WHAT FACTORS WILL DETERMINE A SHIFT IN LEARNING MODEL?

D181 is closely monitoring internal and external factors to continuously assess the current delivery model. Internal factors include the ability of our school community to closely adhere to the safety protocols and guidelines that have been established. For example, our focus and ability to wear a mask, social distance, and wash hands will be a critical factor in our success. Other internal factors include such indicators as the number of absences, availability of substitutes, and COVID-19 cases. In terms of external factors, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) will play a major role in our ability to move from one learning model to another. Due to the inability to accurately predict the spread or containment of the virus beyond just a few days, we’ll continue to closely monitor the internal and external factors.

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT MY STUDENT’S REMOTE SCHEDULE?

Due to the unique nature of the middle school schedule, please review the document and video sent out by email to all Middle School Remote Learning families. At the elementary school level, remote teachers communicated daily schedules to students and parents the week prior to school opening. If you have a specific question about your child’s remote schedule, please contact the teacher first and then the principal.

HOW DO I REPORT AN ABSENCE?

Please complete the D181 attendance form, accessible at d181.org. For in-person students, it is especially important to let us know if your child is experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms or if there is an alternative reason. The form will help parents to delineate between the two options. If you need assistance, please call your school and a staff member will walk you through the form.

IF I HAVE MULTIPLE CHILDREN IN D181 SCHOOLS AND ONE OF THEM IS ABSENT DUE TO COVID-RELATED SYMPTOMS, DO ALL OF MY CHILDREN NEED TO STAY HOME?

Yes, if one student in your household is sent home and/or required to quarantine due to COVID-related symptoms, all students in your household must also stay home.
**WHAT IS THE STUDENT CLOSE CONTACT FLOW CHART?**

**STUDENT CLOSE CONTACT FLOW CHART**

**START HERE**
My child may have had close contact with an individual who is a positive COVID-19 case.

- **NO**
  - There is no need to quarantine your child at this time; s/he is considered to be a "low-risk" contact and not a "close" contact. Please continue to monitor his/her symptoms.

- **YES**
  - Was your child within 6 feet or less of this individual for 15 minutes or more?
    - **NO**
      - You child is considered to be a close contact. You are required to:
        - Quarantine your child and not send them to school for 14 days from the date of the close contact.
        - Go to your school's homepage and report your child absent using the electronic absence reporting form.
    - **YES**
      - Vass your child with this person within 48 hours of when they began experiencing symptoms or tested positive?
        - **NO**
          - You child is considered to be a close contact. You are required to:
            - Quarantine your child and not send them to school for 14 days from the date of the close contact.
            - Go to your school's homepage and report your child absent using the electronic absence reporting form.
        - **YES**
          - Vass your child with this person within 48 hours of when they began experiencing symptoms or tested positive?

**WHAT IS THE STUDENT SYMPTOM & EXCLUSION FLOW CHART?**

**STUDENT SYMPTOM AND EXCLUSION FLOW CHART**

**START HERE**
My child is experiencing a potential COVID-19 symptom.

- **YES**
  - Potential COVID-19 Symptoms: Fever of 100.4 or higher, headache, shortness of breath, cough, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, loss of taste/smell, nausea, fatigue, runny nose/congestion, muscle or body aches.
  - Before your child returns to school, get your child evaluated by his/her doctor to eliminate COVID-19 as an explanation for your child’s symptom(s). Your child may return to/remain at school with documentation from his/her doctor which details the alternate explanation for his/her symptoms.
  - Did your child’s original symptoms continue (e.g. persistent cough) without experiencing another symptom?
    - **NO**
      - Your child is has a symptom that might be COVID-related. You are required to:
        - Quarantine your child and not send him/her to school for 14 days from the date the symptoms began.
        - Quarantine the siblings of the symptomatic child for the same period of time.
        - Go to the homepage of your child’s school and report your child absent using the electronic absence reporting form. You must do this for each of your children.
    - **YES**
      - Remain at school while monitoring symptoms.

