDPH and our local health department. Quarantined students will be provided with curriculum, materials and instructions to continue learning while in quarantine.</p>
Physical Distancing	<p>To the extent possible within school and classroom structures, the district will work towards the goal of at least three feet of distancing.</p>
Handwashing	<p>Staff will continue to monitor and reinforce frequent handwashing and promote the usage of hand sanitizer.</p>
Facility & Transportation Cleaning, Disinfection & Ventilation	<p>School custodial staff and transportation staff will continue to clean surfaces daily. To further reduce the risk of spreading infection staff will disinfect spaces occupied by someone who tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 24 hours. When possible, staff will 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.</p>

This plan will be frequently reviewed and analyzed based on our local metrics. In collaboration with our local health department, the district may determine more or less mitigation strategies based on the current conditions.

Updated Guidance August 2021

[Updated-Public-Health-School-Guidance.pdf \(isbe.net\)](#)