

COVID-19 Surveillance in Schools, CCDPH



Palak Panchal, MPH
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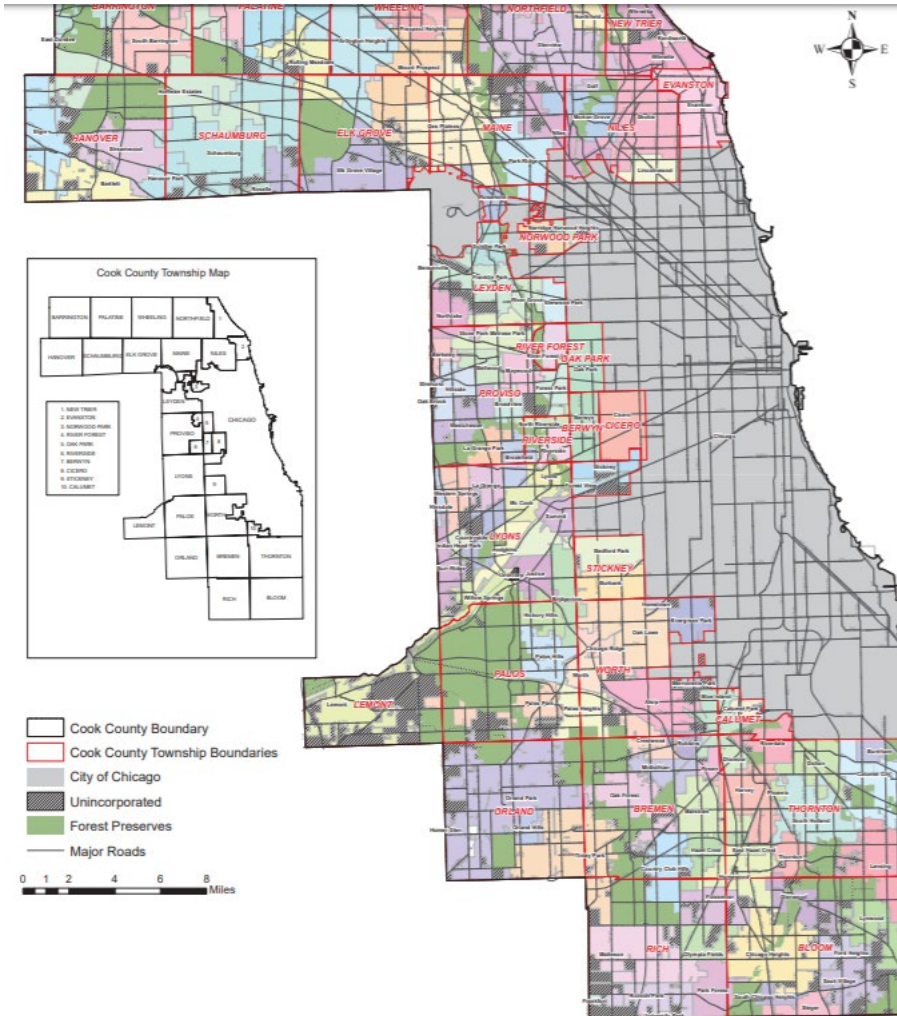


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Certified Health Departments in Suburban Cook County



Cook County Department of Public Health
All suburban Cook except:

- [Evanston](#) Department of Public Health
- [Oak Park](#) Department of Public Health
- [Skokie](#) Department of Public Health
- [Stickney](#) Public Health District (Stickney Township)



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What is public health surveillance?

Definition: “the ongoing, systematic collection, analysis, and interpretation of **health**-related data essential to planning, implementation, and evaluation of **public health** practice.”

- Performed to inform disease prevention and control measures

Why is it needed?