- **NO**
  - Can your child’s symptoms be explained by an alternative diagnosis? (e.g. allergies)
    - **YES**
      - Your child is has a symptom that might be COVID-related. You are required to:
        - Quarantine your child and not send him/her to school for 14 days from the date the symptoms began.
        - Quarantine the siblings of the symptomatic child for the same period of time.
        - Go to the homepage of your child’s school and report your child absent using the electronic absence reporting form. You must do this for each of your children.
    - **NO**
      - Your child is has a symptom that might be COVID-related. You are required to:
        - Quarantine your child and not send him/her to school for 14 days from the date the symptoms began.
        - Quarantine the siblings of the symptomatic child for the same period of time.
        - Go to the homepage of your child’s school and report your child absent using the electronic absence reporting form. You must do this for each of your children.
**ARE MASKS REQUIRED ON D181 PROPERTY OUTDOORS?**

Masks are not required outdoors as long as students are social distancing.

For the sake of everyone’s safety, we ask our parents and students to please wear masks as you arrive and depart from school. While masks are not required outdoors when social distancing is in place, we also know that it is challenging to adhere to social distancing when seeing friends, neighbors, and classmates who we would like to engage in conversation with or walk home with. We appreciate your efforts in keeping everyone healthy so that we can continue to keep our school doors open. Thank you for your cooperation in wearing your face covering as a model to our students!

**HOW WILL SOCIAL DISTANCING BE MONITORED ON D181 PROPERTY OUTDOORS (INCLUDING AT BIKE RACKS)?**

We will have dedicated staff members at each school supervising students while they are outdoors to ensure they are following health and safety protocols.

**WILL PLAYGROUNDS BE OPEN FOR STUDENTS TO PLAY ON?**

No, students will not be permitted to use the playgrounds due to health and safety concerns. Staff members will monitor the playgrounds when students are present.

**OUR FAMILY IS NOT RETURNING TO D181, HOW CAN I RETURN MY STUDENT’S DISTRICT-ISSUED TECHNOLOGY DEVICE?**

You can return your District-issued technology device to your school’s front office secretary at the school. Please put your student’s device in a ziploc bag with its charging brick and charging cable, along with your child’s name on the bag.

**WILL THERE BE ADDITIONAL CUSTODIAL STAFF TO HELP WITH MID-DAY CLEANINGS?**

Yes, we have amended our custodians’ schedules so that there is enough staff to complete the mid-day cleaning within the transition time period.
WHAT CLEANING SUPPLIES ARE BEING USED IN SCHOOLS?

Below is a list of the products being used.

- **Phenomenal – By HOSPECO**, a fogger EPA Reg. No. 44446-67, that meets EPA’s criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

- **Oxivir (liquid and wipes)** – a virucidal disinfectant EPA Reg. No. 70627-56, approved by the CDC for use in killing the SARS-CoV2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

- **Lysol disinfecting Wipes** – EPA Reg No. 777-114 a CDC approved disinfectant for use in killing the SARS-CoV2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

- **QA Concentrated Solution**, a disinfectant that meets EPA’s criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.- EPA Reg. No. 6198-4.

- **ZEHN-X Sanitizing Wipes**, this product meets the EPA’s criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2 that virus that causes COVID-19. EPA Reg. No. 6836-266

Q: HOW WILL AIR FLOW BE MANAGED IN AREAS THAT REQUIRE ADDITIONAL VENTILATION?

The District will supply a tower air purifier in nurses offices. The purifier employs a fine preliminary filter, true HEPA filter, and activated carbon filter to effectively remove 99.97% of dust, pollen, smoke, odor, mold spores, and pet dander and filter out particles as small as 0.3 microns and larger and filters air pollution of PM 2.5.

There are also air purifiers for every secondary nurse room and for each medically accommodated staff member.
Q: **WILL SCHOOL FEES FOR CHILDREN NOT RETURNING BE REFUNDED?**
Yes, but the refund process will most likely take a few weeks due to all of the demands at the start of the school year.

Q: **CAN STUDENTS RIDE THEIR BIkes TO SCHOOL/ WILL BIKE RACKS BE AVAILABLE?**
Yes, bike racks will be available for students. Because students’ temperatures may rise after riding, they may need to wait a few minutes before entering the building.

