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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Angela Zajac

August 2, 2021

Dear Eisenhower Cooperative Community,

I hope you have had a wonderful summer. I can't believe that school will be starting in a couple of weeks. I wanted to share with you some important information regarding the start of the 2021-2022 school year. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) just recently revised their recommendations for schools to reopen. Both the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) have agreed with the recommendations. Please note that Eisenhower Cooperative's strategies for COVID-19 can be adjusted or changed based on COVID outbreaks, increasing trends in the school/community, local vaccination levels, and/or guidance from local health departments

Below is some general information about our return to school:

- Student and staff should expect to return to **full in-person** this fall
- If a student is unable to attend in-person school **due to a significant medical condition**, parents/guardians will be required to **submit a medical certification form** that will be completed by the students' physician (contact your child's program supervisor to obtain this form).
- Based on recommendations of the CDC and IDPH guidelines, all students and staff will be **required to wear masks** until further notice in indoor settings and on the school bus
- Classrooms and buildings will **maintain 3 feet of social distancing, when possible**
- Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. **Vaccination is recommended for all individuals ages 12 and up.**
- All individuals who are **fully vaccinated and show no symptoms will not be required to quarantine** when exposed to a positive close contact for COVID-19 (verification of vaccination status will be required)
- Guidance from CDC, IDPH, and CCDPH will be followed for **quarantine of unvaccinated individuals** who are close contacts or any individual exhibiting symptoms
- Students and staff members should continue to stay home when they are sick and notify the school if they have tested positive for COVID-19
- Daily self-certification will not be required for staff and students
- Eisenhower Cooperative will provide BinaxNow rapid antigen COVID-19 testing for unvaccinated staff and students who are symptomatic or close contacts
- Guidance from IDPH will be followed for quarantine of unvaccinated individuals who are close contacts or any individual exhibiting symptoms
- Proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette will be encouraged
- Buildings and classrooms will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the day

We will re-evaluate these measures throughout the start of the school year. Please note that these strategies can be adjusted or changed based on COVID outbreaks, increasing trends in the school/community, local vaccination levels, and/or guidance from local health departments.

We are excited to get our students back in schools for in-person instruction. If you have any questions, please contact your program supervisor.

Sincerely,
Angela Zajac
Executive Director

Responding With Dignity To Diversity