
District 90 Protocols Related to COVID-19 2022-23



River Forest
Public Schools

Administration Building
7776 Lake Street
River Forest, IL 60305
Phone: 708-771-8282
Fax: 708-771-8291

District 90 Protocols Related to COVID-19
2022-23 School Year
(Revised August 2022)

District 90 schools are implementing the following COVID-19 protocols related to disease transmission, exclusion, and masking pursuant to its local authority and responsibility to protect the health and safety of individuals within the school community and in consideration of federal, state, and local health guidance. As external guidance is amended, District 90 may continue to adjust these protocols. This document also describes the provision of remote instructional activities available for students who must be absent from school due to COVID-related reasons.

Guidance Related to Receiving a Positive COVID-19 Test Result:

- Regardless of vaccination status, students or staff who test positive for COVID-19 must stay home for a minimum of 5 days and a maximum of 10 days after the first day of symptoms or the specimen collection date from a positive COVID test. If there are no symptoms or the symptoms have resolved after 5 days, they are approved to return to school on the 6th day. **Students and staff who continue to have symptoms past the 5 days should wait to return to school until they are fever-free without fever-reducing medication for 24 hours, diarrhea/vomiting have ceased for 24 hours, and other symptoms have resolved before returning to school.** Individuals are strongly encouraged to follow any additional directions from medical professionals.
- Students or staff who test positive should continue to wear a well-fitted mask around others after returning to school through the 10th day after symptom onset or positive test. Individuals may discontinue masking earlier by obtaining two negative antigen tests. These tests should be administered starting no earlier than day 6 with no less than 48 hours between tests. When individuals need to remove masks at school for eating or drinking, they should be replaced immediately afterward, with individuals keeping adequate physical distance from others until 10 days after the onset of symptoms or positive results. District 90 schools will implement protocols to ensure that student seating arrangements for lunch/snack are consistent with the IDPH/ISBE “adequate distance” guidance for students returning to school after 5 days and that individuals are supported in wearing masks consistently upon return.

Guidance Information for Individuals with COVID-Like Symptom(s):

Any individuals with COVID-19-like symptoms, regardless of vaccination status, may not attend school for a minimum of five days and a maximum of 10 days until fever-free without fever-reducing medication for 24 hours, diarrhea/vomiting have ceased for 24 hours, and other symptoms have resolved **OR**, until receiving a negative PCR test result or negative antigen test result that confirms the symptoms are not attributed to COVID-19. Home-administered or medically administered antigen test results are acceptable. If individuals are unable to procure testing independently, they are encouraged to contact the school nurse to obtain school-provided antigen test(s) for home use.

Definition of Being in “Close Contact” With a Confirmed Case:

Being in “close contact” occurs when an individual is within 3 to 6 feet in an indoor setting for at least 15 minutes with another individual who is a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case, unless both individuals are consistently masked during the established time of exposure.

Implications of Being in “Close Contact” With a Confirmed Case:

- **District 90 does not require asymptomatic individuals who have been in close contact with a diagnosed case to stay home from school.** Please see below for detailed information.
- Individuals who have completed the primary series of COVID-19 vaccines (with at least two weeks post second dose) and boosters, if appropriate (based on the time from second-dose vaccination date), as well as individuals who have had a confirmed COVID-19 case within the last 90 days, should still attend school if they are in close contact with a diagnosed case. These individuals should wear a mask around others for 10 days and test on day 5 with a home-administered or medically administered antigen test. It is not necessary to report negative results to the school nurse. If symptoms develop, they should stay home for a minimum of 5 days and a maximum of 10 days after the first day of symptoms or the specimen collection date from a positive COVID test **OR** until receiving a negative PCR test result or negative antigen test result confirming symptoms are not attributed to COVID-19.
- Individuals who have completed the primary series of recommended vaccine doses or the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine and qualify for but have not received a booster shot, **as well as unvaccinated individuals**, should continue to attend school after close contact and conduct testing. These tests should be administered on the 3rd and 5th days after exposure to the confirmed positive case. Home-administered or medically administered antigen tests are acceptable. It is not necessary to report negative results to the school nurse. If individuals are unable to procure testing supplies independently, they are encouraged to contact the school nurse to obtain school-provided antigen tests for home administration. These individuals should wear a mask around others for 10 days after being in close contact with a confirmed case. If symptoms develop, affected individuals should stay home for a minimum of 5 days and a maximum of 10 days after the first day of symptoms or the specimen collection date from a positive COVID test **OR**, until receiving a negative PCR test result or negative antigen test result that confirms the symptoms are not attributed to COVID-19.