Q: **IF A STUDENT IS UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN REMOTE LEARNING DUE TO A RECOVERY PERIOD FROM ILLNESS, WHAT IS THE PLAN TO MAKE UP THE TWO WEEKS OF MISSED SCHOOL?**
Students will work with their teacher to establish a make-up plan for the two weeks.

Q: **WILL STUDENTS HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMPETE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS THIS YEAR?**
All fall sports and before/after school activities and clubs are canceled at this time. We will revisit the feasibility of Winter sports at a later date. This decision was determined in consultation with our Athletic Directors, numerous safety implications, and conference school decisions and practices.

**IN-PERSON HYBRID INSTRUCTION**

Q: **HOW MANY STUDENTS WILL BE IN CLASSROOMS AT THE ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL LEVELS?**
Class sizes will vary with an average of 12 students at elementary schools. At middle schools, the limiting factor is not a particular number but rather keeping below the number of students allowed while maintaining the 6 feet of social distancing.
Q: WHAT WILL THE RAMIFICATIONS BE FOR FAMILIES WHO SEND SICK CHILDREN TO SCHOOL ON MULTIPLE OCCASIONS?
A school administrator will meet with the family and the student will be moved to remote learning if they fail to abide by guidelines.

Q: WHICH CLASSROOMS ARE PROVIDED WITH PLEXIGLASS DIVIDERS?
Plexiglass will be available in schools in the appropriate areas.

Q: IF A STUDENT IS REQUIRED TO QUARANTINE FOR 14 DAYS, WILL HE/SHE HAVE ACCESS TO REMOTE LEARNING DURING THAT TIME?
Yes, the student will work with his/her classroom teacher for the first six days and then switch to a remote teacher.

Q: WILL STUDENTS WHO QUARANTINE BE able TO RETURN TO HYBRID LEARNING AFTER THE QUARANTINE AND NEGATIVE TEST PROTOCOLS HAVE BEEN MET?
Yes, the student will be able to return to the hybrid classroom.

Q: WHERE WILL THE NURSE'S OFFICE BE LOCATED?
Two separate health offices will be created in each school. This will allow for separation between students receiving regular services and those who are experiencing COVID-related symptoms.
**IN-PERSON HYBRID INSTRUCTION (CONT.)**

Q: IN THE EVENT THAT HYBRID MODEL SHIFTS TO ALL-REMOTE, WILL THE STUDENTS STILL BE ASSIGNED THEIR SAME TEACHERS OR WILL THERE NEED TO BE A REBALANCING/REASSIGNMENT OF TEACHERS FOR THESE COHORTS TO HANDLE INCREASED ONLINE VOLUME?

Students will stay with their assigned teacher.

Q: IS THERE A CHANCE STUDENTS START WITH ONE TEACHER AND PEERS IN HYBRID, AND POSSIBLY END UP WITH ANOTHER SUBSET IF IT PIVOTS TO ALL-REMOTE?

Students will stay with their assigned teacher in a transition from hybrid to all-remote.

**TRANSPORTATION**

Q: ARE THE STUDENTS FAR ENOUGH APART ON BUSES THAT NO ONE WOULD NEED TO QUARANTINE?

While we plan to reduce the number of students on the bus to one student per seat, we can have a situation that would require a student to quarantine depending on how close they were seated to the student who tested positive for COVID. Only 24 students will be on the bus that is designed to accommodate 72 students.

Q: CAN A STUDENT DROP IN AND OUT OF BUS SERVICE AS NEEDED?

Yes, but please notify buseligibility@d181.org of your needs so we do not adjust service based on your child’s ridership.
SAFETY & HYGIENE

Q: WHAT IS THE DISTRICT’S PLAN REGARDING ONGOING SAFETY AND HYGIENE MESSAGING?

We will be encouraging a culture of safety with regular reminders as a key to a safe and sustainable transition to in-person school. We will start reinforcing this culture before school begins with videos sent to parents and students. Topics will include: proper handwashing; how to put on and take off masks, how to sneeze and cough and yawn in a mask; how and where to store your mask; mask variations; the importance of washing masks daily; and good health practices when not in school.

REMOTE LEARNING

Q: HOW WILL STUDENTS IN REMOTE CLASSES PICK UP TEXTBOOKS?

