

2021-2022 Back to School Plan

Important Information about Illinois
High Road Schools

(Therapeutic Day Schools)

August 2021





PLAN AT A GLANCE



ALL STUDENTS

Our plan allows us to welcome back all students for full-day instruction.



COHORT MODEL

Students will be placed in cohorts to the greatest extent possible. Students within a cohort should remain physically as far apart as possible. To control the spread of any illness, schools will limit mixing between cohorts.



SCHOOL BUILDING LAYOUT

In order to keep cohorts intact, schools routes within the school building, and visual cues. Signage, tape on the floors, and visual supports will be used.





All individuals over the age of 2 will be required to wear a mask while in the school building regardless of vaccination status. Masks may only be removed during designated activities (such as lunch and recess) if students remain physically distant while the mask is off.



SYMPTOM SCREENS

<u>Student COVID-19 Self Certification and Verification Form</u> to be signed by parents/guardians one time, verifying students will be screened prior to coming to school each day. If this form is not signed and returned, parents/guardians will need to screen student prior to coming to school and submit a <u>Daily Screener</u> each day.



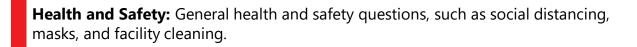
INFECTION PROTOCOLS

Our plan provides for clear guidance on how to address individuals with COVID-19 symptoms and/or positive COVID-19 tests.



Frequently Asked Questions for Parents/Guardians Regarding Return to the 2021-2022 School Year

We know that parents have many questions about the start of the school year. In this document, we have outlined many of the frequently asked questions (FAQs) from parents about our back-to-school plan. These questions are divided into four sections, each addressing a separate aspect of the back-to-school process.



Infection Protocols: How we will handle instances where students or employees become ill.

Academics and Programming: Questions related to how classes will be taught. This section also includes information on school events (such as townhouse or assemblies).

Cleaning and Disinfecting: Questions about cleaning and disinfecting for the upcoming school year.

Please note that the Back- to-School Plan contains general guidance for SESI's therapeutic day schools in Illinois: High Road Schools. Each school must apply these guidelines for their own unique school setting. As such, if you have specific questions about how these guidelines apply to your child(ren)'s school, we encourage you to contact the school's campus leader.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Q: Will students return to school in-person on August 19th?

A. Yes. We are prepared to welcome students back to full-time, in-person learning on August 19, 2021.

On July 9, 2021, Illinois State Superintendent of Education Dr. Carmen Ayala made the following declaration:

"Beginning with the 2021-22 school year, all schools must resume fully in-person learning for all student attendance days, provided that, pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/10-30 and 105 ILCS 5/34-18.66, remote instruction be made available for students who have not received a COVID-19 vaccine or who are not eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine, only while they are under quarantine consistent with guidance or requirements from a local public health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health."

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Q: Will students need to wear masks at school?

A. Yes. On August 4, 2021, Governor JB Pritzker announced an Executive Order (Executive Order 2021-18) that supports safe in-person learning and **requires** that masks be worn indoors by all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.

Q: Do I need to purchase masks for my child?

A: Yes. We are asking all parents to purchase 2-layer masks for their child. Parents may opt to buy disposable or re-usable masks. For disposable masks, each mask must be thrown away at the end of every school day and parents should send plenty of extra masks to school with their child. For re-usable masks, masks should be double layer masks, cleaned after every use and students should bring at least one extra re-usable mask to school. We encourage our High Road families to work now on identifying a mask that will work for their child. Our school staff can help support this process.

*2-layer masks recommended in Updated Public Health Guidance for Schools

Masks may be removed for brief periods of time under certain circumstances (such as outdoor play or lunch). However, when masks are removed, students must remain physically distant from one another (recommended 3 feet).

Q: Can face shields be used instead of masks?

A: Face shields cannot be used instead of masks, as per directives of the IDPH.

Q: Will staff teach children how to use masks?

A: Yes. We know that students will need training to learn how to properly wear masks. We will spend time at the beginning of the year helping children learn how to safely keep masks in place.

Q. Do I need to screen my child before coming to school each day?

A. Yes! Each day prior to coming to school, parents/guardians are asked to screen their child for symptoms of COVID. If your child is experiencing ANY symptoms of COVID-19, please keep the child home and seek medical treatment. A "Student COVID-19 Self Certification and Verification Form" was sent home for review and signature. This form must be reviewed and signed by parent/guardian confirming that their student will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms before coming to school each day. Any student who does not return the "Student COVID-19 Self-Certification and Verification Form" will need have a screener completed <u>EACH DAY</u> by parent/guardian and S<u>ENT TO SCHOOL</u> daily to verify the student was screened prior tocoming to school

Q: Will students be required to physically distance at school?

