

Major changes to ISBE / IDPH guidance for the 2021-22 school year include the following:

- Promotion of vaccination as the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Additional emphasis on the importance of offering in-person learning, regardless of whether all of the prevention strategies can be implemented in a school.
- Revised definition of "close contacts," from 6 to 3 feet, to guide quarantine procedures in schools.
- Alignment with State of Illinois Executive Order 2021-18 on **required universal indoor masking** in P-12 schools for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors, regardless of vaccination status.

Please note: Executive Orders state mandatory requirements from the Illinois Executive Branch, and have the effect of law.

WHAT IF I HAVE COVID-19 SYMPTOMS?

If you have one or more symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (updated 5/4/21), IDPH & ISBE Guidelines require you to stay home. If staff or students wake up to a new symptom with no other diagnosis to explain it, they should stay home and talk to their health care provider about testing for COVID-19, even if it is the only symptom they are experiencing.

SYMPTOMS of COVID-19 include any ONE of the following:

- fever (100.4°F or higher)
- new onset of moderate to severe headache
- shortness of breath
- new cough
- sore throat
- muscle or body aches from an unknown cause
- vomiting or diarrhea
- new loss of taste or smell
- fatigue from an unknown cause

If a student develops one or more COVID symptoms while at school parents will be contacted to immediately pick up their child as well as any siblings or other children living in the home.

The school district will follow the recommendations from the local health department when determining a student must be excluded from school. When a student is sent home with one or more symptoms, siblings, close contacts, as well as any family members employed by D33 will also be required to quarantine, as required by IDPH guidelines.

COVID-19 diagnostic testing is strongly recommended for anyone with COVID-like symptoms.

Early diagnosis presents further transmission. Individuals who have undergone testing should remain home away from others while waiting for COVID-19 test results.

If the sick person (student or staff) has a known condition causing the symptoms, e.g., allergies, migraine, etc., can this be taken into consideration?

Every symptomatic person should be evaluated by their healthcare provider when COVID-like symptoms are present. Diagnostic testing is strongly encouraged whenever an individual experiences COVID-like symptoms as it is possible to have COVID-19 and another health condition at the same time.

If testing is not performed due to the clinical judgment of the healthcare provider, a medical note is needed to return to school specifically documenting two things: 1. There is no clinical suspicion for COVID-19; and 2. An alternative diagnosis with exclusion consistent with this diagnosis.



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