Textbook and material pickup will occur during the first week of September. Principals will contact families with the date and time.

Q: IS THERE A LIMIT ON REMOTE CLASS SIZES SIMILAR TO IN PERSON?

Yes, our goal is to follow class guidelines similar to in-person structure. Only in a short-term, emergency situation would we exceed our standards for class sizes in the remote setting.

Q: IF WE GO FULL REMOTE AT SOME POINT, WILL STUDENTS IN REMOTE STAY IN THEIR ORIGINAL REMOTE CLASS OR BE MOVED?

Students will stay with their originally assigned teacher.

Q: IF A STUDENT HAS CHosen REMOTE, BUT ORDERED SCHOOL SUPPLIES THROUGH THE SCHOOL, HOW WILL THEY PICK UP THEIR ORDER?

This will be handled at the building level in collaboration with that school’s PTO.
GENERAL QUESTIONS

Q: CAN THE TRANSITION PERIOD BE EXTENDED THROUGH THE REMAINDER OF THE SEMESTER?

The transition period is designed to review standards and practice safety protocols. A longer transition period would impact the ability to deliver all of the established curricula.

Q: WHEN DID THE WORKING GROUPS AND TASKFORCE MEET?

The elementary hybrid working group, middle school hybrid working group, and transition team taskforce met Aug. 10 through Aug. 13.

Q: HOW WILL YOU HANDLE MATH PLACEMENT?

Placement letters for 3rd - 8th grade students were sent to families at the end of May. Math Bridge assessments occurred on July 1 and July 8. At this time, student placement for all continuing D181 students has been finalized. Students new to D181 will be assessed for placement using our normal procedures. All math levels will be taught in parallel remote learning. In parallel remote learning, students will be grouped for math according to their placement and content. Some sections will be multi-age. For example, 3rd grade accelerated and 4th grade advanced course/content is 4/5CC so these students may be instructed remotely at the same time and within the same class session.

Q: HOW WAS THE FRAMEWORK DEVELOPED AND HOW HAS IT EVOLVED?

We have created two components to our reopening plan that have focused on ISBE/IDPH safety guidance and implementation. After receiving the reopening guidance, we spent a few days interpreting the information and then sharing it with our Transition committee for their feedback. The Transition committee is made up of teachers, parents, a BoE representative, and administrators.

Since then, we have converted the guidelines to a framework and requested feedback from teachers, parents, BoE members, and administrators. Our staff will also be meeting in working groups prior to the start of the school year.
PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

Q: WILL STUDENTS IN PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN STILL ATTEND DURING THEIR COMPLETE HALF-DAY SESSION (IN-PERSON)?

Yes. D181 is working to secure additional staff to be able to reduce class sizes in all Preschool and Kindergarten sections to allow students to attend for the previously scheduled two and a half hours.

Q: IF I AM A PRESCHOOL PARENT AND I PAY TUITION, WILL MY STUDENT HAVE AN IN-PERSON SPOT SECURED FOR THE YEAR?

Parents will have to commit to a semester or full-year of instruction (in-person) and pay the tuition. If a parent only pays for a semester, a student will have a reserved spot for the semester. If a parent has paid tuition for a full year, the student will be secured a spot for the full year.

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Q: HOW WILL STUDENT SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL NEEDS BE ADDRESSED?

Synchronous and asynchronous activities will be developed by social workers and psychologists. Some resources will also be available on the D181 website for parents, students, and staff to access outside of school hours.

Q: WHAT MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR STAFF?

This will be defined through the work of our focus groups with specific staff (Psychologists, Social Workers, etc.).

Q: HOW WILL THE DISTRICT SUPPORT TEACHERS/STAFF DURING THIS TIME?

Teachers will continue to be provided with opportunities for ongoing Professional Development and ongoing social-emotional support. In the spring of 2020, all staff received professional development opportunities in using various digital applications. Over the summer, multiple teachers have received additional training to enhance our ability to support teachers if remote learning is mandated this year. During the August professional development days, time will be devoted to training all staff using our common digital platforms that will be utilized for remote learning.
SPECIAL EDUCATION

Q: IN THE HYBRID MODEL, WOULD MY STUDENT WITH AN IEP/ELL SERVICES BE ABLE TO ATTEND FULL-DAY IN PERSON DAILY?

