

"Every child has a different learning style and pace, Each child is unique, not only capable of learning but also capable of succeeding" ~ Robert John Meehan

Greetings Nichols Middle School Colleagues, Friends, and Family,

Did you get some rest this weekend? Did you enjoy some downtime with yourself or a loved one? Did you complete that project you've been working on? It's important by how much we give to always save something for ourselves. In this case, we should be saving some time and self-care!

However, in saving a little for us we should keep in mind the above mentioned quote and its implication in the work we do. Knowing that every student is different and learns differently. **WE** should always remain cognizant of the way our students learn and that our instruction should always be tailored to suit those needs.

MAP testing has begun. The Language Arts team finished their testing this past Friday (September 24th). This week Math will begin testing on Tuesday and Wednesday with make-ups on Thursday and Friday. Even though math and ELA are the only content that takes the test, let us be reminded that **WE** all play a very critical role in students meeting/exceeding on any of the standardized assessments we give to students. All stakeholders are equally important because we have a role in developing critical-thinking skills and content that overlap with our scholars. With this being said, it's important for us to build a **collective resilience** in our scholars.

This week-at-glance:

- **Monday, September 27, 2021** - Regularly Scheduled Classes/Meetings:
- **Tuesday, September 28, 2021** - Regularly Scheduled Classes/Meetings: **MAP testing in Math**
- **Wednesday, September 29, 2021** - Regularly Scheduled Classes/Meetings: **MAP testing in Math**
- **Thursday, September 30, 2021** - Regularly Scheduled Classes/Meetings: **Make-up MAP testing in Math**
- **Friday, October 1, 2021** - Regularly Scheduled Classes/Meetings: **Make-up MAP testing in Math**

School Level

- **MORNING MENTORS** begins on Tuesday, September 28, 2021 (7:15 am -7:50 am)- students are able to receive assistance with various subjects by tutors (see attached letter)
- **Immunizations are due!** Please make note that if you receive a letter from the school regarding your child's immunization status they are not to return to school until it has been completed (please see letter)
- Sports competition has started as well

District Level

- For questions about our "health and safety guidelines for COVID" see this link: <https://www.district65.net/Page/221>
- Please see information (attachment) regarding SHIELD Testing as well

Community Level

Trauma-Informed Resources for Youth and Adults

City of Evanston Youth and Young Adult Referral Form

<http://www.evanstonoutreach.org/contact-us/>

Curated Health and Wellness Resources are also available through the Evanston Care Network, a free resource website for all community members to use

<https://evanstoncarenetwork.org/>

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Your compatriot in education,

Marcus J. Wright

Principal, Nichols Middle School

Dear Parent/ Guardian:

Nichols Middle School is offering a free morning tutoring program (Morning Mentors) for all interested students on a first-come, first-serve basis. Nichols staff and Northwestern students will provide tutoring in all subject areas. This is a great opportunity for students to be provided with homework help, re-teaching of lessons and general study skills.

Sessions will be held at Nichols Middle School Tuesday and Thursday beginning on Tuesday, September 28, 2021. Sessions will run from 7:15-7:50 am. Students will be provided an opportunity to get breakfast from the cafeteria and bring it to the program. Due to the limited space, we ask parents to speak to their child(ren) to determine exactly how much support is required and on what days the student is most likely to commit to. Our goal is to serve as many students as possible.

What are the benefits?

You are providing your student with an important opportunity to increase their overall academic skills.

Do I need to arrange transportation?

Students need to arrive at school by 7:15 am and meet in the cafeteria.

Do I need to supply any materials?

No. Students will use their current supplies and textbooks provided by teachers

Is homework assigned?

There will be no homework assigned.

How will I know how my child is doing?

There will be constant communication between the tutors and your students' teachers. Academic work will be reflected in progress reports on PowerSchool.

What do I need to do as a parent?

You and your child will be asked to sign the attached contract in which you agree to your child consistently attending the morning tutoring program.

Please indicate your interest in having your child participate in the Morning Mentors program by signing the attached contract and returning it to Mr. Wright or your math teacher by Friday, September 24, 2021. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at (847) 859-8650. Thank you for this opportunity to work with your student!

Sincerely,

Mr. Wright
Principal

PARENT/ GUARDIAN CONTRACT

Morning Mentors Program

Student Name: _____

Grade: 6 7 8

Days: Tuesdays Thursdays

I, _____, will encourage and support my student to participate in the Morning Mentors. My child will attend all sessions that they have selected. I will make myself available for teacher contact or conferences, and I will not hesitate to contact my child's teacher if I have any questions or concerns.