A: Our plan calls for each student to be part of a larger group of students called a "cohort." When students are with their cohort, they should remain as far apart as possible. Staff are also part of cohorts and can walk around their classroom to monitor student classwork. Schools will limit mixing between cohorts as much as possible. We believe the cohort model provides for better containment should there be a positive case of COVID-19 within a school (see the Infection Protocol section).

Q: How will lunch take place when school re-opens?

A: Each school is developing a customized plan that fits their unique building. Some schools may ask students to eat lunch in their classrooms, outside (weather permitting) and/or have students use the cafeteria in staggered shifts. Students may eat in common areas such as lunchrooms with recommended physical distancing protocols in place.

Q: What about recess?

A: Schools may still conduct recess, but schools must fulfill defined safety requirements. For example, cohorts must be spread out from one another. If recess is outdoors, masks may be removed, but students must stay at least six feet apart.

Q. Is the school building clean and safe for my student to return this year?

A. Yes. Each school building is thoroughly cleaned on a daily basis and disinfecting protocols are followed.

INFECTION PROTOCOLS

(may be modified according to updated CDC, IDPH and ISBE guidance)

Q: What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

A: The IDPH and CDC have identified <u>several symptoms of COVID -19</u>, including high fever (100.4°F or higher), chills, sore throat, coughing, nausea, headache, muscle aches, loss of taste or smell, runny nose, fatigue, vomiting, diarrhea, and difficulty breathing.

Q: What should I do if my child has symptoms of COVID-19?

A: Regardless of vaccination status, if your child shows symptoms of COVID-19, you should contact your doctor. Your doctor may ask that your child participate in a COVID-19 test. You should alert your school's main office and not send your child to school.

If the symptoms occur during the school day, your child will be immediately sent to a designated isolation area with a staff member, and you will be contacted to pick your child up from school immediately.

Q: My child had COVID-19-like symptoms, however, tested negative for COVID-19. When can he/she return to school?

A: If your child does not have COVID-19, but has another illness, you should keep your child home until the illness' symptoms disappear. Your school will require you to provide a negative COVID-19 test and/or a doctor's note before your child can return to school.

Q: What should I do if my child tests positive for COVID-19?

A: You should immediately contact your doctor for additional instructions. You should also contact your school's main office. You should not send your child to school.

Q: Could my child's school building be closed down due to COVID-19 this year?

A: The safety of our students and staff is our priority. We will do our best to ensure a safe and healthy environment in the coming year. However, if numerous cases appear in a single school, resulting in the isolation of multiple classes/cohorts, we may need to close the school building and transition all students to remote learning for a time. Parents will be updated regularly should that need arise.

Q: When can a student return to school after receiving a positive COVID-19 test?

A: CDC guidelines for individuals who were suspected of having COVID-19, whether they were tested or not, state a person who has symptoms cannot return to the school building until "criteria for dissolution of isolation" is met. Decisions must also be made in the context of local circumstances:

- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared, and
- At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of fever-reducing medications, and
- Symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved.

Illinois State Board of Education recommends that medically fragile and immunocompromised students consult their medical provider prior to returning to school.

Q: What should I do if a member of my household (who is not my child) tests positive for COVID-19?

A: Students and staff who are fully vaccinated with no COVID-19-like symptoms do not need to quarantine and may return to school. Unvaccinated persons identified as a close contact will be asked to quarantine for 10 calendar days. The date of last exposure is considered day 0. If your family member recovers from COVID-19 (through meeting the criteria in the previous question) AND your child shows no COVID-19 symptoms for the 10-day period, your school may allow your child to return.

Q: What happens if my child's teacher tests positive for COVID-19?

A: Should any employee have COVID-19 symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19, we will follow the same protocols used for students (see above). If your child's teacher becomes sick and is unable to work, your school will provide a substitute teacher.

Q: What happens if another student in my child's class tests positive for COVID-19?

A: All students in the cohort will be monitored closely for COVID-19 symptoms. If your child is vaccinated, he/she will NOT be required to quarantine as long as he/she is asymptomatic. If your child is NOT vaccinated and is a close contact, he/she will be required to quarantine. Your child will then participate in remote instruction during the quarantine period.

ACADEMICS AND PROGRAMMING

Q: Will my child's curriculum be changed this year?

