

Donovan CUSD #3

Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

This plan may not be all inclusive and is subject to change per CDC/IDPH/ISBE and Donovan CUSD #3

1st Student Attendance Date is Thursday, August 21, 2021

- School will observe a Heat Schedule through Labor Day
 - Donovan Elementary 8:10 a.m. - 1:22 p.m.
 - Donovan Jr. Sr. High 8:10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
 - The building will be open daily for student drop off at 7:45 a.m.
 - Based on weather forecasts, the heat schedule may be extended.
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Introduction

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. Congress made emergency funds available to local school districts to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19. Most recently, funds available through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act require that school districts develop a *Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services*. As such, this plan has been developed in accordance with the ARP Act and the Illinois State Superintendent of Education declaration of July 9, 2021 and the Governor's mandate on August 4, 2021; is aligned with guidance provided by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and addresses adjustments needed in response to evolving COVID-19 pandemic circumstances. Taking the public's input into account, this plan was also developed through meaningful consultation with school community stakeholders and the county health department officials. Opportunity for the public to provide input was provided at a public hearing on July 28, 2021 just prior to our regularly scheduled board meeting. The public hearing was announced at our regularly scheduled June board meeting. Upon request, this plan will be provided in an alternative format accessible to parents who are individuals with a disability as defined by the ADA. This plan will also be made publicly available on the district's website.

School strategies in this plan may be removed based upon local conditions, levels of community transmission (i.e., low, moderate, substantial, or high), local vaccine coverage, use of screening testing to detect cases in K-12 schools, and consultation with local public health officials to determine the prevention strategies needed. School officials will communicate any changes in plans to staff members, students, and parents through the district's regular communication platforms.

Maintaining the Health and Safety of Students, Educators, and Other Staff

In accordance with the Illinois State Superintendent of Schools July 9, 2021 declaration, Donovan CUSD #3 schools will be open fully for in-person learning for all student attendance days for the 2021-22 school year. In accordance with IDPH, ISBE and the August 4, 2021 Governor declarations, the District guidelines include the following

1. Symptom Free

- Parents and staff will be responsible for daily symptom checks. If you have a symptom, please do not attend school or come to our facilities
- Please keep symptomatic students at home
- Quarantines and close contacts are established by the Iroquois County Health Department

2. Remote Learning

- Beginning with the 2021-22 school year, all schools must resume fully in-person learning for all student attendance days, provided that, pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/10-30, remote instruction be made available for students who (1) have not received a COVID-19 vaccine or (2) who are not eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine, and (3) only while they are under quarantine consistent with guidance or requirements from a local public health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health.

3. Mask Use

- On August 4, 2021, Governor Pritzker issued a new mandate for schools requiring that masks be worn indoors by all students and staff regardless of their vaccination status.
- The face covering requirement is inclusive of youth sports and activities, with face coverings now required for all indoor extracurriculars and sports. In line with CDC guidance, face coverings are not required for activities outdoors where transmission risks and rates are lower.

4. Transportation

- All passengers (including coaches/athletes) and drivers are required to wear a mask on school buses in accordance with the requirements of the CDC, IDPH and ISBE.
- Masks will be available on all buses for those who need them.
- A driver does not need to wear a mask if they are the only person on the bus.
- The building will be open daily for student drop off at 7:45 a.m.
- Students riding with parents are discouraged from arriving before 7:45 a.m. due to lack of adequate supervision prior to that time.
- PLEASE NOTE: If unvaccinated students are riding the bus, they may be within 3 feet of another student which may require quarantining in the event of a positive case

5. Physical/Social Distancing

- To the extent possible within school and classroom structures so that it does not exclude students from full day in-person learning, school staff are to help students commit to physical/social distancing as much as possible by:
 - CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms, combined with indoor mask wearing, to reduce transmission risk. When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, such as when schools cannot fully reopen while maintaining these distances, it is especially important to layer multiple other prevention strategies.
 - Providing assigned seating for students and encourage students to remain in these seats to the greatest extent possible; and
 - Developing marked paths of travel in classrooms and corridors.
- School staff will maximize physical distance as much as possible when moving through food service lines and while eating indoors. Aside from the cafeteria, additional spaces for mealtime seating will be utilized when available and feasible (e.g., weather permitting)

6. Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

- School staff will monitor and reinforce frequent handwashing and respiratory etiquette by
 - continuing to teach handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds;
 - assisting young children with handwashing;
 - reminding everyone in the facility to wash hands frequently;
 - using hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol (for teachers, staff, and older students who can safely use hand sanitizer) when hand washing is not possible;
 - continuing to teach respiratory etiquette (e.g., covering coughs and sneezes); and

7. Facility and Transportation Cleaning, Disinfection and Ventilation

- School custodial staff and transportation staff will continue to clean surfaces daily.
- When possible, staff will open doors and windows, use child-safe fans, and have activities, classes, or lunches outdoors when circumstances allow.
- When it does not pose a safety risk, transportation staff will keep vehicle windows open at least a few inches to improve air circulation.