**In the event that school switches to a remote or hybrid model we will continue the program via Zoom.

I, _____, give permission for my child, _____, to participate in the Morning Mentors program. I understand that this means on any given day my child may work 1 - 1 or in a small group of other Nichols students supported by a Northwestern Tutor in a Zoom Breakout room.

Parent/ Guardian Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

Teacher Signature

Date

September 29, 2021

Dear Nichols Middle School Families,

We are excited to share that our first day of COVID-19 testing for students will be on **Friday, October 1, 2021**. If participating in weekly testing, your child will be escorted by a staff member along with other students in their classroom to the building **cafeteria**. As a reminder, testing is through the University of Illinois SHIELD program and is non-invasive and saliva-based. Our goal is to minimize the time students will miss instruction and we ask for your patience as we develop a routine these first few weeks. We are prioritizing testing for unvaccinated students, unless specifically requested by the family.

As a reminder, if you do not want your child to participate in testing and you have not done so already, you can opt out by completing the opt out form ([English/Spanish](#)) and sending it to our [health office](#) or to covid19testing@district65.net.

The District should receive test results within 24-48 hours. Parents/guardians will only be notified of positive testing results, so no news is good news.

Please visit the D65 website for more information and updates about our mitigation efforts. Frequently Asked Questions are also available regarding COVID-19 testing.

Sincerely,

Marcus J. Wright
Principal
Nichols Middle School

COVID-19 INTERIM EXCLUSION GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS¹

Rev. September 29, 2021 Interim Guidance, Subject to updates



Decision Tree for Excluding Symptomatic Individuals from Pre-K, K-12 Schools and Day Care Programs

Exclude⁴ if **ANY** of the following symptoms² are present: Fever (100.4°F or higher), new onset of moderate to severe headache, shortness of breath, new cough, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, new loss of sense of taste or smell, fatigue from unknown cause, muscle or body aches from unknown cause.

School health officials should exclude when suspicion of COVID is high due to other symptoms.

Testing is Strongly Recommended for ALL Persons with COVID-19-Like Symptoms, Regardless of Vaccination Status.

Status	Return to School Guidance (For recently vaccinated persons, see Post Vaccination Guidance)	Exclude Close Contacts?	Additional Guidance
A. COVID-19 diagnostic test Positive (confirmed with PCR test or probable with antigen test³) OR COVID-like symptoms without COVID-19 testing and exposed to confirmed case (probable case)	Schools are to <u>exclude</u> ⁴ for at least ten ⁵ calendar days from onset of symptoms; Return after the ten calendar days AND for 24 hours with no fever (without fever-reducing medication) AND improvement of symptoms.	YES (see Row D)	The Local Health Department may supply dates as to when a student or staff member can return to school, otherwise schools should permit return consistent with this guidance. Letter from Local Health Department releasing the student or staff member from isolation or quarantine is not required.
B. Symptomatic individual with a negative COVID-19 diagnostic test (home test kits not allowed) <i>Negative COVID-19 diagnostic tests are valid only for the date on which they are collected; specimens collected 48 hours prior to symptom onset, after symptom onset, or while symptoms are present (within 48 hours) are acceptable for determining school exclusion status.</i>	Schools are to <u>exclude</u> ² until symptoms have improved/resolved per return-to-school criteria for diagnosed condition, including fever free for 24 hours and until 48 hours after diarrhea and vomiting have ceased. Follow provider directions, recommended treatment & return to school guidance as per school policies and IDPH Communicable Diseases in Schools .	NO	If staff/student is a close <u>contact</u> to a confirmed case, the school is experiencing an outbreak, or the LHD is requiring validation due to community transmission levels, documentation of a negative laboratory-based confirmatory SARS-CoV-2 NAAT result is needed (see CDC Testing Algorithm) to return. In other situations, a negative RT-PCR, rapid molecular (rapid PCR) or negative antigen test is acceptable.
C. Symptomatic individual without diagnostic testing who is not a known close contact to a confirmed case.	Schools are to <u>exclude</u> ² for at least ten ⁵ calendar days from onset of symptoms; Return after the ten calendar days AND for 24 hours with no fever (without fever-reducing medication), vomiting and diarrhea have ceased, AND improvement of symptoms.	Unvaccinated Household Members in the School System	If the ill individual is not tested within 24 hours of first notification of symptoms, household members should be sent home. See FAQ for additional instructions.
D. Asymptomatic individual who is a close contact^{6,7} to a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case	Unless fully vaccinated, schools must exclude for 14 days or as recommended by the local health department for 7-14 calendar days ^{8,9,10} after last exposure to the COVID-19 case or according to test-to-stay protocols ¹¹ . <i>If COVID-19 illness develops, exclude per Row A. Testing is recommended.</i>		The Local Health Department may supply dates as to when a student or staff member can return to school, otherwise schools should permit return consistent with this guidance. Letter from Local Health Department releasing the student or staff member from isolation or quarantine is not required.