A: Schools will still deliver high-quality instruction in core subjects and in accordance with their Individualized Education Programs (IEP). The implementation of safety and health requirements (outlined earlier in this FAQ) will create new complexities in instruction, but our commitment remains to provide our students the best possible therapeutic day school program.

Q: Will my child's classroom look different?

A: We have instructed schools to spread out desks and tables in classrooms as much as possible. In order to maximize floorspace, we've asked teachers to remove non-essential furniture and other items. We have also asked that desks and tables be arranged so that they face the front of the room. These steps were taken to minimize risk of spreading any infection in the classroom.

Q: Will students share school supplies?

A: No. We are asking schools to ensure that students not share school supplies (e.g., books, crayons, technology, etc.), including for such subjects as art and music. Exceptions may be made for activities outdoors (such as outdoor physical education classes). If it is impossible to avoid sharing supplies, such as computers in a computer lab, such supplies will be cleaned after every use.

Q: Will students still change classes?

A: In order to protect classes in cohorts, we are asking that students not move to different classrooms in departmentalized settings.

Q: Will schools still offer classes in special subject areas (e.g., art, art therapy, music therapy, PE, etc.)?

A: Yes. As with departmentalization (see prior question), we will ask special subject area teachers to travel to each class' homeroom for instruction whenever possible. If students visit spaces such as the gymnasium, makerspace/STEM lab or library, the room will be cleaned after every cohort.

Q: Will students participate in field trips?

A: We are asking schools not to participate in in-person field trips at this time. We will monitor guidance by ISBE, CDC, and IDPH throughout the year.

Q: I need to meet with a teacher or my school principal. Can these meetings occur?

A: Yes. These meeting can take place virtually via phone or video chat.

Q: How will extracurricular activities be impacted this year?

Off-ground therapies, i.e. horse therapy: Therapies must meet specific health and safety requirements. If such requirements cannot be met, these activities should be conducted virtually or cancelled.

Job placements: Job sites must meet specific health and safety requirements. If such requirements cannot be met, these activities should be conducted virtually or canceled.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTING

Q: What specific cleaning protocols are in place?

A: Each school will be cleaned daily by an outside cleaning crew. Cleaning products and procedures used are based on the CDC recommendations for schools, workplaces, and community locations, and will meet those cleaning and disinfecting standards. School staff are prepared to clean frequently touched surfaces. High-touch surfaces such as tables, doorknobs, light switches, counters, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, and sinks will be cleaned after use.

Q: What else are you doing for safety and cleanliness?

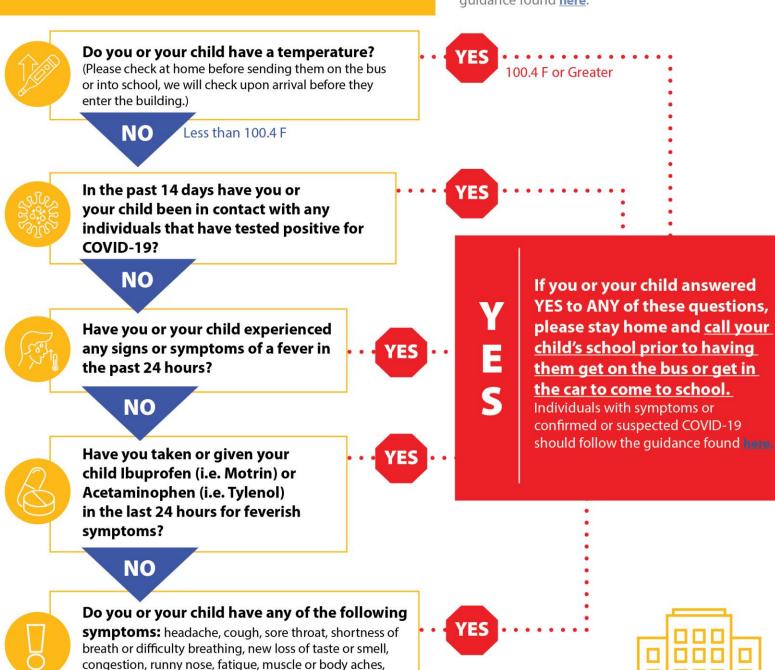
A: Windows and/or vents should be opened to maximize air flow. Barriers will be installed in main office areas. Our plan contains specific instructions for schools on managing shared areas such as hallways, gymnasiums, cafeterias, and bathrooms.

If you have any other questions about the coming school year, we invite you to contact your campus leader.

