



## **COVID-19 Mitigation Plan**

February 24, 2022; Revised February 28, 2022

The following COVID-19 Mitigation Plan was approved by the Board of Education on February 24, 2022.

Since the Board's approval of the plan, on Friday Feb. 25 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its mask guidance to mask optional:

*"Effective February 25, 2022, the CDC is exercising its enforcement discretion to not require that people wear masks on buses or vans operated by public or private school systems, including early care and education/child care programs."*

Therefore, mask use by students and staff in Northbrook District 27 is optional but recommended, beginning Feb. 28, 2022. Bus transportation will also be mask optional for students, also beginning Feb. 28.

This Mitigation Plan replaces the Opening of School Plan that was approved by the Board of Education in August 2021. Please note that as of Feb. 27, schools are awaiting detailed guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). As a result, some of the components of this plan may change.

The approval and posting of this plan are in compliance with federal requirements for public school districts receiving funds through the American Rescue Plan, Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Program Grant (ESSER III).

Beginning Feb. 28, 2022, the following mitigation strategies will be in effect for Northbrook School District 27.

- Masks are recommended, but not required, for all students, staff; and visitors with some exceptions for mask-wearing:
  - ADA accommodations for students and staff. This could include masking in

classrooms or situations where it is deemed medically necessary\*

- Teachers, aides, and therapists may ask students to temporarily wear a mask while providing instruction or services within three (3) feet
  - Masks will be available for any student or staff member who asks for them
- Isolation/Exclusion:
  - Individuals that test positive for COVID-19 must (regardless of vaccination status):
    - Isolate/exclude from school for at least five (5) full days following a positive test or symptom onset. If no symptoms or improving symptoms, return on day 6 (fever and diarrhea free for 24 hours without the aid of medication). For the next five (5) days, wear a well-fitting mask when within 6 feet of others indoors at all times; **OR**
    - Isolate/exclude for at least ten (10) calendar days, if after five (5) days of isolation there are worsening or persistent symptoms. Stay home until no symptoms or symptoms are resolving AND until 24 hours after fever resolves without the use of medication. For the next five (5) days, wear a well-fitting mask when within 6 feet of others indoors at all times.
    - **If masking requirement is not possible, exclude for the full 10-day isolation period**
  - Close Contacts:

CCDPH will initiate contact tracing and will notify families if they are close contacts.
- Continue weekly Ravinia Testing; In March, the District will shift to Ravinia only to minimize the disruption to instruction
- Continued testing of athletes for indoor sports
- Continue classroom social distancing of 3 feet
- Continue 6-foot social distancing during the lunch periods
- Continue to teach and require proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette
- Continue daily and nightly cleaning and disinfecting
- Continue current operations to ensure ventilation systems are running in alignment with best practice to the greatest extent possible. This includes the current practice of using higher rated air filters, increasing the percentage of outside air intake, and opening of windows, where feasible
- Continue twice per week COVID-19 testing for unvaccinated staff
- Continue to implement behavior intervention strategies to prevent bullying and/or intimidation for all students related to mask-wearing or other mitigations.
- Continue to maintain and publish the District 27 weekly health and safety dashboard with COVID-19 numbers
- Band and Chorus will be mask optional; other mitigations such as bell covers remain
- Extracurricular activities will be mask-recommended and other mitigations will continue to the extent possible

The following are exemptions to the mask-recommended policy:

- Masking will continue to be required in school health offices
- If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 and returns to school after day five because they are asymptomatic, masks will continue to be required for days 6-10.
- Masking will be requested at all in-person adult meetings (parent(s), vendor(s), and/or staff) during the school day

**The Board of Education reserves the right to update the COVID-19 Mitigation Plan as needed. A 10% positive test rate in suburban Cook County may warrant temporary masking and other restrictions**

*\* Due to the need for confidentiality, we will not be able to explain why certain mitigations are in place.*