1 Based on available data and science, schools must make local decisions informed by local context in consultation with their local public health department. This chart should be used in conjunction with the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#).

2 New onset of a symptom not attributed to allergies or a pre-existing condition.

3 In most situations, a positive antigen in symptomatic person does not require a confirmatory test, should be considered a probable case (follow Row A and D) and will not be discounted or deemed a false positive with a negative PCR.

4 Pursuant to [Communicable Disease Code, 77 Ill. Admin. Code 690.631](#) and [EO 2021-25](#)

5 Severely immunocompromised or severely ill may need to be excluded for 20 days as per guidance from the individual's infectious disease physician.

6 If the individual has been identified by local health department or school as a close contact, or knows they are a close contact to a case, the individual should be excluded.

7 CDC defines a [close contact](#) as an individual not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 who was within 6 feet of an infected

person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. For students in the classroom setting, contacts who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student do not require exclusion as long as both the case and the contact were consistently masked. Contacts who are asymptomatic and fully vaccinated or who have tested positive for COVID-19 within prior 90 days do not need to be excluded but should be tested 3 to 5 days after the exposure to a suspect, probable or confirmed case of COVID-19.

8 Contacts to close contacts of a case do not need to be excluded unless the close contact becomes a confirmed or probable case.

9 Exclusion: Complete a. 14 days, OR b. 10 days with no symptoms, OR 7 days with no symptoms and a negative SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR test. Specimen for testing must obtained within 48 hours of Day 7. Last exposure date = Day 0.

10 Molecular testing (PCR) is recommended for individuals ending quarantine at Day 10 after exposure; may be required by LHD.

11 Test-to-stay requires negative tests at Day 1, 3, 5 and 7 post exposure to avoid quarantine (see [FAQ](#) for more details).

Box A. Assessment of Symptomatic Persons

Consider the following when assessing symptomatic students/staff:

Are symptoms new to the student/staff person or are they a change in baseline for that individual?

Does the symptomatic individual have any of the following potential exposure risks?

Did the student/staff have an exposure to a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case in the past 14 days?

Is there a household or other close contact with similar symptoms who has not been yet classified as a confirmed or probable case?

Is there a household member or other close contact with high-exposure risk occupation or activities (e.g., HCW, correctional worker, other congregate living setting worker or visitor)?

Did the student/staff member have potential exposure due to out-of-school activities (private parties, playing with friend groups, etc.) or have poor compliance with mask wearing and social distancing?

Do they live in an area of substantial or high community transmission?

Do they have a history of travel to an area of high transmission in previous 14 days?

Is there an outbreak in the school or has there been another known case of COVID-19 in the school building in the last 14 days or are there other students or staff in the classroom or cohort currently out with COVID-19 symptoms?

Box B. Clinical Evaluation for Children with Symptoms of COVID-19

(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/pediatric-hcp.html>)

Consider the individual's risk of exposure. See Box A.

No Exposure Risk Identified & resides in Community with Low Transmission¹

If no known close contact to COVID-19 case and no other exposure risks, testing and exclusion for COVID-19 may be considered based on level of clinical suspicion and testing availability.

Has Exposure Risk and/or Clinical Suspicion for COVID-19

Isolation
COVID-19 Testing Recommended

TESTING

PCR or antigen (Ag) testing is acceptable.

-If an Ag detection test is negative and there is a high clinical suspicion of COVID-19, confirm with lab-based NAAT ([see CDC Testing Algorithm](#)), ideally within 2 days of the initial Ag test.

-If lab-based confirmatory NAAT testing is not available, clinical discretion can be used to recommend isolation.

Test result is only valid for the day of specimen collection.

Resources:

- COVID-19 Testing Overview <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/testing.html>
- Isolation and Quarantine: CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/index.html>