8. Contact Tracing in Combination with Isolation and Quarantine

- Students and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as influenza (flu) or COVID-19, should stay home and contact their healthcare provider for testing and care.
- Individuals in our school environments who show symptoms of COVID-19 are to immediately report to or be escorted to the school's office to be either sent home or be quarantined in the school's supervised safe area while awaiting pickup/evaluation. Students and staff are required to wear masks while in the safe area. Parents should ensure that ill students are picked up from school within 30 minutes of being notified. Ill students will not be allowed to utilize the school bus to return home.
- Students and staff who are not fully vaccinated should quarantine after a recent exposure to someone with COVID-19 - based on most current school exclusion guidelines.
- Fully vaccinated people who were in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 but do NOT have COVID-19 symptoms do not need to quarantine or be tested.
- Student absences related to a COVID-19 isolation or quarantine will be recorded as excused. To ensure continuity of services, school work missed during such an absence can be requested and made up in accordance with the school's policy (refer to student handbook); social, emotional, mental health, or other needs will be provided in accordance with a student's IEP or 504 Plan. Parents of students who have social, emotional, mental health, or other needs outside of an IEP or 504 Plan should contact their child's principal to discuss needs.
- To the extent allowable by privacy laws and other applicable laws, school health care professionals will continue to collaborate with Iroquois County Health Department officials to confidentially provide information about people diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19, including making notifications to staff and parents as soon as possible regarding those who were in close contact of someone in the school who tested positive for COVID-19.
- Students and staff suspected of having COVID-19, whether they were tested or not, are to follow the IDPH guidelines to determine when they can return to school.
- Following quarantine, students and staff returning from illness related to COVID-19 are to call to check in with the school office staff.

9. Screening Testing

- When community transmission is at moderate, substantial, or high levels, parents can request COVID-19 screening testing for their students who have not been fully vaccinated by contacting the county health department or their physician.
- At any level of community transmission, any staff member who has not been fully vaccinated can request COVID-19 screening testing by contacting the county health department or their physician.

10. Promoting Vaccination

- Working with the Iroquois County Health Department staff and school community we're offered vaccination appointments and clinics.
- Parents asked (not required) to share the child's vaccination status which will help with contact tracing and hopefully avoid quarantine.
- Parents of unvaccinated students asked to allow students to participate in regular COVID testing, also to help avoid quarantine.
- Vaccines will continue to be strongly encouraged.
- Respectful of peoples' varying levels of vaccine confidence, those who want to get vaccinated against COVID-19 can visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to find out where they can get vaccinated in our community.

11. Disabilities or Other Health Care Needs

- Parents of students who need accommodations, modifications, or assistance related to COVID-19 safety protocols, disabilities, underlying medical conditions, or weakened immune systems should contact their student's case manager to discuss the need(s).
- Staff members who need accommodations, modifications, or assistance related to COVID-19 safety protocols, disabilities, underlying medical conditions, weakened immune systems, or a sincerely held religious belief or practice (covered by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964) should contact their school's principal to discuss the need(s). Staff members with weakened immune systems are advised to contact their healthcare professional about the need for continued personal protective measures after vaccination.

12. Visitors

- Nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations are discouraged from visiting schools.

13. Collaboration with Public Health Officials

- District officials will continue to collaborate and consult with Iroquois County Health Department officials throughout a pandemic on various logistics and decision-making including, but not limited to, school health and safety protocols, screening testing, contact tracing, vaccine clinics, and emergency school closings.

14. Plan Review

- Through September 30, 2023, this plan will be reviewed no less frequently than every six months and revised as appropriate after seeking and considering public input. Revisions will address the most recently updated safety recommendations by the CDC, provided in an alternative format accessible to parents who are individuals with a disability as defined by the ADA, and made publicly available on the district's website.

Aug 11, 2021

Layered Prevention Strategies

Highest Levels

-----Lowest Levels

Vaccinations	Mask Requirements	Social Distancing	Screening/Hygiene Etiquette	Monitor Data
Parents asked (not required) to share vaccinations status - helps avoid quarantine	August 4, 2021 Governor mandated all schools to require masks indoor regardless of a person's vaccination status	3 feet to the extent possible plus mask is best strategy	Screening may be conducted among students (with parent permission)	Vaccination rates in the community, among staff, and students.
Parents asked to allow student to participate in regular COVID testing	Masks required while on school buses.	Our inability to ensure 3 feet of distance in some areas suggest ALL staff and students should be masked per the CDC	Regular hand washing and respiratory etiquette (cover coughs)	Community transmission rates.
Vaccines strongly encouraged		District will strongly encourage mask usage for all.	Building cleaning and ventilation.	Reported cases in schools.
			Stay home when ill	

OTHER POTENTIAL MITIGATION STRATEGIES:

Elementary School

1. Specific staff entrance and exit doors
2. Separate entrance for Preschool drop-off
3. Separate entrances and exits for students being dropped off and picked up
4. Seating Charts on buses, classrooms, and cafeteria.
5. Floor markings in hallways and 'line-up' areas for social distancing
6. Individual dividers on student tables
7. Limited field trips
8. Lockers spaced out 3 feet apart to allow social distancing
9. Staggered common space time (gym, library, etc)

Jr. Sr. High School

1. Staggered bell system / schedule
2. Seating Charts on buses, classrooms, and cafeteria.
3. Controlled directional traffic
 - a. Stairways
 - b. Hallways
4. Adding a 2nd cafeteria in our gymnasium keeping occupancy under 50 persons and spacing students 6 feet apart facing one direction
 - a. Requiring students to stand 6 feet away from each other in the cafeteria line
5. Lockers spaced out 3 feet apart to allow social distancing
6. Using a second entrance to the Jr. Sr. High School building to separate and isolate students as they enter the facility following the CDC guidelines and encouraging staff to use separate entrances
7. Limiting field trips and limiting school dances
8. Moved a High School classroom to the 3rd floor and a Junior High classroom to the 2nd floor as an additional layer of protection to reduce the risk of transmission and to space students out better during passing periods
9. Installed an 86 inch TV in the large cafeteria space and transformed that room into a driver ed/health classroom to help create a larger space for our students to socially distance themselves
10. Limiting touch areas by prompting open building entrance doors, classroom doors, and restroom doors.