HIGH ROAD COVID-19: Symptom Screening

Ask your child and yourself these important questions before getting on the bus or coming to school. (The students will be asked similar questions again before they enter our school building.)

This guidance is intended for screening a student prior to them leaving home at the start of the school day. It is not intended for individuals confirmed or suspected of having COVID-19. Individuals with symptoms or confirmed or suspected COVID-19 should follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance found here.



NO

nausea, vomiting, diarrhea?

HIGH ROAD COVID-19: Lista de Verificatión

Hágale a su hijo/a usted mismo estas preguntas importantes antes de subir al autobús o venir a la escuela.

(A los estudiantes se les harán preguntas similares nuevamente antes de ingresar a la escuela.)

No

This guidance is intended for screening a student prior to them leaving home at the start of the school day. It is not intended for individuals confirmed or suspected of having COVID-19. Individuals with symptoms or confirmed or suspected COVID-19 should follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance found here.



Si no a TODOS los síntomas o preguntas anteriores, proceda a la escula.



Student COVID-19 Self-Certification and Verification Form

*Must be Signed by Parent/Guardian prior to Student's First Day of School Attendance

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and in order to ensure a safe and healthy environment for our school community, Joint Guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Public Health requires that every student undergo a daily symptom screening prior to utilizing School District transportation or entering any School District building. Parents/Guardians will be conducting this daily symptom screening prior to their student departing for school and reporting consistent with the parameters outlined below. This form must be signed and returned to the School District prior to the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

Name of Student:	Date of Birth:
School:	Grade Level:
Certification and Verification of Daily Symptom Screening	
	tering a SESI school building, my student will receive a daily symptomudent is experiencing any of the following COVID-19 symptoms:
 Fever (100.4 or higher) New onset moderate to severe headache Shortness of breath New cough Sore throat Vomiting Diarrhea New loss of taste or smell Fatigue for an unknown cause Muscle/body aches for an unknown cause 	
By sending my student on District transportation and/or to so received a daily symptom screening and is not experiencing a	hool on any given day, I am certifying and verifying that my student has ny COVID-19 symptoms.
absence by calling the main office number and indicating the	the time of the daily screening, I will notify the school in of my student's above symptoms that my student is experiencing. If staff contacts me to nt's daily screening, I will provide the necessary information as requested.
Certification and Verification of Other COVID-19 Related Expo	<u>osures</u>
COVID-19; (2) my student is suspected of having COVID-19; who tested positive for COVID-19 or is suspected of having C	further direction from the school if: (1) my student receives a diagnosis of (3) my student comes in close contact (definition below) with an individual OVID-19; or (4) my student traveled internationally. If staff contacts me to udent's absence, I will provide the necessary information as requested.
By sending my student on District transportation and/or to sch subject to an isolation or quarantine protocol related to COVID	nool on any given day, I am certifying and verifying that my student is not -19.
	ividual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes ic patients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection) until the time the
Parent/Guardian Signature	Date



Formulario de autocertificación v verificación del estudiante COVID-19

* Debe estar firmado por el padre / tutor antes del primer día de asistencia escolar del estudiante

En respuesta a la pandemia de COVID-19 y con el fin de garantizar un entorno seguro y saludable para nuestra comunidad escolar, la Guía conjunta de la Junta de Educación del Estado de Illinois y el Departamento de Salud Pública de Illinois requiere que todos los estudiantes se sometan a un examen diario de síntomas antes de utilizar el transporte del Distrito Escolar o ingresar a cualquier edificio del Distrito Escolar. Los padres / tutores llevarán a cabo esta evaluación diaria de síntomas antes de que su estudiante se vaya a la escuela y presentarán informes de acuerdo con los parámetros que se describen a continuación. Este formulario debe ser firmado y devuelto al Distrito Escolar antes del inicio del año escolar 2021-2022.

Nombre del Estudiante:	Fecha de Nacimiento:
Escuela:	Nivel de Grado:

Certificación v verificación de la detección diaria de síntomas

Verifico que antes de utilizar el transporte del distrito y / o ingresar a un edificio escolar de SESI, mi estudiante recibirá un examen diario de síntomas en casa por un cuidador adulto para determinar si mi estudiante tiene alguno de los siguientes síntomas de COVID-19:

- Fiebre (100.4 o más)
- · Dolor de cabeza moderado a intenso de nueva aparición
- · Dificultad para respirar
- Tos nueva
- Dolor de garganta
- Vómitos
- Diarrea
- Nueva pérdida del gusto o olfato
- · Fatiga por una causa desconocida
- Dolores musculares / corporales por una causa desconocida

Al enviar a mi estudiante en el transporte del Distrito y / o a la escuela en un día determinado, certifico y verifico que mi estudiante ha recibido un examen diario de síntomas y no tiene ningún síntoma de COVID-19.

