

**Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH)
School Reopening FAQ
August 27, 2020**

Changes or additions are highlighted in gray

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

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 [IDPH Schools FAQs](#), p.2, first question.

What if the person who is sick has a known condition, such as allergies, migraine, etc., can this be taken into consideration?
Please see [IDPH Schools FAQs](#), p.2, third question.

What actions should be taken by students or staff that are sent home with COVID-like symptoms?
Please see [IDPH Schools FAQs](#), p.1, first question.

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)

Please see [IDPH Schools FAQs](#), p.7, last question on the page and p.8, first question on the page.

A 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.

Are there alternative strategies to school closure that may be considered or employed?

Please see [IDPH Schools FAQs](#), p.8, first question on the page.

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 [IDPH Schools FAQs](#), p.2. second question from the bottom of the page.

If the close contact and the COVID case were both wearing their cloth face coverings when the exposure occurred, is the close contact still required to be quarantined?

Please see [IDPH Schools FAQs](#), p.3. third question from the top of the page.

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.

Will CCDPH provide isolation and quarantine release letters?

CCDPH can provide isolation and quarantine release letters for K-12 school children. Please send an email to ccdph.covid19@cookcountyhhs.org with the request.

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 face coverings be removed at certain times?

Please see [IDPH Schools FAQs](#), page 5, last question on the bottom of the page.

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

Please see [IDPH Schools FAQs](#), page 6, second question from the bottom of the page.

Can athletic face coverings, e.g., neck warmers, be used as a substitute for cloth face coverings?

Please see [IDPH Schools FAQs](#), page 7, second question from the top of the page.

What PPE is required by school nurses who are assessing a student or staff member reporting COVID-like symptoms?

Please see [IDPH Schools FAQs](#), page 6, second question from the top of the page.

What kind of PPE is required for staff who clean areas used by a suspected or known COVID case?

Please see [IDPH Schools FAQs](#), page 7, second question from the bottom of the page.

Can CCDPH help us with fit testing for N95?

CCDPH does not conduct fit testing.

Can CCDPH help us secure N95?

Please see this flyer from ISBE and IEMA about obtaining PPE:

<https://www.isbe.net/Documents/PPE-Info.pdf>

If N95 cannot be obtained, can KN95 be used instead?

Please see this guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/international-respirator-purchase.html>

Cleaning and Disinfection

Should our custodians be cleaning differently?

Please see [IDPH Schools FAQs](#), page 9, second question from the bottom of the page.

How should we clean after a positive case?

Please see [IDPH Schools FAQs](#), page 9, last question on the page.

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.

Special Situations

How can we prevent transmission in band or music classes?

Please see [IDPH Schools FAQs](#), page 4.

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.