

Calumet City School District 155 Back to School Plan



Overview to safely reopen school for the 2021- 2022 School Year



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Introduction

Dear Staff and Families:

Calumet City School District 155 will open its 2021-2022 school year with full in-person attendance. The District has assessed the updated guidance from the CDC, IDPH, and ISBE and is prepared to provide face-to-face instruction, food services, extracurricular, and interscholastic activities.

The District's back to school plan outlines necessary procedures to ensure a safe return to school while maintaining focus on strong academics and ensuring the health and safety of the District's community. The development of the plan was created with input from staff, community, and other stakeholders with the understanding that it will take the community for a successful implementation.

Due to the pandemic's fluid, ever-changing impact, the District will continue to monitor and assess the data related to COVID-19. The District will make data-driven decisions and is prepared to move from in-person to remote learning as necessary.

In order to meet the needs of our students in the event the District needs to move into a remote learning format, the District will utilize its State approved eLearning/remote learning plan. The District's eLearning/remote learning plan can be found on the District's website or by using the following link: [District 155 eLearning/Remote Learning Plan](#).

Parents and guardians will be required to fill out the following one-time student COVID-19 symptom self-certification screener prior to the start of the school year. The screener can be found here by using the following link: <http://bit.ly/sd155studentcertification22>. The screener is also embedded into our online registration and can be requested from school clerical staff.

The remainder of this communication is intended to provide an overview of our back to school transition plan which includes an overview of mitigation strategies implemented by the District.



Best Health Practices

Calumet City School District 155 will continue to follow best practices as defined by the CDC and IDPH.

Handwashing - Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.

Social Distancing - Individuals should maintain a minimum of three feet of distance between one another when possible. Social distancing remains one of the best strategies for limiting exposure and preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Face Masks - Calumet City School District requires the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) as follows:

- Employees and students are required to wear face coverings over their nose and mouth:
 - In all academic settings including classrooms (unless eating inside the classroom or the cafeteria but must maintain three feet of distance from others).
 - When moving around all common internal areas of the school and district.
 - In all meeting/conference rooms, hallways, bathrooms.
 - In all shared office spaces, where two or more individuals are present.
 - On all district transportation.

It is understood that most employees and students will arrive at school or the district with their own face masks, whether homemade or commercially manufactured. The District is also providing every employee and student with two reusable, washable face coverings.

The District also maintains a limited stock of disposable face masks for students who need them, short-term guests, and visitors. Disposable masks are designed for a single use and should be placed in the trash at the end of each day.



Cleaning and Disinfection

Buildings and Grounds leadership continues to monitor the CDC, IDPH, and CCDPH for the best practices in cleaning the District's schools. The products used for cleaning are on the EPA approved list. All of our custodial and night time cleaning staff have been trained in the proper use of the cleaning materials, PPE and the necessary frequency of cleaning to meet CDC guidelines.

The District has also installed additional hand sanitizer stations throughout buildings and will continue to maintain these stations. Each student and staff member will be required to sanitize their hands upon entry into the building and will be encouraged to wash their hands throughout the school and work day.

Screening and Temperature Checks

All members of the Calumet City School District family are responsible for conducting a daily personal health assessment before coming to school, attending an appointment, meeting, or getting on the bus. All parents and guardians must fill out a one-time student self certification and verification form prior to attending school. The self certification and verification form can be found on the District website or by using the following link:

<http://bit.ly/sd155studentcertification22>

Each day, prior to arriving on campus, individuals should complete a short assessment by cross-checking their personal health against the CDC's list of COVID-19 symptoms.

- Fever or Chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

The list does not include all possible symptoms. If you are experiencing any symptoms of illness, please stay home and do not report to school or try to get on the bus.



COVID-19 Reporting Requirements

The District requires formal reporting for all individuals who have a confirmed case of COVID-19, have been exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19 or have an assumed case of COVID-19 as detailed below.

Those who are exhibiting symptoms will not be authorized to come to school or district and should take the following steps:

- Report your condition using the Staff or Student COVID-19 Symptom Report Form
 - Staff: <http://bit.ly/sd155staffsymptomreport22>
 - Student: <http://bit.ly/sd155studentsymptomreport22>
- Report your condition to the school office (if a student).
- Report your condition to your supervisor and log absence into AESOP (if an employee).
- Stay home - Students will be required to stay home between 10-14 calendar days from onset of symptoms.
- Contact your medical provider immediately for further guidance on care and possible COVID-19 testing.

COVID-19 Isolation Rooms

Each school building will have dedicated isolation rooms for individuals who are suspected of having or showing symptoms of COVID-19. The isolation rooms will be structured in compliance with CDC and IDPH guidelines. Students who are placed in the COVID-19 isolation room will remain in the room until parents or guardians come and pick them up.

