



**McHenry Elementary School District 15**  
**SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION**  
**AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES PLAN**  
**2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR**



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**Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity**  
**of Services Plan**  
**2022-23 School Year**



The 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years were unprecedented in education and have impacted all of us in various ways. Our planning efforts encompassed extensive health and safety measures along with implementing academic and social-emotional structures and supports that assisted students and families as they transitioned back to in-person instruction. Throughout our planning, the following points have served as our guiding principles:

- Follow the regulations and spirit of guidance from the CDC, ISBE, MCDH and the IDPH
- Prioritize the health and safety of all students and staff
- Maintain an emphasis on prioritizing in-person learning for all students
- Develop return to learn plans that recognize the impact COVID-19 has had on staff, students, and families
- Focus on social-emotional and mental health supports that will continue to support in-person learning
- Focus on academic supports that mitigate the impact COVID-19 has had on students
- Be able to develop contingency plans that allow for last-minute changes from ISBE, MCDH, the State, IDPH

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released streamlined COVID-19 guidance for schools, which the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) are fully adopting.

Summary of key revisions to the guidance to continue to keep students, staff, and families safe:

- Removes the recommendation to quarantine for close contacts
- No longer recommends routine [screening testing](#) in K-12 schools
- Removes the recommendation for separating students into cohorts (eases social distancing guidelines, which Illinois has already been following)
- Eliminates the recommendation to Test to Stay after potential exposure

The streamlining of this new CDC school guidance aligns with [Community Levels](#) for its recommendations, as community levels can help schools and local health departments make decisions based on their local context and their unique needs.

This document serves as a support to families in that regard as it describes in more detail the school environment that students will participate in this year.

## **2022-2023 School Year Plan**

We have reviewed recommendations, guidelines, and requirements outlined by the CDC, IDPH, Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), and the McHenry County Department of Health, and have adopted all guidance from those agencies.

Similar to pre-pandemic options, if parents do not wish to send their child(ren) for in-person instruction, they may:

- Home school their child(ren)
- Seek a doctor's approval for homebound instruction due to the student having a medical condition [click here](#) for additional information

### **School Hours**

Students will attend in-person each day school is in session for the full day.

- Duker, Edgebrook, Hilltop: 8:20 AM - 3:00 PM
- Landmark, Riverwood, Valley View: 9:10 AM - 3:50 PM
- MMS, Parkland: 7:30 AM - 2:15 PM

### **Mitigation Measures and Updated Procedures**

Appropriate health and safety measures remain in place for the 2022-2023 school year. Vast improvements and enhancements have been made in our buildings and buses for improved air quality and ventilation. Although not required, masks still remain optional for students and visitors to our buildings.

School District 15 is also prioritizing in-person learning as we believe that learning happens best when students can physically connect in person with their teachers and classmates. In our efforts to prioritize in-person learning and allow students and families to focus on their health and well-being, live-streaming for students who are out due to COVID will not take place this year. Teachers and schools will work collaboratively with families on how to continue their learning while absent as was done in pre-pandemic situations.

### **Transportation**

Similar to last year, buses will return to their full capacity and will not be capped at 50 people to prioritize in-person learning for all students. Additionally, buses will be cleaned and disinfected regularly. All buses are equipped with HEPA filters for improved air quality and circulation to aid in the safety of our students and bus drivers.

Questions about transportation services should be directed to [officetr@d15.org](mailto:officetr@d15.org) or 779-244-1090.

### **When to Keep Sick Children Home From School**

Deciding when to keep a sick child at home from school is not always easy and has been complicated by the pandemic. In past years, a fever, cough or runny nose was not worrisome and you sent your child back to school when they were well enough to attend. It's important for children to attend school, and for some parents staying home means missing work. But when a child is truly sick, they need to stay home in the care of an adult to get well and to prevent spreading illness to others.

Non-COVID related illnesses may also require your child to recover at home until they are ready to be in the classroom learning.

**Updated 08/01/22**

Your child may be too ill to go to school if he or she has any of these signs (even if COVID negative)

- Seems very tired and needs bed rest (this is common with flu symptoms)
- Has vomiting or diarrhea - Your child may return to school when feeling better and has not had vomiting or diarrhea for 24 hours.
- Becomes short of breath or is wheezing
- Has a cough that disrupts normal activity
- Has distracting pain from earache, headache, sore throat or recent injury
- Has yellow or green drainage from eye(s)
- Breaks out in a rash, check with your child's doctor
- Fever; your child should not go to school with a temperature at or above 100.4 F. Your child may return to school when (s)he is feeling better and is fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications (Tylenol/Motrin, etc.)