Returning From School Absence Due to COVID-Related Reasons:

- Since individual health circumstances will vary about readiness to return to school, staff and students who are impacted by COVID-related school absences should contact the school nurse to finalize details about returning to school. The IDPH and ISBE recommend that individuals return to school after 5 days **if symptoms have resolved and other conditions are met as described above**, unless clinically recommended to continue exclusion by their medical provider.

Provision of Remote Instructional Activities Due to COVID-Related Reasons:

- Students who are absent from school due to COVID-related reasons will have the ability to complete remote instructional activities. Student participation in remote instructional activities while absent is contingent on feeling well enough to engage satisfactorily in learning. Families will make the determination about the appropriateness of individual student participation in remote instructional activities during COVID-related absences. Any student who does not feel well enough to complete remote instructional activities while absent will be provided with adequate time upon returning to

school to work with the classroom teacher(s), submit required assignments, and complete any missed assessments that may be necessary.

- Learning experiences/activities provided for COVID-related reasons will be age-appropriate and vary in complexity based upon grade level. In all cases, students will be provided with daily learning activities to complete and the ability to access school staff for assistance with technology needs or the coordination of learning materials. To ensure the maximal instructional experience for students who are physically present in school, remote instruction will not be delivered synchronously for students who must be absent due to COVID-related reasons.
- Specific information will be provided for students and families who qualify for remote instructional activities due to COVID-related reasons. Questions about instructional needs when students are absent from school due to COVID-related reasons should first be directed to the classroom teacher(s) and then the school Principal/Assistant Principal, if necessary.

Outbreak Testing – Classrooms or Small Group

District 90 may be required to implement classroom or small group outbreak testing in accordance with directions from the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) when a confirmed outbreak has occurred. Outbreak testing consists of the collection of a saliva sample at school twice a week for a testing cycle of 14 days and will be conducted onsite in collaboration with our testing partner (SHIELD), if directed.

Please note the following considerations related to outbreak testing:

- Students and staff who have completed their primary series and/or booster doses (vaccinations “up-to-date”) and are associated with the identified outbreak classroom or small group are recommended to participate in any necessary outbreak testing regimen to assist in curtailing ongoing transmission. However, individuals will not be required to participate unless directed by the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH).
- Outbreak testing for individuals who have recovered from a confirmed COVID-19 infection is not recommended if less than 90 days have passed from symptom onset or a previous positive test, but testing should resume once the 90 days have passed. Families are requested to provide confirmation of past positive COVID test results to the school nurse if evidence of the result is available.
- Consent for student participation in outbreak testing or school exclusion is strongly recommended for students who are unvaccinated or have not completed their primary series and/or booster doses and are part of the identified outbreak testing classroom or small group.
- Participation in outbreak testing is required for personnel who are unvaccinated or have not completed their primary series and/or booster doses and are part of the identified outbreak testing classroom or small group.