Yes, we would offer all students with an IEP and students who receive ELL services (grades 1-8) an opportunity to attend a full-day of in-person instruction on days that D181 instruction is being provided in-person within our schools. Individual student conversations will occur to determine how each student’s needs will be addressed and discuss parent preference in service delivery.

Q: WHAT WILL SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES LOOK LIKE?

Services for students receiving special education will be provided either in-person, remote, or blended remote (combination of in-person and remote) based on individual student needs.

Q: WHAT WILL A SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENT’S DAY INCLUDE?

During any period of blended remote instruction or full-time remote instruction, your student will receive services and support tailored to your student’s individualized educational needs. The District general education staff and IEP teams have collaborated to make good faith efforts to determine what individual supports may be necessary to address students’ needs during any periods of blended or full-time remote instruction. In addition, in planning for the delivery of special education and related services to students with disabilities remotely, your student’s special education providers have carefully considered your student’s individual needs and current circumstances, including your student’s goals, supports, and services in determining the appropriate support and services to be provided to your student during periods of blended or full-time remote instruction. To that end, your student will receive appropriate special education and related services, accommodations, modifications, and support as necessary to provide your student with a free appropriate public education during any period of blended or full-time remote instruction.

Q: HOW WILL SPECIAL EDUCATION AND RELATED SERVICES BE PROVIDED IF THE DISTRICT IS REQUIRED TO RETURN TO FULL REMOTE LEARNING?

If Districts are closed due to a State order, required classroom quarantine, or other reasons, students will be provided the services indicated on their Individual Remote Learning Plan. These plans are revised for the 2020/2021 school year and reflect the additional expectations for increased learning opportunities and to continue to provide a free, appropriate, public education.
REMOTE LEARNING

Q: HOW DOES REMOTE LEARNING DIFFER FROM THE SPRING 2020 ELEARNING/REMOTE LEARNING?

During the spring of 2020, our eLearning and remote learning plans were directed by guidance provided by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). Governor Pritzker had declared a State of Emergency, which impacted the ISBE’s guidance to school districts. This fall, Illinois is no longer in a State of Emergency, which allows the ISBE to provide different guidance to school districts. As such, the D181 Remote Learning Plan will require students to engage in at least 5 hours per day of instruction for all 1st-8th grade students. Since our Kindergarten programs are half-day, kindergarten students will be provided with 2 hours and 15 minutes of daily instruction. In the remote model, minutes have been dedicated to synchronous and asynchronous instruction specific to each grade level and considered developmentally appropriate.

Q: MY CHILD DOES NOT HAVE A MEDICAL CONDITION, CAN I STILL CHOOSE REMOTE LEARNING?

We will provide a parallel remote learning option to all families who prefer it.

Q: ARE SERVICES PROVIDED THROUGH VIRTUAL PLATFORMS CONFIDENTIAL?

School staff will communicate with you as to when videoconferencing, live streaming and recorded lessons will be available for your student – either for individual or group instruction. On your end, if your student is participating in a group instructional or related service session as part of remote instruction, we ask that you ensure that your student is in a quiet, school-work designated space and/or using headphones and that your student’s device is non-public facing. We are asking students and parents to maintain information learned about other students in a confidential manner, just as we would expect for our students who participate in group sessions and classes while attending in-person instruction. This request applies to maintaining information related to student participation in livestream class lessons and prerecorded class lessons in a confidential manner. No video conferencing session, or livestreaming or prerecorded lesson may be recorded or redistributed by students or parents in any manner.

Q: HOW WILL MY STUDENT RECEIVE THEIR INDIVIDUAL ASSESSMENT FOR ELIGIBILITY WHILE REMOTE?

Parents may be asked to schedule an appointment to have the testing completed. Sessions will be held in a room with the assessment administrator that has been sanitized. Students may bring their own materials (pencils, headphones, etc.) or new or sanitized supplies will be provided. Parents will need to wait in their vehicle or will be provided a pick-up time as needed.
IN-PERSON HYBRID INSTRUCTION

Q: IN A HYBRID MODEL, SINCE IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION IS REDUCED BY HALF, HOW CAN YOU KEEP PACE WITH CURRICULUM?