- Early warning system
- Identify public health emergencies
- Document impact of intervention or progress towards public health target/goals
- Understand and monitor disease spread to set priorities and guide public health policy and strategies

Role of Local Health Departments (LHD) – COVID-19

Responsible for:

- Investigating cases within their jurisdictions
- Contact tracing
 - Identifies close contacts, notify them of exposure, quarantine
 - Cuts off the chain of transmission of disease
- Provide infection control guidance

Can:

- Provide technical assistance
- Answer specific questions
- Connect schools to resources



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Reporting Positive COVID-19 Case :

- *School nurse OR a designee*
 - *Districts should inform the school community of outbreaks*
 - *Maintain student and staff confidentiality rights*
- ** Health department is exempt from HIPAA to facilitate investigations of communicable diseases*

Definition of Confirmed and Suspect Cases

For the purposes of school reporting:

Confirmed COVID-19 case is someone with a POSITIVE test result

- PCR test (the most accurate!)
- Rapid test

Probable or Suspect COVID-19 case:

- Covid-19-like symptoms (e.g. runny nose, shortness of breath, fever, diarrhea, etc)
- Epidemiologically linked to a known case (i.e., someone who develops covid-like symptoms after being in contact with a confirmed case)

Positive Case Reporting Includes:

- Alert CCDPH: **Call 708-633-4000** (also includes after-hours)
- Be ready to provide:
 1. *Caller information (name, direct phone number)* – LHD maintains confidentiality
 2. Case full name
 3. Date of Birth
 4. Phone number
 5. Parent/guardian information
 6. Last day of school attendance
 7. Onset of symptoms (or asymptomatic)
 8. Student activity participation (sports, choir, band, etc.)
 9. Test information
 - Date of test
 - Provider information (Name of provider, location, phone number) AND/OR
 - Testing site (name, location, phone number)



Positive Case/Suspect Case– Next Steps

- Identify close contacts
 - Anyone (with/without face covering) within 6 feet of confirmed COVID-19 case (with/without face covering), for at least 15 minutes throughout the course of the day (i.e. prolonged or cumulative)
 - Anytime from 2 days before symptoms OR 2 days before specimen collection date (NOT test result date) to the time the case is in isolation or away from the contact
- Notify close contacts
 - Quarantine 14 days from last contact with confirmed case



Contact Tracing

Quick notification is key to containing spread

- Enables the local health department to interview cases about their contacts and places they've visited
 - Provide guidance around quarantine and isolation
- Fast and early contact tracing → faster contact notification → faster quarantine → cuts off and prevents the SPREAD of COVID-19

How can schools help?

- Timely reporting
- Complete contact information
- Encourage families to take our calls and answer the questions
 - Will **never ask** for financial information, SSN #s, etc.



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Positive Case – school community notification

- Prompt notification to classroom or entire school (after assessment and case-by-case basis)
- Letter of notification in conjunction **WITH** CCDPH
 - *Dear Families and Staff: **This letter is to inform you that an individual(s) at [name of School] has tested positive for COVID-19...***
 - *To prevent further spread of the disease, (School name) is taking the following steps:*
 - *Temporary closure of classroom to identify & notify close contacts*
 - *Close contacts to the COVID-19 case(s) in quarantine for 14 days.*
 - *Ongoing monitoring of students and staff for signs and symptoms of illness*
 - *Conducting a deep clean and disinfection of the areas impacted by potential exposure to the COVID-19 virus.*