Face Masks

Wearing face masks will remain optional indoors and outdoors at all D90 school facilities for students, staff, and school visitors unless health conditions require reinstatement by CCDPH (please see the updated IDPH Community Level chart, aligned with the updated CDC school guidance). Under conditions where masking is strongly encouraged, schools will provide face masks for students, staff, and school visitors who wish to wear them. However, individuals choosing to mask will be permitted to wear a face mask of their own choosing. Students or staff who test positive should continue to wear a well-fitted mask around others for 5 additional

days after returning to school (please see “Guidance related to individuals receiving a positive COVID-19 test result” above). Additional details include:

- Wearing face masks is optional for individuals on school transportation.
- Please note that individuals participating in interscholastic programs/events may be required to adhere to the host school’s mask/mitigation requirements to participate in the interscholastic event.
- Individuals participating in school-sponsored field trips may be required to wear face masks if mandated by the venue. Advance notice will be provided to families about this if known beforehand.
- For medical reasons, the nurse’s office at each school remains a “mask-required” location.
- Individuals are recommended to wear face masks in elementary classrooms that have been placed in outbreak status by the CCDPH for up to 14 days after the most recent class-related diagnosis.
- School or grade-level outbreaks may necessitate mask reinstatement to contain transmission if directed by the CCDPH as a condition to sustain in-person instruction.
- District 90 is committed to providing a caring, responsive, and safe environment free from harassment, bullying, teasing, and/or exclusion by others. This commitment includes and extends to individuals’ decisions about the choice to wear a face mask or covering.

District 90 will strongly encourage masking in its school buildings if the community is designated at a “High Community Level” by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Additionally, District 90 will return to a masking requirement if the state or local government or local health department (CCDPH) imposes new masking mandates.

Additional Considerations

Please note that all other COVID-19 protocols currently being implemented in District 90 that are not addressed in this communication remain unchanged at this time. These include mitigation protocols addressing the following:

- promoting vaccinations for all qualifying individuals
- making face masks available for individuals under conditions when masking is strongly encouraged
- continuing outbreak testing protocols if directed by the local health department
- adhering to ventilation and air circulation recommendations
- promoting handwashing regimens
- maintaining school cleaning and disinfection efforts

If you have questions about this communication or its implications for you, your child, or your family, please contact the nurse at your child’s school. Questions pertaining to COVID-19 procedures or safety mitigation protocols can also be directed to the D90 Infection Control Officer, Sam Martini, at martinis@district90.org

District 90 COVID-19 FACE MASK TIERS

Derived from CDC Guidance Issued 2/25/22

District 90 schools will utilize the following elements to determine masking protocols, pursuant to its local authority and responsibility to protect the health and safety of individuals within the school community and in consideration of state and local health guidance. As that guidance is amended, District 90 may adjust these protocols.

The Community Levels and Indicators metrics issued by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on February 25, 2022, provides the foundation for decisions related to school face mask requirements (please see CDC matrix below). In addition, the District will utilize the following constellation of metrics to further assess classroom, school, or school district risk and inform decision-making. A combination of these metrics existing at high levels may result in the reinstatement of mask protocols, determined in consultation with the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH):

- Number and distribution of active COVID-19 cases in the school community
- Number and distribution of active COVID-19 cases in the county or local community (60305)
- Number and distribution of classroom or grade-level COVID-19 outbreaks
- Student/staff vaccination rates

District 90 Face Mask Tiers

<i>CDC Community Level</i>	<i>D90 Masking Status</i>	<i>CDC Recommended Actions for Individuals</i>
LOW	<i>Mask Optional</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stay up to date with vaccines - Get tested if symptomatic
MEDIUM	<i>Mask Optional</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Talk to healthcare provider if high risk - Stay up to date with vaccines - Get tested if symptomatic
HIGH	<i>Masks Strongly Encouraged</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wear a mask indoors, including school - Stay up to date with vaccines - Get tested if symptomatic - Possible extra precautions for high risk

Reference: CDC’s COVID-19 Community Levels and Indicators (County Level)

New Cases <small>(per 100,000 population in the last 7 days)</small>	Indicators	Low	Medium	High
Fewer than 200	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	<10.0	10.0-19.9	≥20.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	<10.0%	10.0-14.9%	≥15.0%
200 or more	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	NA	<10.0	≥10.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	NA	<10.0%	≥10.0%

The COVID-19 community level is determined by the higher of the inpatient beds and new admissions indicators, based on the current level of new cases per 100,000 population in the past 7 days