Students and Staff Who are Sent Home with COVID-like Symptoms

The local departments of public health in Illinois, Cook County and Chicago have recently updated their guidance concerning COVID-19 testing and return-to-work/school admittance. Based on this new guidance, any individual (student or employee) who experiences COVID-like symptom(s):

- Should be sent home immediately with any siblings
- All students and staff sent home with COVID-like symptoms should be diagnostically tested. Students and staff should remain home from school until they receive the test results. Students and staff who are confirmed or probable cases of COVID-19 must complete 10 calendar days of isolation from the date of first symptom onset and be fever-free for 24 hours without use of fever-reducing medications and other symptoms have improved before returning to school. Individuals who have been cleared by the local health department for release from isolation may return to school even if other household members are in isolation or quarantine in the home.



- Students and staff returning to school after experiencing COVID-like symptoms but being diagnosed with a non-COVID illness must meet the criteria for returning to school for the illness with which they have been diagnosed. At a minimum, the individual must be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications and have had no diarrhea or vomiting in the previous 24 hours. Other diseases have specific criteria for when a student or staff member can return to school. Follow school health policies and communicable disease guidance for those illnesses. A healthcare provider’s note documenting the alternative diagnosis, or a negative COVID-19 test result should accompany a student or staff member returning to school with an alternative diagnosis after experiencing COVID-like symptoms. Schools and districts should assist families in locating free or reduced-cost medical clinics for assistance where needed.
- Students and staff with COVID-like symptoms who do not get tested for COVID-19 and who do not provide a healthcare provider’s note documenting an alternative diagnosis, must complete 10 calendar days of isolation from the date of first symptom onset and be fever-free for 24 hours without use of fever-reducing medications and other symptoms have improved before returning to school.
- Medical evaluation and COVID-19 diagnostic testing are strongly recommended for all persons with COVID-like symptoms.

Accommodations

Any person requesting accommodations, employee or student, may request so by following the process outlined in the student handbook or board policy.

Academic Plan

The District looks forward to beginning our school year by providing student instruction fully in-person following pre-pandemic academic schedules.

In the event the District or an individual school needs to move into remote learning, the schedule outlined in the table on the next page will be utilized. Remote learning instruction will be delivered online (synchronous) or through worksheet based packets (asynchronous) depending on length of closure or quarantine. The approved District’s eLearning/remote learning plan can be found on the District’s website or by using the following link: [District 155 eLearning/Remote Learning Plan](#)

Full Remote Learning Format Following eLearning Plan	
<u>Remote Learning Group</u>	<u>Remote Learning Days</u>
All Students	Monday - Friday



Important Calendar Dates

August 16, 2021	Trimester Begins/Teacher Institute/No Student Attendance
August 17, 2021	Teacher Institute/No Student Attendance
August 18, 2021	First Day of Student Attendance

As the fall trimester progresses, District 155 will reevaluate its plan as needed and make adjustments to schedules and adjust relative to current health related data and guidance provided by CDC, IDPH, CCDPH, and ISBE.

School Bus Transportation

The District is working with our bus company, Kickert, and its other bus vendors to provide safe transportation for those who qualify. It will be required that all students who are transported on a school bus adhere to the recommendations set forth by the guidance outlined by local health officials and ISBE. Students will not be allowed on the bus unless they are symptom-free and wearing a mask. All individuals riding public transportation must wear a mask regardless of vaccination status.

Food Service

The District is also working closely with our partner, Preferred Meals, to guarantee a safety-first food service through grab and go pre-packaged breakfast and lunch to limit line sizes and congestion. Breakfast and lunch services will return but will look a bit different than in previous years. Students will be required to eat at individual desks at least three feet apart. This may cause each school to utilize a portion of their libraries or other areas to accommodate for grade level student populations.

Social distancing should also be observed while waiting in lines. All signage and travel patterns are to be followed.

In the event of school closure, grab and go food services will be communicated and provided to our students.



Extracurricular, Interscholastics, and Athletics

Extracurricular, interscholastic, and athletic activities will begin at the start of the school year. All after-school programs will be approved on an individual basis as plans are developed and guidance is provided by each school, and the Illinois Elementary School Association.

Visitors and Building Access

Visitors are limited during the school day to the greatest extent possible.

- Non-essential visitors and activities involving external groups or organizations may be restricted.
- Allowable visitors will be restricted to the main corridor pending completion of self certification, and by appointment only. Forms will need to be completed prior to entering the building online through the district website using the following link:

<http://bit.ly/sd155visitorcertification22>

District 155 Goal

Teamwork and communication between the District, families, and staff will be critical this Fall. It is our goal to work with our stakeholders and provide a safe and high quality learning environment.