

Safe Return to In Person Instruction and Continuity of Services 2022-23

September 2022

General

This document builds upon and supersedes the [Reopening Schools 2020-21 document approved by the Board of Education on July 27, 2020](#) and the [Safe Return To In Person Instruction and Continuity Of Services](#) approved by the Board of Education on August 2, 2021.

This document also fulfills the requirement to update this document at least every six months until September 2023 in conjunction with the *American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act*.

“Section 2001(i) of the ARP Act requires an LEA [Local Education Authority] that receives ARP ESSER [Elementary and Secondary School Emergency and Relief] funds to develop and make publicly available on the LEA’s website, within 30 days after receiving its allocation, a plan for the safe return to in person instruction and continuity of services. Prior to making the plan publicly available, the LEA must seek public comment on the plan and take such comments into consideration when developing the plan.”

In-Person Learning, Remote Learning

All classes will be in-person for all students in 2022-23.

Students who are under isolation for COVID-19 will receive asynchronous remote instruction for their classes and regular connections from teachers and counselors to ensure they can maintain their studies.

Staff Vaccination Status Data Collection

District 113 requires employees to provide proof of vaccination or to be approved for a medical or religious exemption. Staff can expect that their personal COVID-19 vaccination information will remain confidential just as all medical information is confidential. Any staff-specific updates will be provided to staff in a separate staff communication.

All new District 113 staff are required to demonstrate vaccination (or be approved for a medical or religious exemption) as a condition of employment.

Mask Wearing

Based on updated guidance, masks are not required in District 113. Of course, students and staff who wish to wear a mask are welcome to do so.

Social Distancing

According to the updated guidance, social distancing is no longer recommended or required. Students and staff are welcome to continue to pursue social distancing as feasible within the confines of the school day.

Lunch

Students will follow a regular lunch schedule. Weather permitting, students will be able to eat lunch in supervised areas outdoors, and accommodations will be made for students who need them.

Buses, Driver's Education Vehicles

Students and staff are welcome to wear a mask while traveling on a school bus or in a driver's education vehicle.

Ventilation

The HVAC systems will continue to maximize the amount of fresh air introduced into the buildings. This will be accomplished by utilizing the fresh air intakes on the existing mechanical units. Also, all HVAC systems will run 24/7 to ensure the air is refreshed as much as possible. Ultraviolet and HEPA air filtration systems will continue to be used in high-risk areas such as the health office.

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette will continue to be encouraged throughout District 113 schools and buildings. All bathrooms are equipped with touchless faucets and paper towel dispensers. All classrooms will be provided with hand sanitizer, and hand sanitizer will be available in many common areas.

Quarantine and Isolation Procedures for Confirmed Cases

IDPH and CDC no longer require individuals to quarantine if exposed to someone with COVID-19. For more information regarding isolation procedures for those infected with COVID-19, see the [CDC website](#).

FAQs

What should staff do if they test positive for COVID-19?

Please see the details about [COVID Paid Administrative Leave Days](#) from this document.

What should students do if they test positive for COVID-19?

According to the guidance, parents/guardians whose students have tested positive for COVID-19 should follow the [COVID-19 Interim Guidance For Schools Decision Tree for Evaluating Symptomatic Individuals from Pre-K-12 Schools](#).

Will District 113 provide COVID-19 testing for students and staff?

Students with a consent form on file may go to the Health Services Office for diagnostic testing using a rapid antigen test. Staff may also go to the Health Services Office for diagnostic testing. A consent form will be required from staff; staff can fill out this consent form at the time of testing.