



Palos School District 118

8800 W. 119th St. | Palos Park, IL 60464 | 708-448-4800 | www.palos118.org

Dear Palos 118 Families,

On Tuesday, September 8, we officially kick off the start to the 2020-2021 School Year! We know you probably have some last minute questions, so we compiled a list of frequently asked questions we have received from parents this week. [You can access the Back to School FAQ here.](#) We should all expect a few bumps in the road, just as we would during a typical school year. Our teachers and staff have been working hard all week to ensure our first week of school is a success and we are all looking forward to seeing our students during our Meet and Greet Days on September 8th and September 9th.

I know you have received a lot of information from your child's school this week so I will make my update brief.

Below are this week's metrics.

1. **A return to Phase 3 of the Governor's Restore Illinois Plan**
Suburban Cook County remains in Phase 4, which allows schools to resume in-person instruction. The test positivity rate is 6.8% for our region (Region 10). Source: Governor's Office and IDPH
2. **Outbreaks of confirmed COVID-19 cases in schools**
60 of 66 south suburban school districts are now in-person instruction to begin the school year. Palos Heights District 128 recently shifted to remote learning due to a rolling positivity rate over 8%. Source: News reports and Palos Heights 128.
3. **Confirmed community spread of the virus**
There is no confirmed widespread transmission of COVID-19 in Palos Park.
Source: IDPH
4. **Directives from IDPH, ISBE or the Governor's Office**
After reviewing the most recent guidance from IDPH, the school district determined that the number of students and staff members that would most likely be required to quarantine due to IDPH's exclusion recommendations would be too disruptive to the learning environment to open for in-person instruction. The guidance includes the recommendation to send students and staff members home to quarantine for up to 10 days with only one symptom of COVID-19. Source: IDPH
5. **District 118 Staffing**
The school district continues to work diligently to address our vacancies. We have the following external vacancies as of today.
 - Daily substitute teachers
 - Long-term substitute teachers
 - Elementary supervisors
 - Paraprofessionals

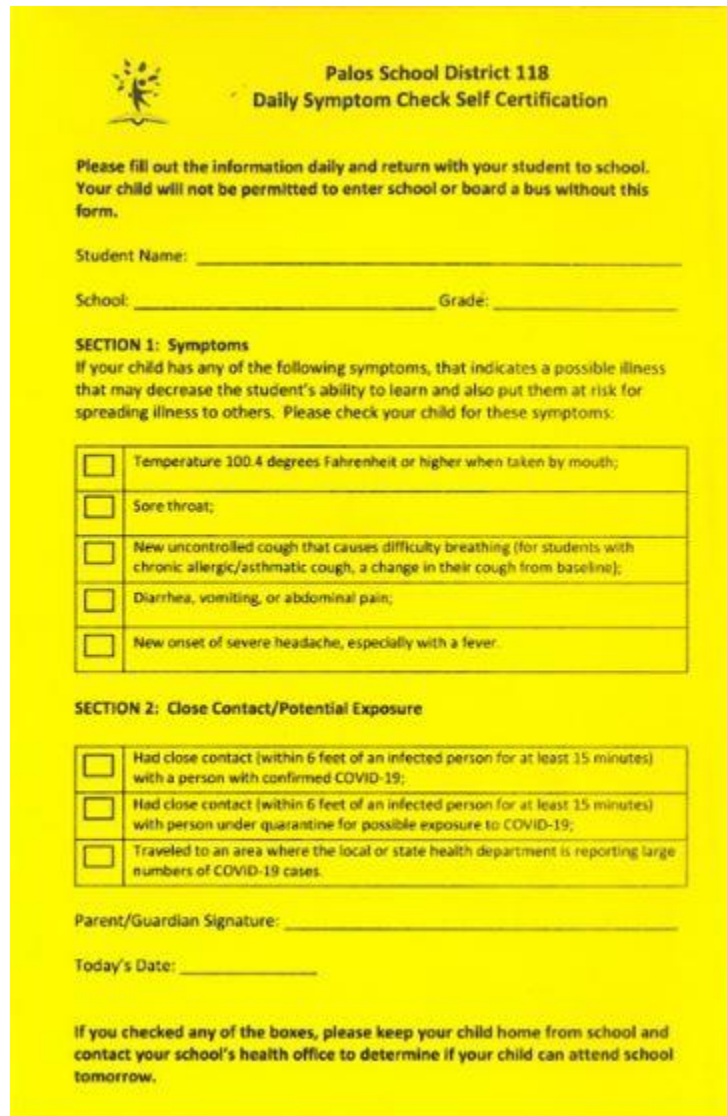
The school district remains committed and focused to returning our students to in-person instruction as soon and as safely as we can. We continue to recruit and hire staff. Substitute teachers remain in short supply. If you are interested in becoming a substitute teacher, [please click on this link to review qualifications and learn about how you can apply.](#)

