

COVID-19 FAQ's during remote learning

McHenry District 15



As we begin the school year remotely, here are some important FAQ's that you may find helpful while in your school building or office. If you have further questions, please feel free to reach out to your school's health office and/or administration.

FACE COVERINGS

Will I still be required to wear face covering? Yes. As required by Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), except while eating, face coverings must be worn at all times in school buildings/offices, even when social distance is maintained. All individuals must wear a face covering unless they have a medical contraindication, are under 2 years of age, have trouble breathing, or are unconscious, incapacitated, or unable to remove the face covering without assistance. Face coverings are not required outdoors if physical distance is maintained (if individuals remain 6 feet apart from each other). Face shields are not effective protection against coronavirus and should only be used in situations when other methods of protection are not available. Please wear your face covering as you enter the building. Each employee will be responsible for their own face coverings daily, though there is a supply of disposable masks should yours break or become contaminated. If you have a medical condition that contraindicates the use of a face covering, please notify your principal and you will be instructed to obtain a medical waiver with a medical diagnosis.

During livestream instruction from your classroom

You may remove your face covering while actively teaching remotely. While teaching, close your classroom door and place a sign stating not to enter, instruction is in progress. Conditioning students in face covering use is encouraged. Role model for a given period of time daily while wearing a covering and ask the students to do the same. Before you leave for the day, please disinfect areas you used while teaching.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING -

Are all individuals in a school building/office required to maintain physical distance (remain 6 feet apart) at all times? Yes

- Limit the number of persons within hallways at any given time to the greatest extent possible
- Limit movement of staff within the building
- Do not congregate in common spaces or in classrooms
- If you share a workspace, coordinate with your office mate so you are not in the same space at the same time.

In person meetings

Avoid face to face contact whenever possible, even when you are working in the same building. Email, text, instant message and online conferencing is recommended.

If an in-person meeting is required, limit participants. Be sure the meeting space is in a large, well ventilated room that has been sanitized prior to hosting the meeting. Keep the meeting as short as possible.

Eating while at work

Break and work rooms will no longer be fitted for dining. Please eat in your workspace, disinfecting your space prior to and after eating. If you choose to eat outdoors, you must maintain at least 6 feet from one another. Do not sit facing each other while eating.

Shared items including refrigerator, coffee pots, copiers, water fountains and other community items

Limit commonly shared items. Bring your lunch in a cooler. If you must use the refrigerator, contact the principal. Disinfect copiers before and after use. Water fountains will not be in use, so remember to bring a water bottle, filling stations will be provided.

CAPACITY LIMITS -

What does 'one space' mean? Examples of one space may include one school bus, one classroom, or areas of a hallway. Capacity restrictions do not apply to an entire school building

What does 'one space' mean when outside? Each group of 50 or fewer individuals must remain 30 feet apart. If individuals are 6 feet apart at all times, face coverings do not need to be worn.

SYMPTOM SCREENINGS/TEMPERATURE CHECKS -

How will symptom screenings be conducted? All employees must self-certify that they are free of symptoms every day before coming into the building. Please take your temperature at home prior to reporting to work. If you have any of the symptoms please contact your supervisor and do not enter the building, if you do not have any of the symptoms please complete the form and place it in the designated area for your building. The forms are available at all buildings and this is a short term solution as we are looking at electronic means to self-certify as well. Symptom screenings or self-certification applies to visitors entering the buildings and anyone exhibiting symptoms should not enter the building.

What do I do if I am not feeling well before coming to work?

Contact your supervisor as you normally would. You may be asked specific symptoms you are experiencing.

What if I have any questions about a symptom/or symptoms I may have?

For general questions you may contact the Illinois Department of Public Health Hotline: 800.889.3931 or email DPH.SICK@Illinois.gov

POTENTIAL COVID-19 CASE IN MY BUILDING –

What do I do if I develop symptoms while working?

Call the front office and you will be evaluated by the administrator or nurse. You may be referred to your primary care provider for further evaluation. Isolation and quarantine guidelines will be adhered to.

What to do if another employee in my work place is sent home with COVID-19 or COVID-19 like symptoms?

Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 or who are suspected of having COVID-19 infection should seek medical attention and self-isolate. Individuals who have had close contact with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 or is suspected of having COVID-19 infection should be quarantined at home and monitored for symptoms for 14 days. Individuals who did not have close contact can return to school immediately after disinfection. **Close contact* means the individual was within 6 feet of the individual who tested positive for COVID-19 or is suspected of having COVID-19 infection for more than 15 minutes.

Will I be notified if a positive case of COVID-19 is in my building?

Any staff member who has been in close contact* with a positive case will receive further communication from a nurse or an administrator. The district will require isolation and/or quarantine guidance to be followed. No names will be released for a positive case.

**Close contact* - is defined as any individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes, with or without masks, starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic persons, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection) until the time the person is isolated.

**Isolation* - separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick.

**Quarantine* - separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.

NOTE: Requirements are subject to change pursuant to updated public health guidance and changing public health conditions.

Above information has been resourced from McHenry County School Nurse Task Force, CDC, IDPH, and ISBE, last updated July 17, 2020

*The ISBE Starting the 2020-21 School Year can be viewed at the following link:
<https://www.isbe.net/Documents/Part-3-Transition-Planning-Phase-4.pdf>.*

*CDC self-monitoring tool can be viewed at the following link:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>*