



New Lenox School District 122
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MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

July 30, 2021

Welcome Back NLSD Families!

The theme for the 2021-2022 school year is **Believe You Can**. The meaning has to do with overcoming external forces, working hard, and making sacrifices. It also relates to overcoming the power of your own mind. Upon reflection, I am reminded of last school year and the obstacles our school community faced. As we look forward to the 21-22 school year, we hope to empower our students to achieve their goals. In addition, you may notice the words **Be You** contained within the phrase “**Believe You Can**”. We look forward to spending the year celebrating that every child is unique and special!

Attached to this letter is the much awaited NLSD Safe Return to In-person Instruction Plan. Please take the time to read through the plan. The guidelines referenced in this plan are based on guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Regular updates will be made to the plan based on information provided by the IDPH, ISBE, and applicable federal, state and local agencies. The current situation may evolve and change in the days and weeks ahead. NLSD 122 will do our best to communicate changes in a timely manner.

The plan includes the following highlights, effective immediately (this includes all summer camps):

- In accordance with [CDC guidance](#), NLSD 122 **recommends** indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. While local and/or District rates remain low, moderate, or substantial, NLSD 122 **will not require** universal masking.
- An increase in COVID-19 transmission rates at the local and/or district level may result in increased mitigation practices such as required mask use. Terms of the layered mitigation plan are included in the Plan.
- Per the [CDC order](#), **all individuals must wear a mask on the bus**, regardless if vaccinated. This is a federal mandate.
- Prior to the first day of school, parents will sign an agreement stating they will review the COVID-19 symptom checklist with their child on a daily basis. **The checklist is to be completed at home and will not be collected at school.**
- If you have not chosen your child's mode of transportation or would like to change your mode of transportation, please do so in PowerSchool no later than August 2, 2021.

The principals will email updated building procedures for the 2021-2022 school year on Monday, August 2. Teacher assignments will be available in PowerSchool on Wednesday, August 4.

As always, thank you for your partnership.

Sincerely,

Lori R. Motsch, Ed.D
Superintendent



**NEW LENOX SCHOOL DISTRICT 122
SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION PLAN
2021-2022**

**SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION PLAN
2021-2022**



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New Lenox, IL 60451
www.nlsd122.org**



NEW LENOX SCHOOL DISTRICT 122

SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION PLAN 2021-2022

The following document outlines the 2021-2022 NLSD 122 Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Plan. The plan was developed in accordance with guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education, the CDC, and the Illinois Department of Public Health. The plan includes the following highlights for the start of the school year:

- In accordance with IDPH/CDC guidance, NLSD 122 recommends indoor mask use for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. While local and/or District rates remain low, moderate, or substantial, NLSD 122 will not require universal mask use.
- An increase in COVID-19 transmission rates at the local or district level could result in increased mitigation practices. Terms of the layered mitigation plan are included in this document.
- Per the CDC order, **all individuals must wear a mask on the bus**, regardless of vaccination status.
- Parents will be expected to sign off stating they agree to conduct a daily pre-screen for each child prior to arriving at the bus stop or school. Parents will utilize a COVID symptom checklist for each child attending school. **The checklist is to be conducted at home and will not be collected at school.**
- A chart summarizing the NLSD 122 layered mitigation plan for decision making is located on the last page of the document.

We look forward to the start of the 21-22 school year. NLSD 122 has great confidence that our school community will continue to work together to provide the very best for our students.

OVERVIEW

In May of 2021, the Illinois State Board of Education passed a [resolution](#) indicating that all schools must resume fully in-person learning for all student attendance days for the 21-22 school year. On July 27, 2021, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) fully adopted the [CDC guidance](#). The updated NLSD 122 Safe Return to In-person Instruction Plan shares the vision of ISBE guided by CDC/IDPH /WCDPH recommendations and are subject to change.

NLSD 122 will continue to monitor community transmission of COVID-19 as outlined in this document and will implement additional layered mitigation strategies if necessary. NLSD 122 will monitor the Lincoln-Way Community using the following zip codes; 60423, 60442, 60448, and 60451 with data found on the COVID dashboard. [Covid Data by zip code](#)

The administrative team will utilize the CDC Indicators and Thresholds for Community Transmission of COVID-19 to determine any shifts in mitigation practices. Shifts to a higher transmission in the mitigation practices will occur when both indicators have been met for three (3) consecutive days over a 7-day monitoring period. Shifts to a lower transmission in the mitigation practices will occur when both indicators have been met for seven (7) consecutive days.

