



2022-2023 RETURN TO LEARN PLAN

(Updated 10/13/22)

Earlier this month, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) updated their *Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools (August 12, 2022)*. The guidance allows for individual school districts to collaborate with their local health departments in determining the COVID-related mitigations that will be implemented during the 2022-2023 school year. **Please note this plan is subject to change based on regional/district health conditions and/or updated guidance issued by the CDC/IDPH/ISBE.**

IN-PERSON LEARNING

All Alton CUSD #11 schools will provide in-person learning five days per week and under a full-day schedule. The school schedules are:

ALTON HIGH SCHOOL:

8:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

ALTON MIDDLE SCHOOL:

8:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

EAST, NORTH AND WEST ELEMENTARY:

8:00 a.m. to 2:25 p.m.

EUNICE SMITH, GILSON BROWN, LEWIS AND CLARK AND LOVEJOY ELEMENTARY:

8:15 a.m. to 2:40 p.m.

MARK TWAIN SCHOOL:

K-8: 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. 9-12: 8:40 a.m. to 2:22 p.m.

EARLY CHILDHOOD:

Lewis and Clark and Gilson Brown Sites:

A.M. Session – 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. P.M. Session – 12:30 to 3:00 p.m.

Eunice Smith and Alton High Sites:

A.M. Session – 8:20 to 10:50 a.m. P.M. Session – 12:20 to 2:50 p.m.

Per a declaration from the Illinois State Superintendent in July 2021, all district students must attend in-person learning. Alternate learning options will only be available for students who are absent from school due to testing positive for COVID-19, experiencing COVID-like symptoms or other COVID-related reasons. The District may also approve alternate learning plans for students who are medically fragile. District schools will provide alternate instructional services for COVID-related incidents in one of three formats: 1) Student participates in live, synchronous instruction where the student joins via Zoom OR 2) Student is provided with a link to view recorded instruction OR 3) Student and teacher participate in a daily check-in to discuss assignments and check for understanding of content/materials. The format selected by individual teachers will vary depending on class and scenario. All teachers maintain and provide access to their Google Classroom (online classroom) so that students may access assignments, resources and materials.

COVID SCREENINGS

Weekly COVID screenings will be provided for all Pre-K through 12th grade students. The District will partner with SHIELD Illinois to provide weekly COVID screenings/testing. The screenings are a non-invasive, saliva-based PCR test that can detect COVID up to two days before the onset of symptoms or shedding of viral symptoms. Students simply spit or “drool” a very small sample of saliva into a testing container. The average test takes approximately 5 minutes to complete and is conducted at the school. Results are then sent directly to the school nurse and families within 24 hours. Screening/testing is another layered mitigation recommended by the CDC, IDPH and Madison County Health Department. Screenings also provide each school, and the District as a whole, with important health data. This data can then be used to make decisions in protecting the health and wellness of our students and staff while continuing to support in-person learning. Families will have the ability to opt their child in for COVID screenings using Skyward Family Access. Additional information on opting your child in for COVID screenings will be provided before school begins. The following link

provides additional information and videos on SHIELD Illinois testing in schools (the screenings/tests are free to our district and provided through the University of Illinois and Illinois Department of Public Health). LINK:
<https://www.uillinois.edu/shield>

MASK USE/FACE COVERINGS

Students and staff are not required to wear masks at school. However, students and staff may choose to wear a mask or face covering. The decision to mask/not mask is a personal choice and the expectation is that either choice will be respected in the school setting. Any concerns regarding the choice to mask or not mask should be reported immediately to the school office.

HAND HYGIENE AND SANITIZING

Good hand hygiene practices will continue to be encouraged and supported. Regular handwashing and handwashing techniques will be emphasized. Hand sanitizing stations will again be available in all classrooms, hallways and other common areas. Additionally, schools will continue to be cleaned and disinfected at higher levels and frequencies.

STAYING HOME WHEN ILL AND EXCLUSIONS

Families should screen their child(ren) for COVID symptoms each day prior to placing them on a bus or sending to school. Children who have COVID-like symptoms or are otherwise ill, must stay home. Students who present any symptoms at school will be sent home and must be picked up within 30 minutes of being contacted.

Students/Staff Testing Positive for COVID – Students and staff testing positive for COVID must stay home for at least 5 days. After 5 days, individuals may return to school if they are no longer symptomatic. The individual should wear a mask for an additional 5 days after returning to school. Staff members can also reference Public Act 102-0697 using the link provided for information on COVID sick leave and additional information:

<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/102/PDF/102-0697.pdf>

Students/Staff Who Are Deemed a Close Contact – Individuals who are in close contact with an individual testing positive for COVID do not have to quarantine/be excluded if asymptomatic. However, individuals will be excluded from school if presenting COVID-like symptoms. The individual may provide proof of a negative COVID test or a note from their physician with an alternate

diagnosis in order to return to school. The individual may also return once symptoms have resolved and have been fever-free for 24 hours.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

After families and staff have an opportunity to comment and provide feedback regarding this proposed plan, the District will share additional information should updated guidance be provided. Comments and feedback can be provided by emailing parentquestions@altonschools.org.