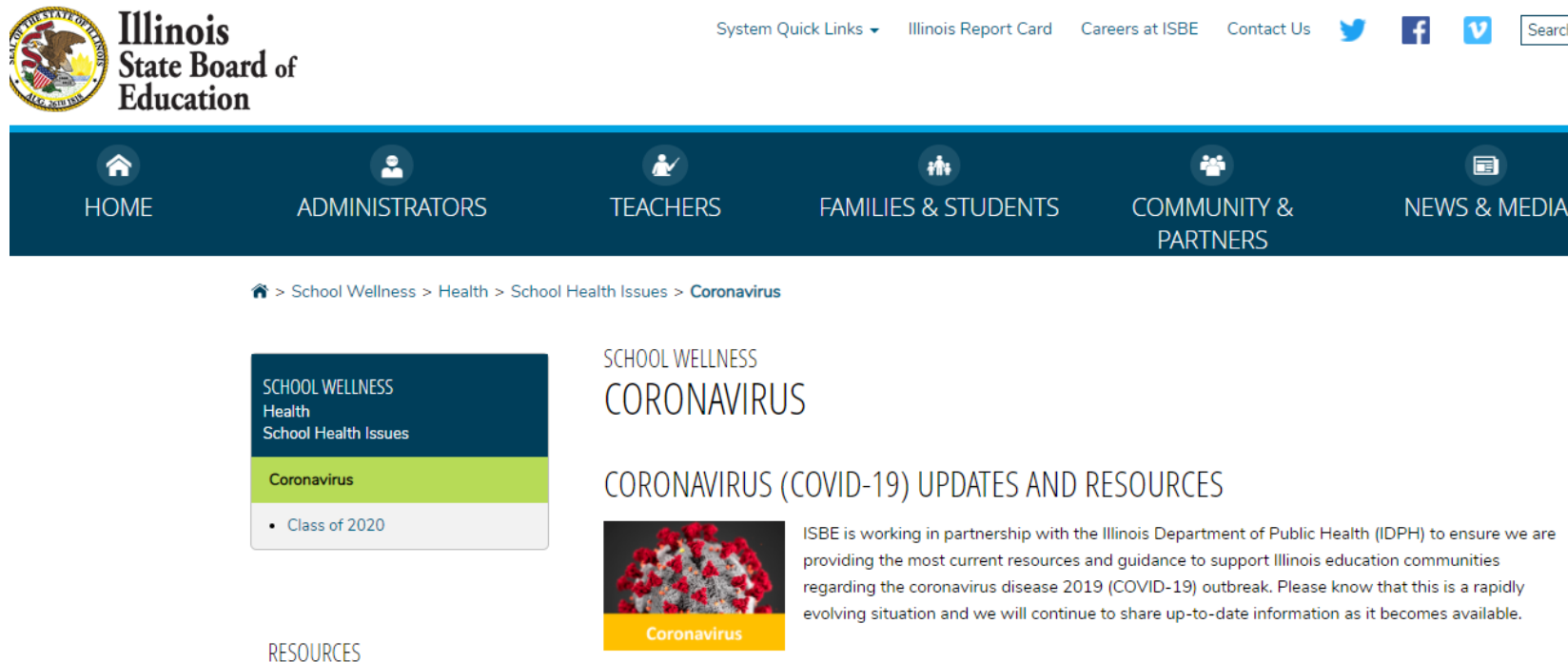
COVID-like symptoms during school

- All students and staff
 - Send home and diagnostically tested until test results
 - Confirmed or probable:
 - **MUST** complete 10 calendar days of isolation
 - From date of onset of symptoms AND fever-free for 24 h without use of fever-reducing medication & improvement of symptoms)



ISBE/IDPH guidance

<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/covid19.aspx>



The screenshot shows the ISBE website header with the logo and navigation links: System Quick Links, Illinois Report Card, Careers at ISBE, Contact Us, and social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube. A search bar is also present. Below the header is a dark blue navigation bar with icons and labels for HOME, ADMINISTRATORS, TEACHERS, FAMILIES & STUDENTS, COMMUNITY & PARTNERS, and NEWS & MEDIA. The main content area shows a breadcrumb trail: Home > School Wellness > Health > School Health Issues > Coronavirus. A sidebar on the left lists 'SCHOOL WELLNESS', 'Health', 'School Health Issues', and 'Coronavirus' (highlighted in green), with a link to 'Class of 2020'. The main heading is 'SCHOOL WELLNESS CORONAVIRUS', followed by 'CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATES AND RESOURCES'. Below this is a red and white coronavirus particle image with the label 'Coronavirus'. The text states: 'ISBE is working in partnership with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to ensure we are providing the most current resources and guidance to support Illinois education communities regarding the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak. Please know that this is a rapidly evolving situation and we will continue to share up-to-date information as it becomes available.'



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Discussion of Guidance and Answers to some FAQs



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Face Coverings

All masks, all the time? Yes, essentially.

