

Executive Summary

On February 15, 2022, the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules voted 9-0 to reject a reintroduction of emergency rules for COVID-19 protocols in schools which include masking, testing, and exclusion. As a district, we have a duty to be compliant with all state and federal mandates and follow the guidance of health care professionals, locally, regionally and nationally. As a result, beginning on Wednesday, February 16, 2022, District #7 began recommending masks for all students and staff in our schools.

On Friday, February 25, 2022, the CDC amended its federal mask order to no longer require that people wear masks on buses or vans operated by school systems when they are carrying out school related business. In accordance with regulatory change, effective Monday, February 28, 2022, masks are no longer required to be worn on school buses that are transporting students for school-related programs. This includes transportation to and from school, athletic events, field trips, etc., when that transportation occurs on a school bus.

On Monday, February 28, 2022, Governor Pritzker withdrew the executive order that required students and staff in Illinois schools to wear masks, based on the new rules easing mask-wearing issued by the CDC.

District #7 remains committed to a culture of respect among all members of our community, and we expect that to remain for everyone, regardless of whether they choose or don't choose to wear a mask. In addition, we will continue to monitor the number of positive COVID cases and notify families if their child is identified as a close contact of an individual who tests positive. We remain committed to providing all families with an environment in which each student and staff member feels safe to teach and learn.

Areas of School Management Impacted by COVID-19

A number of steps taken during the 2021-2022 school year will be continued to ensure a safe learning environment for students and staff.

Contact Tracing and Exclusion

District #7 will continue to notify parents when their child is identified as a close contact. If a student tests positive for COVID-19, they will need to be out of school for 5 days in accordance with CDC and the Illinois Department of Health guidelines.

District #7 will continue to contact trace students and staff who test positive for COVID-19. The District #7 COVID Dashboard will continue to be updated with the number of positive cases each week.

Student Testing

District #7 will continue to offer SHIELD testing as long as participation rates justify the need for testing and IDPH supports widespread testing.

Promoting Vaccinations

Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic (CDC, 2021) Vaccinations are available for anyone 5 and over, and District #7 will continue to work with Madison County Health Department to provide opportunities for those who wish to be vaccinated to do so.

Masking

CDC has recognized community level/transmission as low in Madison County. Their recommendation is that people may choose to mask at any time, while individuals with symptoms or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should continue to wear a mask.

District #7 will have KN95 masks available in all school offices for any staff member or student who wishes to have one.

Social Distancing

District #7 will continue to provide opportunities for social distancing to the greatest extent possible.

Sanitizing/Cleaning

District #7 will continue to ensure that there are cleaning protocols in place to provide a health learning environment for students and staff. Classrooms will be cleaned and sanitized throughout the day and disinfected. Routine cleaning will be performed on a regularly scheduled basis by district custodial staff assigned to that building or area. Routine cleaning

will include daily cleaning and disinfecting through electrostatic spraying and/or manual cleaning methods of all restrooms, scheduled sweeping of all floors, sanitizing of cafeteria tables, emptying trash and other building-based tasks.

HEPA filtration systems have been installed in larger cafeterias.

Health Screenings

Only students and staff who are healthy should report for in-person learning. Students will not be penalized for missing school and are encouraged to stay home when not feeling well.

Students and staff with any of the following symptoms must remain at home:

1. Diarrhea
2. Fever or chills
3. Measured temperature of 100.4° Fahrenheit or greater
4. Nausea or vomiting

Transportation

On Friday, February 25, 2022, the CDC amended its federal mask order to no longer require that people wear masks on buses or vans operated by school systems when they are carrying out school related business. In accordance with that regulatory change, effective Monday, February 28, 2022, masks are no longer required to be worn on school buses that are transporting students for school-related programs. This includes transportation to and from school, athletic events, field trips, etc., when that transportation occurs on a school bus.