

**Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH)**  
**School Reopening FAQ**  
**August 12, 2020**

CCDPH Role & Support

**What process will schools use to communicate with CCDPH?** (Question from CCSD15)

If you have a confirmed positive case, please call: (708) 836-8699

General questions about guidance can be emailed to us at:  
[ccdphcovid19@cookcountyhhs.org](mailto:ccdphcovid19@cookcountyhhs.org)

**Can CCDPH send staff to our schools to tour our buildings for compliance?**  
Unfortunately, we will not be able to send staff to each school building.

**Will the health department review our school plans?**

Our role is to assist schools with guidance but we are unable to review individual school plans.

Symptom Checking

**What are the requirements for symptom checking?**

Please see [ISBE Part 3 Transition Guidance FAQ](#), question 20.

**What if a child has symptoms?** (North Brook District #27, District 128)

Please see [ISBE Part 3 Transition Guidance FAQ](#), question 20, starting at “Individuals who have a temperature...”.

**What if a child only has one symptom?** (District 64)

Please see [ISBE Part 3 Transition Guidance FAQ](#), question 20, starting at “Individuals who have a temperature...”.

**What kind of information should be asked in the absence line?**

Please see [ISBE's Part 3 Transition Joint Guidance](#), “Illness and Diagnoses Monitoring”, page 43.

CCDPH asks that schools only call the health department if they receive a report of a confirmed case.

**Should we keep the absence logs?**

If you keep absence logs with details, please keep them for the duration of the pandemic in case the information is needed.

## Illness at School

### **What if a child develops symptoms at school?**

Please see [ISBE Part 3 Transition Guidance FAQ](#), question 26.

## Case Reporting & Contact Tracing

### **How should I report a case to the health department? (Prospect Heights 23)**

To report a confirmed case to CCDPH, call 708-836-8699.

- Please designate one person to be your school's point of contact with CCDPH.
- Alert CCDPH once you have confirmation of a positive case among students, staff, or faculty.
  - Be ready to provide:
    - The positive case name, date of birth, phone number, parent/guardian information, and last day of school attendance
    - If symptomatic, please include the date the person began to feel ill
    - Date of test, provider, and/or testing site
- CCDPH will assist you with quarantine and isolation guidance, determining who is a close contact, next steps, and contact tracing

### **If I have one positive case, do I need to close the school? (Winnetka D36)**

Unfortunately, there is not one simple answer for that. ISBE and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) have indicated that many factors will be considered. The conversation with CCDPH will help you to gather more information and make a determination. The health department will provide specific guidance based on conditions at your school.

### **Do I need to let staff and parents know about positive cases?**

After reporting and in collaboration with CCDPH, send prompt notification to everyone in the school. Please see [ISBE's Part 3 Transition Joint Guidance](#), "Preparing for When a Student or Staff Member Becomes Sick, page 30.

ISBE has provided a [sample notification letter](#) on their COVID-19 webpage.

Schools cannot share the name of the person who is ill. Please share with parents that if someone is a close contact they will be contacted by the local health department. The health department will provide information on if they need to quarantine and other health recommendations.

### **What is considered a close contact?**

Please see [ISBE Part 3 Transition Guidance FAQ](#), question 25.

**Are schools expected to conduct contact tracing?**

No. This is the role of the local health department once a positive case is confirmed. Please encourage teachers, staff, and parents to cooperate when contact tracers call to ask for information. This will assist in slowing the spread of COVID-19.

Masks & Face Shields

**Should masks/face coverings be worn all the time?**

Please see [ISBE Part 3 Transition Guidance FAQ](#), question 2.

**Are masks/face coverings required when individuals are outside?**

Please see [ISBE Part 3 Transition Guidance FAQ](#), question 3.

**Can I use a face shield instead of a mask/face covering?**

Please see [ISBE Part 3 Transition Guidance FAQ](#), question 4.

PPE

**Who should use N95 and other PPE?**

ISBE recommends N95 and PPE in the following situations:

- Nurses with interaction with potential cases ([Part 3 Transition Joint Guidance](#), p.46)
- Custodial staff cleaning room after a COVID-19 identified case
- Healthcare workers providing nebulizer treatments and suctioning for medically fragile students ([Part 3 Transition Joint Guidance](#), p.44)

Cleaning and Disinfection

**Should our custodians be cleaning differently?**

Please see [ISBE's Part 3 Transition Joint Guidance](#), "Schoolwide Cleaning and Disinfection to Prevent the Spread of Infection", page 35.

**How should we clean after a positive case?**

Please see [ISBE's Part 3 Transition Joint Guidance](#), "Preparing for When a Student or Staff Member Becomes Sick", page 31, 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph from the top.

Physical Distancing and Spaces

**Can we sub-divide large spaces? (ISSD #109)**

Please see [ISBE Part 3 Transition Guidance FAQ](#), question 16.

## Extracurricular Activities

### **What are the recommendations for P.E. and school-based sports?**

For information on P.E, gyms, pools, and locker rooms, please see [ISBE's Part 3 Transition Joint Guidance](#), "Physical Education, Gymnasiums, Pools, and Locker Rooms", page 42.

For school-based sports, please see the [Restore Illinois All Sports Policy](#) from the Illinois Department of Commerce, ISBE, and IDPH.

### **What should we do about band and choir?**

For ISBE's guidance on music-related courses, please see [ISBE's Part 3 Transition Joint Guidance](#), "Music-Related Courses", page 37.

## Testing

### **Should there be mass COVID-19 testing in schools for students and staff? (RTSD26)**

No. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention does not recommend mass testing.

## Travel

### **Should we encourage families and staff to self-quarantine if they have traveled to "hot spots", including in the US? (D57)**

Yes. [CCDPH's travel guidance](#), and a list of states and territories where it applies, is available on our website.