

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

Updated September 29, 2021



**New Lenox School District 122**  
102 S. Cedar Road  
New Lenox, IL 60451  
[www.nlsd122.org](http://www.nlsd122.org)

## 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. The following guidance is based on updated CDC guidance for COVID-19 prevention in K-12 schools and the State of Illinois updated Executive Order. [Executive Order 2021-18](#) requires that masks be worn indoors by all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to P-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. The State of Illinois also requires all public and nonpublic schools to comply with contact tracing, in combination with isolation and quarantine, as directed by state and local public health departments.

In addition to requirements for consistent and correct universal indoor mask use and contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine, NLSD 122 will implement the following COVID-19 prevention strategies:

- Physical distancing
- Promote and adhere to hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.
- Encourage individuals who are sick to stay home and get tested for COVID-19
- Clean and disinfect surfaces in schools to maintain healthy environments
- Promote vaccination

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 in order to provide the very best for our students.

## **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 the local health department.

### **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.

## FACE COVERINGS

**All teachers, staff, students, and visitors to P-12 schools are required to wear a mask while indoors, regardless of vaccination status.** This guidance is based on updated recommendations in CDC guidance for COVID-19 prevention in K-12 schools and an updated Executive Order for the State of Illinois. [Executive Order 2021-18](#) requires that all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to P-12 schools who are two years of age or older and medically able to tolerate a mask, regardless of vaccination status, to wear a mask while indoors. According to the [Revised Public Health Guidance for Schools](#), published by the Illinois State Board of Education, the [face mask should have two or more](#) layers to stop the spread of COVID-19 and should be worn over the nose and mouth, be secured under the chin, and should fit snugly against the sides of the face without gaps. Reusable face masks should be machine washed or washed by hand and allowed to dry completely after each use. Additionally, special attention should be paid to putting on and removing face masks for purposes such as eating. After use, the front of the face mask is considered contaminated and should not be touched during removal or replacement. Hand hygiene should be performed immediately after removing and after replacing the face mask. See [CDC guidance on how to wear and take off a mask](#) for additional instruction. Districts and schools may wish to maintain a supply of disposable face masks in the event that a staff member, student, or visitor does not have one for use. School leaders, local leaders, and others respected in the community should set an example by correctly and consistently wearing masks. For additional information, see [CDC guidance for wearing masks](#).

Face masks with exhalation valves or vents are not recommended for source control because they do not prevent the user from spreading respiratory secretions when they breathe, talk, sneeze, or cough. The CDC does **not** recommend use of single-layer athletic face masks (e.g., “gaiters”/neck

warmers) as a substitute for multi-layered cloth face masks. Additional studies indicate that gaiters can be worn as face coverings when they contain two layers of fabric or a single layer can be folded to make two layers, according to updated CDC guidance (February 12, 2021).

**All persons, regardless of vaccination status, must wear a face mask at all times when in transit to and from school via group conveyance**

**(e.g., school buses), unless an approved exemption applies.** This is in accordance with the [CDC Order](#), in effect as of February 1, 2021, which requires “the wearing of masks by people on public transportation conveyances or on the premises of transportation hubs to prevent the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19.”

**Students will not be permitted into the classroom without a mask, unless an approved exemption applies. Masks will be provided to students who come to school without one. If students are noncompliant upon entry, progressive disciplinary action in accordance with the Parent/Student Handbook will be taken.**

Individuals who have a condition or medical contraindication (e.g., difficulty breathing) that prevents them from wearing a face mask are required to provide documentation from the individual's health care provider. The [NLSD 122 Mask Accommodation/Exemption Form](#) can be found here. Completed forms should be submitted to the building nurse.

## QUARANTINE

### QUARANTINE EXCEPTIONS

- Students and staff who are fully vaccinated with no COVID-19-like symptoms do not need to quarantine or be restricted from school or extracurricular activities. CDC recommends that fully vaccinated individuals test three to five days after a close contact exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- For students in the classroom setting, contacts who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student do not require quarantine as long as both the case and the contact were consistently masked. If they were not consistently masked, then close contacts are classroom students who were within 6 feet of the infected student for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.

### QUARANTINE PROCEDURES

Local health departments will make the final determination on who is to be quarantined and for how long. They also may determine that a close contact is not a candidate for modified quarantine due to a high-risk exposure (e.g., sustained close contact without masking).

The CDC describes three options for [quarantine](#):

- **Option 1:** Quarantine at home for 14 calendar days. Date of last exposure is considered day 0.
- **Option 2:** Quarantine for 10 calendar days after the close contact's last exposure to the COVID-19 case. Date of last exposure is considered day 0.
  - The individual may end quarantine after day 10 if no symptoms of COVID-19 developed during daily monitoring.

- SARS-CoV-2 PCR testing is recommended and may be required by the local health department.
- The individual can maintain physical distancing and masking at all times when returning to school; for classrooms where masking is strictly adhered to as required, physical distance of 3 to 6 feet is acceptable for return.
- **Option 3:** Quarantine period is for seven calendar days after the last exposure if:
  - No symptoms developed during daily monitoring AND the individual has a negative SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic test (PCR) that was collected within 48 hours of exposure day 7 (starting on day 6 or after).
  - The individual is responsible for obtaining a copy of the negative results for documentation purposes.
  - The individual can maintain physical distancing and masking at all times when returning to school; for classrooms where masking is strictly adhered to as required, physical distance of 3 to 6 feet is acceptable for return.

**Regardless of when an individual ends quarantine, daily symptom monitoring should continue through calendar day 14 after the exposure. If any symptoms develop during or after ending quarantine, the individual should immediately self-isolate** and contact their local health department or healthcare provider to report their symptoms. The health department can provide guidance on how to safely quarantine and isolate within the household.

### **RETURNING FROM QUARANTINE**

Quarantined individuals must submit a copy of their symptom screener to the school nurse prior to returning to school after quarantine.

## **QUARANTINE INSTRUCTION**

Beginning with the 2021-22 school year, all schools must resume fully in-person learning for all student attendance days, provided that, pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/10-30 and 105 ILCS 5/34-18.66. Lessons will be provided to students who are in quarantine. Quarantine lessons will be provided by the classroom teacher and are intended to keep students current on their coursework.

## **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 to 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 the 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.



## **TESTING FOR COVID-19**

NLSD 122 may provide on-site COVID-19 testing. This will be determined at a later date and will require parental consent.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Students will be required to wear masks on the bus and social distance as much as possible. To plan for transportation, parents/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](http://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>