Administration may change mitigation strategies if conditions other than those mentioned above change. For example, an outbreak at a particular school could potentially lead to a universal mask requirement until the outbreak is contained. Mitigation strategies could also change because of updated guidelines from the CDC, IDPH, ISBE or Will County Health Department.

CDC Indicators and Thresholds for Community Transmission of COVID-19

Indicator - if the two indicators suggest different transmission levels, the higher level is selected	Low Transmission	Moderate Transmission	Substantial Transmission	High Transmission
Total New cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days	0-9.99	10-49.99	50-99.99	≥ 100
Percentage of confirmed COVID Tests that are positive during the past 7 days	0-4.99%	5-7.99%	8-9.99%	≥ 10.0%

UPDATED MITIGATION PROCEDURES

CLEANING

Custodial staff will conduct additional cleaning daily using approved sanitation equipment. Daily and evening cleaning procedures will be updated to reflect an increase in frequency. The District will follow recommendations per the CDC, IDPH, and local health departments.

CONTACT TRACING

School nurses will maintain a contact tracing absence log. It is understood that student and staff medical confidentiality will be maintained and respected at all times. The NLSD 122 COVID-19 Cases Chart will be published weekly on the District website. NLSD 122 will follow quarantine recommendations set forth by the IDPH and the Will County Department of Health when a positive or suspected COVID-19 case is reported. The current IDPH protocols for close contact quarantine are still in place for non-vaccinated individuals. This may require 10-14 days of quarantine.

- CLOSE CONTACT DEFINITION
 - Close contact is defined as individuals who are not fully vaccinated or who have not had lab-diagnosed COVID-19 within the last 90 days who were within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. In general, individuals who are solely exposed to a confirmed case while outdoors should not be considered close contacts.
- QUARANTINE EXCEPTIONS
 - In the K-12 indoor classroom setting, students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student where both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of masks do not need to quarantine.
 - Asymptomatic vaccinated individuals do not need to quarantine.
 - Asymptomatic individuals that had COVID within 90 days of exposure do not need to quarantine.

HAND-WASHING AND RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE

All staff, students, and visitors must practice appropriate hand hygiene when inside district facilities including all the following guidelines:

- Frequently wash hands with soap and water for at least twenty (20) seconds. When soap and running water are unavailable, use an alcohol-based hand rub with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands that are visibly soiled. More information about proper handwashing is available from the [CDC Handwashing website](#).
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Practice effective respiratory etiquette, including covering coughs and sneezes.

HVAC

NLSD 122 will monitor air quality on a regular basis. NLSD 122's HVAC systems continuously circulate fresh air into the buildings. The building HVAC systems are set to provide a mixture of outside air (OA) that meets industry standards as well as allows for efficient conditioning of air. NLSD 122 will maximize the filtration power of the HVAC system by using the filter with the highest level of air filtration possible and changing the filters on a routine basis to ensure they perform at an optimum level. In addition, we will continue to monitor space temperature and humidity conditions. The space temperature should be maintained between 68-78F, and 30 to 60% RH maximum.

MASK USE

Inside School Building:

- On July 27, 2021, the IDPH aligned with the CDC recommending indoor mask use for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. NLSD 122 supports this recommendation. While local and/or District rates remain low, moderate, or substantial, NLSD 122 will not require universal mask use.
- A universal mask requirement may go into effect should the county and/or district reach the high transmission rate (RED COLUMN). Shifts to a higher transmission in the mitigation practices will occur when both indicators have been met for three (3) consecutive days over a 7-day monitoring period. Shifts to a lower transmission in the mitigation practices will occur when both indicators have been met for seven (7) consecutive days.

Mask Use on Bus:

Per the [CDC order](#), all individuals must wear a mask on the bus, regardless of vaccination status.

SELF CERTIFICATION

Prior to the start of school, parents will sign an agreement to conduct a daily pre-screen for each child prior to arriving at the bus stop or school. Parents will utilize a COVID symptom checklist for each child attending school. The checklist is to be completed at home and will not be collected at school. Parents/guardians are required keep child(ren) home when symptoms of COVID-19 are present. The symptoms include but are not limited to, fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, fatigue, muscle and body aches, headache, sore throat, nausea, or vomiting. Parents are also required to report symptoms/positive cases to school. Each school will maintain an isolation room for students demonstrating COVID-like symptoms until parent/guardian can pick up the student.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

3-6 feet social distancing in the school environment will be observed as much as possible, including classrooms.

