



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

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January 1, 2022

This plan has been developed in accordance with the ARP Act and the Illinois State Superintendent of Education declaration of July 9, 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.

This plan will also be made publicly available on the school 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 Premier Academy's regular communication platforms.

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

In accordance with current guidelines, all Premier Academy classrooms will be open fully for in-person learning for all student attendance days for the 2021-22 school year.

These guidelines include the following:

### Mask Use

- Mask use is recommended and encouraged indoors for students, staff and visitors. Mask use is recommended and encouraged outdoors during activities (e.g., participating in physical education) that involve sustained close contact with other people, particularly in areas of substantial to high transmission.
- We will continue to monitor the health and wellbeing of our students and staff and adjust accordingly if needed. Everyone should be prepared to wear masks if our local metrics warrant that need.

### Physical 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 will help students commit to physical distancing as much as possible by modeling and reinforcing physical distancing of a minimum of 3ft, of distancing wherever possible. 6ft. of distancing is **STRONGLY** encouraged.
- Maximizing physical distance as much as possible during lunch and while eating indoors.
- Physical distancing measures will be done in an equitable manner that does not perpetuate tracking (e.g., separating people into fully vaccinated and non-fully vaccinated cohorts).

## **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 Main Office to be either sent home or be quarantined in the appropriate location while awaiting pickup/evaluation. Parents should ensure that ill students are picked up from school promptly after being notified. Ill students will not be allowed to utilize the school bus to return home.
- Students and staff should follow current Grundy and/or Kendall County Health Department Guidelines for testing and quarantine after a recent exposure to someone with COVID-19. Quarantine decisions will be made and communicated by Grundy and/or Kendall County Health Department officials.
- 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.
- Absent COVID-related leave days previously provided by Federal law, staff absences related to a COVID-19 isolation or quarantine will be recorded in accordance with the district's sick leave policy.
- To the extent allowable by privacy laws and other applicable laws, school health care professionals will continue to collaborate with Grundy and/or Kendall 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 CDC guidelines and Grundy and/or Kendall County Health Department guidelines to determine when they can return to school.

## **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;
- reminding everyone in the facility to wash hands frequently via signage;
- using hand sanitizer when handwashing is not possible;
- continuing to teach/reinforce respiratory etiquette (e.g., covering coughs and sneezes)

## **Facility Cleaning, Disinfection and Ventilation**

- School staff will continue to clean surfaces daily, and between classes to the extent possible. To further reduce the risk of spreading infection, these staff will also use disinfectants to disinfect spaces occupied by someone who tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 24 hours.

## **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 or building Principal 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.

### **Visitors**

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

### **Collaboration with Public Health Officials**

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

### **Plan Review**

- 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.