- Face shields **NOT** a substitute
 - Except unable to wear due to medical condition and a physician's note
- Masks -source control
- Governor Pritzker preemptively filed a lawsuit seeking a judge's approval of the order requiring that all children, teachers and staff wear coverings over mouths and noses to reduce spread of COVID-19.
- Families/ children responsible for laundering masks ‘
 - Recommendation is **NOT** to launder at school
 - Clean mask worn every day
- Teachers alone in their classroom with their door closed can remove their masks.



N95 Masks and Fit Testing

Who Should Wear?

- ISBE recommendations:
 - Nurses with interaction with potential cases
 - Custodial staff cleaning room after suspect COVID case identified

Fit Testing

- Schools can call local hospitals or call occupational health medicine
- CCDPH does **NOT** conduct or facilitate fit testing in schools

Symptom Screenings

- Self-certification with an electronic form is allowable per guidance
- Must be completed daily
- Visitors must also be screened – must decide if that will be onsite and/or if self-certification for visitors is practical for your district

What do you do with this information?

- *Per CDC and IDPH guidelines on suspect cases :*
 - *10 days must pass after symptoms first appeared. (p.31)*
 - *24 hours must elapse from resolution of fever without fever-reducing medication and*
 - *Improvement of symptoms*



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Absence Line

GUIDANCE:

- *Request specific symptom reporting when absences are reported along with COVID-19 diagnoses AND COVID-19 exposure.*
- *Document and share (keep until pandemic ends)*
 - *Health staff or other appropriate personnel*
 - ***Local health department. (p.30)***
- Ask parents/guardians to leave information about:
 - COVID –like symptoms (fever, cough, etc.)
 - If COVID-like symptoms, have they been exposed to a confirmed case?
 - COVID diagnosis – positive test



Cleaning & Disinfection

- Increased routine cleaning
 - Frequently-touched surfaces (e.g. tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, sinks, etc.)

Cleaning **AFTER** positive/suspect cases:

- Close off areas used by ill person
- Don't use until proper cleaning has taken place
 - Open windows to increase air circulation
 - If possible, wait at least 24 h before cleaning and disinfecting -- after virus settles.



Cleaning & Disinfection (continued)

- Visibly dirty areas should be scrubbed and then use an approved disinfectant
 - Use an EPA-approved disinfectant – <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>
- Household bleach
 - 5 tablespoons (1/3rd cup) bleach per gallon of room temperature water.
- Launder or clean soft surfaces with soap and water OR
- Use EPA-approved disinfectant

Resources

- CCDPH – hotline and email
 - 708-633-4000 ccdph.COVID19@cookcountyhhs.org
- Restore IL plan: <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/restore-illinois-introduction>
- Illinois State Board of Education: <https://www.isbe.net/covid19>
- Childcare guidance: https://www2.illinois.gov/IISNews/21577-Restore_Illinois_Child_Care_Guidelines.pdf
- Illinois Board of Higher Education: <https://www.ibhe.org/IBHE-DG-Institutions-Covi19.html>
- CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/considerations.html>

Thank you.



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Safety in Schools Considerations

Classrooms and learning

Lowest Risk: Faculty and students engage in virtual-only learning options, activities, and events.

More Risk: Small in-person classes, activities, and events. Individuals remain spaced at least 6 feet apart and do not share objects (e.g., hybrid virtual and in-person class structures or staggered/rotated scheduling to accommodate smaller class sizes).

Highest Risk: Full-sized in-person classes, activities, and events. Students are not spaced apart, share classroom materials or supplies, and mix between classes and activities.



What can testing tell us?

And what other information is important in assessing infection risk?

Antibody Test	Viral Test	Symptom / Risk Monitoring
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Checks for previous infection.• Positive result = likely previous infection.• We do not yet have evidence of how long immunity lasts after infection.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Checks for current infection.• Negative result = probably not infected<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Could be too early in infection to detect• Does not provide any guarantee that there has been no exposure that could result in a person becoming ill with COVID-19.• Positive result = infected at time of testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regular assessments of COVID-like symptoms, including:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fever or chills• Cough• Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing• Fatigue• Risk assessment<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are you caring for someone with COVID-19?• Have you had close contact with someone with COVID-19?