A hybrid model can be implemented in several ways such as an A/B day, am/pm or alternating week format. It is our intention to prioritize core content during in-person instruction and utilize remote periods to support any instruction that is not delivered in-person as well as practice, intervention, and enrichment opportunities for students.

Q: WHAT IF MY CHILD IS UNABLE TO ATTEND SCHOOL; AT WHAT TIME WILL MY CHILD RECEIVE REMOTE?

Any absence of 6 days or longer will qualify the student to receive remote instruction.

Q: WILL I BE ABLE TO CHANGE MY DECISION FROM IN-PERSON TO REMOTE?

A student will be able to change from in-person instruction to remote instruction as needed/desired, pending availability. Once made, this change will be effective until the end of the semester, at which point the delivery model will be evaluated for all students.

TRANSPORTATION

Q: WHAT ARE THE CURRENT HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDELINES REGARDING BUS TRANSPORTATION THIS YEAR?

All individuals on a bus must wear a face covering, no more than 50 individuals should be on a bus at one time, and social distancing must be maintained to the greatest extent possible. Students must undergo symptom and temperature checks, which may include self-certification, before boarding a bus. Seating charts are also recommended. Seating arrangements with respect to social distancing can be adjusted for students who live in a household with other students. All school buses will be sanitized daily. (More transportation-related FAQs are available on d181.org/parents)

FEES

Q: WILL MY FIELD TRIP FEES BE REFUNDED?

At this time we are not providing any refunds for field trips. We hope at some point in the 2020-21 school year activities will go back to normal. We plan to send out an update mid-year with more information.
MEDICAL

Q: IF A CHILD HAS A MEDICAL MASK EXEMPTION, ARE THERE OTHER FACE-COVERINGS THAT WE CAN FIND FOR THEM THAT WILL KEEP THE REST OF THE CLASSROOM INCLUDING THE TEACHER SAFE?

ISBE guidance states: Face shields are not effective protection against coronavirus and should only be used in situations when other methods of protection are not available. IDPH also appreciates that there may be a small minority of individuals who have a medical contraindication to using face coverings. If face shields can be tolerated, face shields might be utilized in these situations, understanding their limitations and the heightened need for strict adherence to social distancing.

ISBE recommends that schools review information such as a physician’s note documenting the medical contraindication for any individual who is not able to wear a face covering.

D181 has purchased additional/alternative PPE for this purpose including gowns, face shields, window masks, more “kid-friendly” masks.

Q: WHAT MEDICAL EXPERTS HELPED TO DEVELOP THE PLAN?

The framework is strictly based on the ISBE and IDPH guidance. We have shared our framework with the DuPage County Health Department and our legal department to assure adherence to the health guidelines.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Q: HOW WILL SAFETY ROUTINES BE ESTABLISHED AND MONITORED AT THE START OF THE SCHOOL IF I SELECT IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION FOR MY CHILD?

Students will be taught good hygiene and safety procedures through classroom instruction and the use of instructional videos and materials that will be common throughout the District. These procedures will be practiced and reinforced regularly. Signage and floor markings will be used to remind students of proper handwashing, social distancing, and traffic flows that maximize distancing and safety.

Q: WHAT CAN WE EXPECT IN TERMS OF COMMUNICATION IF THE SCHOOL HAS A POSITIVE CASE OF COVID-19?

We have an investigative process in place that follows the notification of a positive test. Following the investigation, we will notify audiences in the following order: Families of students who were in Close Contact, families of students in the same classroom, families of students in the same school. Lastly, we will be posting a list of all positive cases on the District website on a weekly basis.
HEALTH & SAFETY (CONT.)

Q: HOW WILL WE HANDLE TORNADO DRILLS AND ACTIVE SHOOTER DRILLS IN THE SETTING OF SOCIAL DISTANCING?