Your child should stay home from school if (s)he has a contagious disease. A contagious disease is one that can be spread by close contact with a person or object. Examples are: chickenpox, flu, vomiting, diarrhea, colds, strep throat and "pinkeye."

A disease can be contagious before the child shows signs of illness. It is very hard to prevent the spread of some germs, especially in a school classroom. Good hand washing will help prevent the spread of germs.

### **Building Capacities & Learning Spaces**

- Students fully engage in all content areas including core subjects, specials, and exploratories
- Teachers may work with small groups of students in closer proximity
- Blending the best of pre-COVID and COVID learning to create safe, respectful learning environments where students are engaged and challenged
- Students leverage technology devices to support independent and group learning
- Continue to encourage the observance and respect of personal space

### **Lunch / Free Services**

Cafeterias and food service will operate normally as was done in pre-pandemic food service delivery methods. Families that are in need of assistance for either student fees and/or free and reduced meals are encouraged to complete the [appropriate waivers](#).

### **Recess**

Recess will continue to be held outdoors as long as weather permits. Use of playground equipment will be allowed as was in pre-pandemic operations.

### **Hallways/Restrooms**

Each building will establish restroom and hallway procedures to maintain health guidelines in the safest way possible. This includes cleaning and disinfection of bathrooms daily.

### **Academics**

McHenry School District 15 implements a multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) model to universally screen, intervene, and monitor student achievement and social emotional learning. Additionally, District 15 offers a full spectrum of special education services and supports inside and outside of the general education classroom to match the individual needs of every student.

**Updated 08/01/22**

### **Physical Education, Band, Chorus, and Music Education**

Physical Education, band, chorus and music education will be offered to students as was done in pre-pandemic course offerings.

### **Social, Emotional, and Mental Health of Students and Staff**

McHenry District 15 prioritizes the need to support the social, emotional, and mental health of all students and staff. These efforts include but are not limited to:

- Social Emotional Learning Curriculum for all students
- Social Emotional universal screening for all learners to intervene and monitor student growth and social emotional learning
- Certified District staff (Social Emotional Learning Coordinator, Psychologists, Social Workers) to assist with counseling, support and skill building
- Partnerships with local, state, and national mental health organizations
- Employee Assistance Program
- Legislative supports inclusive of COVID-19 sick leave and mental health days
- Wellness screenings and health membership discounts for staff

### **Shared Materials**

Appropriate hygiene will be encouraged before and after the use of shared materials. Water fountains and water bottle filling stations are available for use.

### **Visitors**

Our visitor policy has returned to pre-pandemic regulations so that our schools can once again reconnect with our parents and community.

### **Quarantine/Isolation Requirements**

Per the CDC and IDPH, individuals who test positive for COVID should isolate at home for 5 days. (day zero is the first day of symptoms) If symptom free, individuals may return to school on day 6 and, if willing and able, will wear a mask on days 6-10.

Any student who falls ill during the school day will be kept away from other individuals to the best of our ability.

In the event of a COVID-19 outbreak the McHenry County Department of Health (MCDH) requires notification and will make the final determination on next steps.

### **Medically Necessary Home/Hospital Instruction**

\*\*\*Only for approved applications due to a medical need\*\*\*

District 15 will continue to provide home/hospital services to qualifying students with medical conditions for which a doctor certifies that the child can not attend school. Home/Hospital instruction provides 1 hour a day (or 5 hours a week) of instruction. Please contact Kelli Catini, Executive Director of Student Services, if you have any questions regarding home/hospital instruction.

[ISBE Home/Hospital Q&A](#)

## Medical Certification for Home/Hospital Instruction

### **Facilities Management**

The custodial staff has increased cleaning and disinfection of commonly used areas and materials. Appropriate cleaning supplies such as electrostatic sprayers are used to disinfect rooms on a regular basis. Contact cleaning occurs in classrooms during the day as needed by teachers. Disinfectant has been provided to all staff so cleaning can occur throughout the day. Students may assist in wiping down their workspace or eating area during the day.

Students and staff will use hand sanitizer throughout the day, especially as they enter and exit classrooms. Hand washing will occur as needed and before and after lunch.

*Please note that this plan will be updated as guidelines change.*