



## Collinsville Community Unit School District 10

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July 23, 2021

Kahok Families,

If you blink, you will miss it...that sums up the month of July! However, August's arrival means we are one step closer to welcoming students back on August 18<sup>th</sup> and we are grateful.

Over the past few months, the district has been creating a Return to Learn Plan for the 21-22 school year based on CDC, IDPH and ISBE guidance. After careful consideration and discussions with our legal counsel, insurance carrier, local health department, district employees and stakeholders, a draft of the plan can be found on our district website or by clicking the [Return to Learn Plan link](#).

The American Rescue Plan requires the district's Return to Learn Plan be placed on the website for comment. ***In addition, our district is holding a Public Hearing on Monday, July 26, 2021 at 6:00 PM in the Administrative Annex, 123 W. Clay Street, Collinsville.***

Our primary focus in creating this year's Return to Learn Plan has been on how we will provide our students a full-day schedule, five-days-a-week, while ensuring the health of our staff and students. ***Please keep in mind, the Return to Learn Plan posted today will adapt and change.*** The best word to describe the district's 21-22 Return to Learn Plan is "fluid." We expect changes throughout the school year to ensure we meet our students' academic and social emotional needs, maintain a consistent schedule and provide a safe environment.

We pride ourselves in full transparency. Nothing about navigating this pandemic has been easy for our students, educators or families. As we begin another school year, regardless of details in the district's plan, we know it will not please everyone. This comes at a time when our country is as divided as most have seen in our lifetime. So, rather than immediately draw a line in the sand regarding whether masks will be required, please know our decisions this school year will be made locally based on the health of our students and staff. There will be times when masks are *recommended* per CDC and IDPH guidance, and there will be times when masks are *required* in order to maintain school five days a week. ***This and other mitigation strategies in the district's Return to Learn Plan will evolve as our primary focus is to maintain a consistent schedule for our students.***

As with any difficult time in our personal or professional lives, when faced with a challenging situation, we have two choices: work together and make the most of a difficult situation; or implode and fight amongst ourselves. Imploding is not an option. ***One thing we can all agree on is that our students need to be in school on a consistent basis interacting with their peers and teachers.*** As our Return to Learn Plan evolves, I'm asking our families, communities and staff to once again work together and rally around our students throughout the 21-22 school year regardless of the "fluid" mitigations in place.

Here are several key points I want to highlight regarding the 21-22 Return to Learn Plan:

## **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 are to help students commit to physical distancing as much as possible

## **Face Coverings**

- Proper mask use is recommended for all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated. Consistent and correct mask use by people who are not fully vaccinated is especially important indoors and in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained. ***\*Per the Illinois State Board of Education, the district may REQUIRE staff and students to wear masks as a layered mitigation strategy during the school day or for part of the school day and/or an extended period of time. Therefore, it is expected that each child will carry a mask with them during the school day.***
- During school transportation: The CDC's order applies to all public transportation conveyances, including school buses. ***Regardless of the mask policy at school, passengers and drivers MUST wear a mask on school buses, including on buses operated by public and private school systems, subject to the exclusions and exemptions in the CDC's order.***

## **Vaccinations, Quarantines and Health Checklist**

- The district is partnering with the Madison County Health Department to host vaccine clinics on Wednesday, August 11<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, September 1<sup>st</sup> from 3:30 PM until 7:30 PM at Collinsville Middle School for all students and community members 12 and up.
- **Students should provide documentation of their COVID 19 vaccination cards to their school's health office; staff should provide documentation of their vaccination cards to their immediate supervisor and/or Director of Human Resources.** 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 BE QUARANTINED OR TESTED.
- Students and staff who are NOT fully vaccinated should quarantine after a recent exposure to someone with COVID-19. Quarantine decisions will be made and communicated by MCDH officials.
- Parents and staff are required to complete the COVID-19 Daily Checklist before sending their child(ren) to school or reporting to work.

## **Rapid Point-of-Care Antigen Testing**

- Collinsville CUSD 10 was provided an opportunity to provide FREE COVID-19 Rapid Point-Of-Care Antigen Testing to students and staff in our district. Tests can be administered to symptomatic individuals.

## **Layered Mitigations**

- Public health mitigations, such as hand hygiene, routine high-touch cleaning, supplemental cleaning, personal cleaning and school bus cleaning, will be incorporated as routine.

The 21-22 school year is about to begin and we are excited to welcome staff and students back in the weeks ahead. On behalf of our entire school district, thank you for your constant dedication to our students. Don't forget to wear your purple and show your Kahok Pride!

Sincerely,

Mark B. Skertich, Ed.D.  
Superintendent