



Return to School-Fall 2021

“All schools must resume fully in-person learning for all student attendance days.”
-Dr. Carmen Ayala, Illinois State Superintendent of Education

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) fully adopted the updated [COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#) guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Updates for Eisenhower Cooperative Programs will include:

| | |
|---|--|
| <p><i>Vaccination encouraged, not required</i> <i>The CDC strongly <u>encourages vaccination</u> as the best way to protect against the spread of COVID-19. Vaccinations are now available for individuals who are 12 years of age and older.</i></p> | <p><i>Masks still required indoors</i> <i>Because we are working with many children who are not eligible for vaccines, everyone must <u>properly wear masks</u> indoors and on buses – regardless of vaccination status.</i></p> |
| <p><i>Physical Distancing</i> <i>Schools are encouraged to set all classrooms, lunchrooms, and other indoor spaces to keep students at least 3 feet apart. If this is not possible, additional precautions will be applied.</i></p> | <p><i>Screening and Testing</i> <i>To reduce transmission, <u>screening</u> for symptoms will continue to be conducted daily. Students, teachers, and staff should <u>stay home when sick</u> and refer to their healthcare provider for care. In addition, <u>onsite testing</u> will be provided for unvaccinated close contacts</i></p> |
| <p><i>Layered Prevention Strategies</i> <i><u>Handwashing and hygiene</u>, respiratory etiquette, daily <u>cleaning and disinfecting</u> routines, quarantining, and <u>contact tracing</u> are combined to minimize the spread of COVID-19 in our schools and community.</i></p> | |

Ongoing Monitoring:

Eisenhower Cooperative takes guidance from its local public health officials regarding additional mitigations as these agencies [monitor levels](#) of:

- Community transmission rates and trends
- Vaccination coverage

Remote Instruction will be available IF:

- a student is **under quarantine** that is consistent with guidance from the Cook County Department of Public Health and the Illinois Department of Public Health **AND** the student is **NOT VACCINATED**.

Remote instruction will also be used in case of any school closings due to COVID-19 based on recommendations from local health departments.

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)

Responding With Dignity To Diversity