Si mi estudiante está teniendo alguno de los síntomas anteriores en el momento de la evaluación diaria, notificaré a la escuela de la ausencia de mi estudiante llamando al número de la oficina principal e indicando los síntomas anteriores que mi estudiante está teniendo. Si el personal se pone en contacto conmigo para recopilar información adicional relacionada con los resultados de la evaluación diaria de mi estudiante, proporcionaré la información necesaria según se me solicite.

Certificación v verificación de otras exposiciones relacionadas con COVID-19

Notificaré a la escuela que mi estudiante estará ausente en espera de más instrucciones de la escuela si: (1) mi estudiante recibe un diagnóstico de COVID-19; (2) se sospecha que mi estudiante tiene COVID-19; (3) mi estudiante entra en contacto cercano (definición a continuación) con una persona que dio positivo para COVID-19 o se sospecha que tiene COVID-19; o (4) mi estudiante viajó internacionalmente. Si el personal se comunica conmigo para recopilar información adicional relacionada con las razones de la ausencia de mi estudiante, proporcionaré la información necesaria según se solicite.

Al enviar a mi estudiante en el transporte del Distrito y / o a la escuela en un día determinado, certifico y verifico que mi estudiante no está sujeto a un protocolo de aislamiento o cuarentena relacionado con COVID-19.

Para COV / 0-19, CDC definen un <u>"contacto cercano"</u> como "cualquier individuo que estuvo dentro de los 6 pies de una persona infectada al menos de 15 minutos desde 2 días antes del inicio de la enfermedad (o, para pacientes asintomáticos, 2 días antes de la recogida de muestras positivas) hasta el momento en que se aísla al paciente.

Firma del Padre/Tutor	Fecha	



Name:			Date:	
Please answer the following questions Updated 08/11/2021				
Is	Is there anyone in your household currently being tested for COVID-19? Yes or No			
	you had any signs or sympto ish" or had a temperature tha		r in the past 24 hours such as chills, sweats for you/100.4F or greater?	
	- Yes -	No		
Is there any	gone in your household that has	any of the be	low COVID-19 symptoms? Yes or No	
Do y	ou have any of the following s	symptoms?		
	- New Cough		- Sore throat	
	- Nausea		- Shortness of breath	
	- Vomiting		- Chest tightness	
	- Muscle or body aches		- New onset of moderate to severe Headache	
	- New Loss of taste and or sme	ell	- Fatigue from an unknown cause	
- Diarrhea (unless due to a known cause)				
		- Yes	- No	
In to	he past 14 days, have you had	l close conta	ct with an individual diagnosed with	
	- Yes -	No		
	Temperature check at HOME	:	_ Parent Signature	

Antes de venir a la escuela lista de verificación de padres / tutores

Hágale a su hijo / ao usted mismo estas preguntas importantes antes de subir al autobús o venir a la escuela

(A los estudiantes se les harán preguntas similares nuevamente antes de ingresar al edificio de nuestra escuela)

¿Tienes una temperatura? (Por favor verifique en casa antes de enviarlos en el autobús o en la escuela,

verificaremos a su llegada antes de que entren al edificio). 100.4 F o mayor Sí

Menos de 100.4

F No

En los últimos 14 días, ¿ha estado su hijo en contacto con alguna persona que haya dado positivo por COVID-19? SÍ NO

¿Ha experimentado su hijo algún signo o síntoma de fiebre en las últimas 24 horas?

SÍ NO

¿Ha administrado / tomado Motrin o Tylenol en las últimas 24 horas por síntomas febriles?

¿Tiene su hijo alguno de los siguientes síntomas: dolor de cabeza, tos, dolor de garganta, dificultad para respirar o dificultad para respirar, nueva pérdida de gusto u olfato,

congestión, secreción nasal, fatiga, dolores musculares o corporales, náuseas, vómitos, diarrea SÍ NO

Si respondió SÍ a CUALQUIERA de los síntomas o preguntas anteriores -----> Por favor, quédese en casa y llame a la Escuela antes de que suban al autobús o suban al auto para ir a colegio

Si no a TODOS los síntomas o preguntas anteriores -----> Proceda a la escuela