



Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services 2021-2022

In accordance with the Illinois State Superintendent of Schools July 9, 2021 declaration, all West Harvey-Dixmoor School District 147 schools will be open fully for in-person learning for all student attendance days for the 2021-22 school year.

The ARP (American Rescue Plan- ESSER III) Act requires schools that receive ARP ESSER funds to develop and make publicly available on the school district's website, within 30 days after receiving its allocation, a plan for the safe return to in person instruction and continuity of services. The plan was also developed through meaningful consultation with a collaborative of students, parents, administrators, teachers, school staff, food service staff, transportation service staff, labor association leaders, and county health department officials. Opportunity for the public to provide input was provided at the August 2, 2021 board meeting.

School officials will communicate any changes in plans to staff members, students, and parents through the district's regular communication platforms.

1. Mask Use

- a.** Mask use is recommended indoors for students (age two and older), staff, and visitors.
- b.** School staff are to model support for and encourage students to be supportive of people who continue to wear a mask as a personal choice or because of a personal medical reason.
- c.** Unless exempt by CDC Order, passengers and drivers must wear a mask on school buses.

2. Physical Distancing

- a. Social distancing in all settings of at least three feet or to the greatest extent possible providing assigned seating for students and encouraging students to remain in these seats to the greatest extent possible.

3. Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

- a. School staff will monitor and reinforce frequent handwashing and respiratory etiquette by
 - i. reminding everyone in the facility to wash hands frequently;
 - ii. using hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol
 - iii. continuing to teach respiratory etiquette (e.g., covering coughs and sneezes)

4. Facility and Transportation Cleaning, Disinfection and Ventilation

- a. School custodial staff and transportation staff will continue to clean surfaces daily.
- b. Maintenance staff will continue to regularly replace school ventilation system filters.
- c. When possible, staff will open doors and windows, use child-safe fans, and have activities, classes, or lunches outdoors when circumstances allow.
- d. When it does not pose a safety risk, transportation staff will keep vehicle windows open at least a few inches to improve air circulation.

5. Contact Tracing in Combination with Isolation and Quarantine

- a. Students and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as influenza (flu) or COVID-19, should stay home and contact their healthcare provider for testing and care.
- b. Individuals in our school environments who show symptoms of COVID-19 are to immediately report to the office.
- c. Fully vaccinated people who were in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 but do NOT have COVID-19 symptoms do not need to quarantine or be tested.
- d. Student absences related to a COVID-19 isolation or quarantine will be recorded as excused. To ensure continuity of services, school work missed during such an absence can be requested and made up in accordance with the school's policy.

(refer to student handbook); Remote instruction will only be offered following the parameters provided by the Illinois State Board of Education. Effingham, Fayette, and Shelby County Health Department officials will be making notifications to staff and parents as soon as possible regarding those who were in close contact with someone in the school who tested positive for COVID-19.

6. Promoting Vaccination

- a. West Harvey-Dixmoor School District 147 is working with the Cook County Health Department.
- b. Respectful of peoples' varying levels of vaccine confidence, those who want to get vaccinated against COVID-19 can visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to find out where they can get vaccinated in our community.

7. Disabilities or Other Health Care Needs

- a. Parents of students who need accommodations, modifications, or assistance related to COVID-19 safety protocols, disabilities, underlying medical conditions, or weakened immune systems should contact their student's principal to discuss the need(s).

8. Visitors

- a. Visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups will be allowed; however, all participants are encouraged to be vaccinated.

9. Collaboration with Public Health Officials

- a. District officials will continue to collaborate and consult with Cook County Department of Public Health and Illinois Department of Public Health officials throughout a pandemic on various logistics and decision-making.

10. Plan Review

- a. Through September 30, 2023, this plan will be reviewed no less frequently than every six months and revised as appropriate after seeking and considering public input. Revisions will address the most recently updated safety recommendations by the CDC, and made publicly available on the district's website.