

# COVID-19 INFORMATION FOR D90 FAMILIES AND STAFF (REVISED 4-15-21)

## Reporting of COVID-19 Symptoms or Diagnosis – Students, Families

*It is required that all District 90 families, students, and staff participating in any form of blended learning or in-person instruction report positive COVID-19 diagnoses to the school.*

Families should contact the school attendance phone line and leave information about any COVID-19 related symptoms or diagnoses. Either the D90 Infection Control Officer or school nurse will return the call as soon as possible to confidentially gather more information, answer any questions, and provide recommendations for further action before reporting confirmed diagnoses to the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH). River Forest District 90 is bound by law to protect the confidentiality of students and staff, implement protocols to protect the privacy of individuals, and comply with secure record-keeping and data management requirements/mandates. Please note that if evidence exists that members of a household attending school under the blended learning model have falsified or withheld relevant symptom or testing information, the District will assign remote instruction for all students in the household until the matter can be satisfactorily resolved.

## Travel to Other States – Families and Staff

It is the District's expectation that families and staff will comply with the safe travel guidance from the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH). The CCDPH has indicated that avoiding unnecessary travel is foundational to maintaining the health and safety of our students, staff, families, and the broader community - particularly when students are attending school in-person. In addition to travel risk, individuals are also prone to activity-based risk. High-risk activity (such as gathering in groups, not adhering to social distancing requirements, not wearing masks, etc.) has implications for the health and safety of all in our school community. Regardless of travel decisions, we implore individuals to make every effort to avoid high-risk activity and to quarantine after high-risk activity if it is unavoidable. In cases when travel is necessary, it is expected that students and staff will adhere to the revised CCDPH travel quarantine requirements, which now comport with those of the City of Chicago (as of February 5, 2021). The revised CCDPH guidelines state:

*“In response to the changing dynamics of COVID-19 transmission across the United States, and to support CCDPH’s efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19, CCDPH has issued the following guidance for anyone coming into suburban Cook County from designated states with a significant degree of community-wide spread of COVID-19:*

*Anyone traveling from a state on the Orange list [on this webpage](#) is directed to obtain a negative COVID-19 test result no more than 72 hours **prior to arrival** in suburban Cook County or quarantine for a 10-day period (or for the duration of their time in suburban Cook County, whichever is shorter). Please note: The negative COVID-19 test should be a PCR (polymerase chain reaction) test, not an antigen or rapid results test.*

*CCDPH guidance is consistent with the City of Chicago's Travel Order to reduce confusion among people living and working in Cook County. CCDPH's guidance is our recommendation to prevent the spread of COVID-19, but it is not an order and it is not enforceable. Essential workers who are traveling for work purposes are exempted from this guidance. An "essential worker" is a person who works in critical infrastructure as designated by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.*

*Given the volatility of the daily data reports and the disruption that is caused by adding a neighboring state to the travel ordinance, neighboring states will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis."*

Please click the link in the statement above for the Travel Advisory status of each state/territory. Note that individuals who are in travel quarantine may return to school after 10 days from the date of return from outside of Cook County, or upon receiving a negative COVID-19 test result. The negative COVID-19 test should be a PCR (polymerase chain reaction) test, not an antigen or rapid results test.

Please note the following:

- ***Students or staff should not report to school in-person after travel without a negative COVID-19 test or completion of the 10-day quarantine.*** Instead, families should call the school attendance line to inform the school so immediate arrangements can be made for remote instruction or to speak with the school nurse to ensure that quarantine requirements related to travel have been/will be met.
- Students or staff who will be returning to school after travel by obtaining a COVID-19 test must submit evidence of the negative COVID-19 test result to the school nurse or Infection Control Officer.
- Whenever possible, a PCR test result should be obtained instead of an antigen test. Please note that the D90 Antigen Testing Program is intended for symptomatic individuals and is not available to provide travel-related testing.
- Remote instruction will be provided for students who must quarantine because of travel. Transitioning to remote instruction under these circumstances should be coordinated with the school.
- Please remember that the CCDPH continues to discourage travel, when possible. Sometimes, adults in the home may need to travel for work. When an adult in the family travels and children remain at home, the children do not need to quarantine if the adult who traveled is able to quarantine away from family members. However, if the adult who traveled (or any family members) develop symptoms of COVID-19 then all members of the household are to quarantine.

- *Please be aware that the guidance from the CCDPH may change.* As in the past, District 90 intends to follow CCDPH guidance as it evolves - even if circumstances require them to make their guidance more restrictive. Families and staff should plan accordingly.

## **International Travel – Families and Staff**

District 90 is implementing health directives from the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) for international travel, which are based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), updated April 2, 2021.

*For individuals who have been fully vaccinated with an FDA-authorized vaccine, individuals must adhere to the following:*

- Individuals should be tested with a viral PCR (polymerase chain reaction) test 3-5 days after travel. If the test is positive, individuals should isolate to protect others from getting infected.
- Individuals should self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms; isolate and get tested if symptoms develop

*For unvaccinated individuals, individuals must adhere to the following:*

- Individuals should get tested with a viral PCR (polymerase chain reaction) test 3-5 days after travel AND stay home and self-quarantine for a full 7 days after travel.
  - Even if individuals test negative, they should stay home and self-quarantine for the full 7 days.
  - If the test is positive, individuals should isolate from others to protect them from getting infected.
- Individuals who do not get tested must stay home and self-quarantine for 10 days after travel
- Individuals should avoid being around people who are at increased risk for severe illness for 14 days, whether tested or not.
- Individuals should self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms; isolate and get tested if symptoms develop

## **Pre-Travel Quarantine – Students, Families**

Please note that pre-travel quarantines will not qualify as permissible grounds for remote instruction, except in exigent circumstances. Under the blended learning model, remote instruction is reserved for unavoidable quarantine purposes, illness under the care of a medical provider, symptoms of COVID-19, and/or confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis. Other avoidable absences from in-person attendance impact the classroom environment and disrupt student

learning routines and outcomes. Under the blended learning model, students who are not enrolled in the *Full-Time Remote Learning Option* are expected to attend school in-person as scheduled. District guidelines state that other excused reasons for school absence (besides those listed previously) include inclement weather, family emergency, or death in the family.

### **Remote Instruction and Non-COVID-19 Related Illness – Students, Families**

Remote instruction is not intended for students experiencing short-term non-COVID-19 related illnesses. In cases of daily illness where students are unable to attend school in person, it is assumed that they would not feel well enough to learn or engage in remote instruction productively. However, remote instruction will be permitted for students who seek medical attention and are subsequently approved to participate in remote instruction by the treating medical provider.

*Please note that this guidance may be revised based upon changing circumstances or conditions. Any changes will be communicated to all individuals in the school community. For questions related to school attendance and remote instruction, please contact your child's school administrator. For questions pertaining to student quarantine, medical diagnoses, or school exclusion, please contact your child's school nurse or the D90 Infection Control Officer, Samantha Martini, at [martinis@district90.org](mailto:martinis@district90.org).*