STUDENTS WITH MEDICAL CONDITIONS

The district will resume in-person instruction for all students on Wednesday, August 18, 2021. After this date, if your child has a medical condition that prevents them from attending in-person learning, please contact Mandy Novotny, Director of Special Education at (815) 485-2169.

TRANSPORTATION

Students will be required to wear masks on the bus and social distance as much as possible. To plan for transportation, parent/guardians will be asked to commit to either utilizing bus or car transportation at the beginning of the school year.

VACCINATION

According to the CDC, evidence suggests that people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are less likely to have an asymptomatic infection or transmit COVID-19 to other people who are not fully vaccinated.

Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. People who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are at low risk of symptomatic or severe infection.

People who are fully vaccinated can safely resume activities they did before the pandemic, except when prevention measures are required by federal, state, local tribal or territorial laws, rules, regulations, including local business and workplace guidelines.

For anyone who is still looking for a COVID-19 vaccine, please visit www.vaccines.gov to find a vaccination location near you.

REFERENCES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

IDPH Press Release

<http://www.dph.illinois.gov/news/illinois-department-public-health-adopts-cdc-covid-19-prevention-school-guidance>

Illinois State Board of Education Covid-19 Reference

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

Northwestern COVID data Dashboard

<https://Covid-dashboard.fsm.northwestern.edu>

Will County Department of Health & Community Health Center

<https://willcountyhealth.org>

NLSL 122 Layered Mitigation Plan: Community Transmission of COVID-19 Decision Chart

Indicators Community transmission rates monitored for two-week indicator data				
	<u>Low</u>	<u>Moderate</u>	<u>Substantial</u>	<u>High</u>
Covid Cases Per 100k	Case Count less than 10	Case Count 10 – 49.99	Case Count 50 – 99.99	Case Count equal or greater than 100
Positivity Rate	Case Count less than 5%	Case Count 5 – 7.99%	Case Count 8 – 9.99%	Case Count equal or greater than 10%
Mitigation Guidance				
Social Distancing	3-6 feet to the greatest extent possible in classrooms and lunchrooms	3-6 feet to the greatest extent possible in classrooms and lunchrooms	3-6 feet to the greatest extent possible in classrooms and lunchrooms	3-6 feet to the greatest extent possible in classrooms and lunchrooms
Quarantine	Quarantine per IDPH recommendation.	Quarantine per IDPH recommendation.	Quarantine per IDPH recommendation.	Quarantine per IDPH recommendation.
Mask Use Guidance				
Classroom	Mask Use recommended for all individuals.	Mask Use recommended for all individuals.	Mask Use recommended for all individuals.	Mask Use required for all individuals.
Lunch Space	Mask Use recommended for all individuals when not eating.	Mask Use recommended for all individuals when not eating.	Mask Use recommended for all individuals when not eating.	Mask Use required for all individuals when not eating.
Bus	Per CDC/IDPH guidelines, all individuals must wear a mask on the bus.	Per CDC/IDPH guidelines, all individuals must wear a mask on the bus.	Per CDC/IDPH guidelines, all individuals must wear a mask on the bus.	Per CDC/IDPH guidelines, all individuals must wear a mask on the bus.
PE/ Recess	Outdoor activities: no mask use is necessary. Indoor activities: Mask use recommended for all individuals.	Outdoor activities - no mask use is necessary. Indoor activities: Mask use recommended for all individuals.	Outdoor activities - no mask use is necessary. Indoor activities: Mask use recommended for all individuals.	Outdoor - Mask use may be recommended. Indoor activities: Mask use required for all individuals.
Athletics	Outdoor activities: No mask use is necessary. Indoor Activities: Mask use recommended for unvaccinated individuals.	Outdoor activities: No mask use is necessary. Indoor activities: Mask use recommended for vaccinated individuals. Mask use strongly recommended for unvaccinated individuals.	Outdoor activities: No mask use is necessary. Indoor activities: Mask use recommended for vaccinated individuals. Mask use strongly recommended for unvaccinated individuals.	Mask use will be required for all individuals. Possible discontinuation of athletic events for a period of time.

School positivity rates may outweigh local community transmission rates in determining mitigation measures.