The DuPage County Regional Office of Education has received guidance from ISBE that all school safety drills must still be conducted this year as required by law. We are planning, with the cooperation of the local police and fire departments to complete the following:

- The first fire (evacuation) drill will be a walk-through, without the alarm, with the local fire departments (Hinsdale Fire Department, Clarendon Hills Fire Department, Pleasantview Fire Protection District) on-site to witness. There will be one class per exit route until all classes have completed the drill, keeping with social distancing guidelines. The drills may be spread out over a couple of days if necessary due to school schedules. After review of the new drill practices during the first part of this year, remaining drills may have to be conducted in a similar manner or it may be conducted as in any other year. A key component is having the conversation with the local fire departments.

- Shelter in place drills may be done at any time during the school year. Many districts complete these in the spring. Due to the pandemic, we are planning to complete this drill on a class-by-class basis and still meet requirements.

- Bus evacuation drills must still be done and in smaller groups on the bus according to the school needs.

- Law enforcement drills are still required within the first 90 days of school. This will be a modified walk-through coordinated with local law enforcement on-site (Hinsdale Police Department, Clarendon Hills Police Department and Burr Ridge Police Department).

Q: WILL THERE BE ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR STUDENTS TO CLEAN DESKS OR WORKSPACES?

Yes, wet wipes will be provided to wipe down desks during transition time. By wiping the surface it reduces the risk of exposure. Students will be using hand sanitizer when they enter the room and leave the room. However, students will not be using disinfected products due to CVC guidance, “cleaning and disinfection products should not be used by children or near children, and staff should ensure that there is adequate ventilation when using these products to prevent children or themselves from inhaling toxic fumes.”

Custodial staff will be cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces throughout the day.

Custodial staff will be cleaning and disinfecting classrooms during the 60-minute break in the middle of the day as well as at night.
HEALTH & SAFETY (CONT.)

Q: WHAT PROCEDURES ARE BEING FOLLOWED TO CLEAN AND SANITIZE THE SCHOOLS PRIOR TO AND DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR?

We have enhanced our cleaning procedures to meet or exceed CDC and IDPH guidelines. Products used are Environmental Protection Agency approved disinfectants for use against coronavirus.

Sanitation, hygiene, and PPE supplies are available for employee and student access.

All custodial/maintenance staff will be trained on the return-to-school guidelines, where applicable. These procedures will include extra sanitation efforts using certified EPA products in both low/high contact areas.

Building custodians will conduct cleaning and disinfection throughout the day. An EPA approved cleaner will be used for disinfection along with our standard cleaning protocols. All frequently touched surfaces (e.g., door handles/knobs, desktops/tabletops, countertops, light switches, phones, cubbies/coat and backpack areas, sinks, and faucets) will be cleaned regularly throughout each day.

Restrooms, hallways, cafeterias, and high touch common areas will be cleaned throughout the day. Soft surfaces such as carpets and rugs will be removed. Items such as cloth toys or other cloth material items that cannot be disinfected will be eliminated.

Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms, offices, entrances, bathrooms, hallways and lunch areas.

Q: DURING THE HOUR ALLOTTED FOR CLEANING BETWEEN AM/PM SESSIONS, CAN WINDOWS BE OPENED?

Yes, all schools have operable windows, however, humidity levels must be closely monitored.

Q: ARE OUR SYSTEMS AT OR ABOVE ASHRAE MINIMUM STANDARDS?

All buildings were designed to ASHRAE standards when built. ASHRAE has issued guidance on reopening schools, including items that go above and beyond the minimum code. We have reviewed the guidance and are implementing all of the recommendations that are feasible to provide the best and safest possible environment.
HEALTH & SAFETY (CONT.)

Q: WHAT ARE WE DOING TO IMPROVE AIR QUALITY? DO WE HAVE DCV (DEMAND CONTROLLED VENTILATION)? IF SO HAS IT BEEN DISABLED?

All demand-controlled ventilation will be disabled, outside air intake will be increased and we will have upgraded from MERV 8 to MERV 11 district-wide, prior to student arrival. We will increase to MERV 13 as soon as those filters are available and as our equipment will allow.

Q: WHAT IS THE FILTRATION SYSTEM IN BATHROOMS?

Some bathrooms have filtered exhaust and some have outside air exhaust systems.