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION FOR MEET AND GREETINGS

In order to attend school on September 8th or 9th, students must wear a face mask. Prior to boarding school buses or entering school buildings, parents must complete the yellow Daily Symptom Check Self

Certification Form. If you check any of the boxes on the form, keep your child home from school. In addition to parents taking temperatures when filling out the form, temperatures will be checked again prior to students entering the building. Any student with a temperature of 100.4 will not be allowed to enter and parents will need to come and pick them up from school. I think we can all agree how devastating it would be for a child to come to school and not be allowed to enter, so I'm asking all parents to please be very vigilant in taking temperatures and filling out the forms accurately.

If you did not receive your yellow certification forms, download and complete the [attached form](#) to use on September 8th and 9th.



The form is titled "Palos School District 118 Daily Symptom Check Self Certification". It includes a logo of a tree and a person. The instructions state: "Please fill out the information daily and return with your student to school. Your child will not be permitted to enter school or board a bus without this form." There are fields for "Student Name:", "School:", and "Grade:". The form is divided into two sections: "SECTION 1: Symptoms" and "SECTION 2: Close Contact/Potential Exposure".

SECTION 1: Symptoms
If your child has any of the following symptoms, that indicates a possible illness that may decrease the student's ability to learn and also put them at risk for spreading illness to others. Please check your child for these symptoms:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Temperature 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher when taken by mouth;
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sore throat;
<input type="checkbox"/>	New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline);
<input type="checkbox"/>	Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain;
<input type="checkbox"/>	New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever.

SECTION 2: Close Contact/Potential Exposure

<input type="checkbox"/>	Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19;
<input type="checkbox"/>	Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with person under quarantine for possible exposure to COVID-19;
<input type="checkbox"/>	Traveled to an area where the local or state health department is reporting large numbers of COVID-19 cases.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____
Today's Date: _____

If you checked any of the boxes, please keep your child home from school and contact your school's health office to determine if your child can attend school tomorrow.

Remote Learning Resource Page <https://www.palos118.org/departments/teaching-and-learning/summer-learning-resources>

The school district has created a Remote Learning Resources page on our website. Please take a moment to look at the many resources available to families in the lead up to September 8. Parents can find video presentations on remote learning school schedules; tutorials on how to navigate technology programs and platforms that teachers will use during remote learning; reading resources from our Media Specialists, supplemental resources parents can use with at home learning; and virtual field trips.

School Lunches

Free lunches are now available to all school age children 18 and under. Aramark will be providing curbside pickup at Palos South Middle School between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays. Lunches will be provided for multiple days. Families can pick up their lunch at the turn around outside of the Commons

(cafeteria). We ask that if you plan on coming to pick up lunch, please complete the lunch order form at <https://www.palos118.org/RemoteLunchOrderForm>.

Next week (Labor Day) week lunches will be distributed on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 8 and 9.

Remote Learning Tech Support

There are videos and print tutorials to assist parents and students with navigating the various tools the district has to offer during remote learning. Parents can use the link below: <https://www.palos118.org/departments/teaching-and-learning/summer-learning-resources> or by visiting the Remote Learning Resources page on the district's website.

During remote learning, students can email tech support if they are having issues with their device. The email address is studenttech@palos118.org.

Daycare Options

We understand that remote learning will place a significant childcare burden on many working families. The school district has worked the past two months to identify additional childcare options for district families. Ivy League has agreed to open up a new option for childcare at Palos Park Recreation and another location in Lemont. Please see the [attached flyer](#). We are continuing to explore additional childcare options for families.

Zoom Links and Passwords

In order to keep our virtual classrooms secure, please do NOT share Zoom links or passwords with anyone. These links and passwords are provided on secure student platforms (Seesaw and Schoology) and must not be emailed, texted, or shared in any way with anyone besides the student in which the link and password is intended. If you cannot find a link or password, contact the classroom teacher. If the link or password is not working, contact the classroom teacher or tech support at studenttech@palos118.org.

Important Upcoming Dates

September 8: First Day of Remote Learning
September 8: Morning Meet & Greet for Last Name A-K (Grades 1-8)
September 9: Morning Meet & Greet for Last Name L-Z (Grades 1-8)

Sincerely,

Dr. Anthony Scarsella
Superintendent of Schools

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