Q: HOW IS THE DISTRICT IMPROVING THE OPERATION OF THE HEATING AND COOLING SYSTEMS IN THE SCHOOLS?

The building controls system is being modified to optimize the system’s potential for increased outside fresh airflow. The more outside air that is brought into the facility, the less recirculation air there is, and the better the interior environment will be to limit the spread of the pathogens. Condenser coils are all currently being cleaned and filters are being changed and upgraded to capture smaller airborne particles. This work will be completed before students and staff arrive in the buildings. Filters will be changed on a more frequent basis throughout the rest of the school year. The District will be following all the recommendations from ISBE and ASHRAE that our current mechanicals will allow, as we move into the school year. Our mechanical engineers have reviewed this plan and provided these recommendations.

Q: WHAT DEFINES CLOSE CONTACT?

For COVID-19, a close contact is defined as any individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days before illness onset.

Q: ARE THERE ANY CURRENT DOMESTIC OR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS?

Per IDPH’s latest guidance, “there is widespread, ongoing transmission of novel coronavirus worldwide. Anyone who has traveled internationally in the past 14 calendar days should stay home and monitor their health. There is no current statewide guidance in Illinois for quarantining domestic travelers. However, some counties or municipalities do require or recommend 14 calendar days of quarantine for travelers returning from states with high community prevalence of COVID-19. IDPH does receive frequent notifications of travel-related exposures. If public health is notified that a student or staff member is a contact to a COVID-19 case as a result of travel, quarantine for 14 calendar days will be required. As an employer working with vulnerable populations, school administrators may consider advising staff who travel that they are required to quarantine (if exposed) due to travel.”
Q: WHAT ACTIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN BY STUDENTS/STAFF SENT HOME WITH COVID-LIKE SYMPTOMS?

- All students and staff sent home with COVID-like symptoms should be diagnostically tested. Student 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.

- 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 medication 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 doctor’s note documenting the alternative diagnosis and 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 doctor’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 is strongly recommended for all persons with COVID-like symptoms.
Q: IF A STUDENT IS SENT HOME SICK WITH SUSPECTED COVID-19 SYMPTOMS (E.G., RUNNY NOSE, FEVER, DIARRHEA, ETC.), MUST ALL THEIR SIBLINGS/HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS BE SENT HOME AS WELL AND QUARANTINED FOR 14 CALENDAR DAYS?

Yes, if one of the household members is being evaluated for COVID-19, the rest of the household must be quarantined until an alternative diagnosis is made or a negative result received. If the sick student becomes a confirmed case (i.e., tests positive for COVID-19) or a probable case (i.e., has COVID-like symptoms and is epidemiologically linked to known case), the local health department (LHD) conducting contact tracing will place household contacts, including siblings, in quarantine for 14 calendar days. The health department also will provide guidance on how to safely quarantine and isolate within the household.

Q: WHAT IF THE SCHOOL NEEDS TO SWITCH FROM IN-PERSON TO REMOTE BECAUSE OF HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES?

HYBRID IN-PERSON: The in-person classroom teacher will continue to work with their students following the remote learning guidelines.

REMOTE: The student’s remote teacher will continue to work with the students. Please note that remote learning teachers are D181 staff members, who will be working with students from throughout the district.

Q: IN WHAT CAPACITY CAN WE SAFELY UTILIZE INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANTS/SPECIALS/TEACHER LIBRARIANS?

To avoid over-exposure, they will likely be assigned to groups of students all day (IEP students in attendance all day) OR they will stay with a certain group AM and support remote students PM or vice versa.

Q: HOW WILL DISTRICT NURSES HELP WITH THE MONITORING OF CHILDREN WITH SYMPTOMS WHO ARE OUT ON QUARANTINE AND ANSWERING PARENT QUESTIONS?

The school nurses who are RNs will be developing procedures to follow up with children and communicate with parents who need to be quarantined or are home.

PLEASE NOTE: ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS WILL CONTINUE TO BE ADDED TO OUR WEBSITE AT D181.ORG/REOPENING OVER THE NEXT COUPLE DAYS AND LEADING UP TO THE START OF THE SCHOOL YEAR