



Updated IUFSD COVID-19 Requirements & Measures of Mitigation

March 2, 2022

Dear Irvington School Community,

I continue to be proud of our community, especially our students and staff members, who have shown tremendous resilience throughout the pandemic. While each of our lives have been affected in countless ways, our students have continued to grow as learners and individuals. As a result of the dramatic reductions in the prevalence of COVID-19, New York State has relaxed many of the requirements that were put in place in schools to mitigate the spread of the virus. Just today, we took a big step by shifting to mask-optional environments.

Despite the measurable progress in the fight against COVID-19, there are many critical steps that will continue to be taken as required by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH). Additionally, there are many recommended measures that we should all follow such as consistently washing hands, staying home and seeing a doctor when ill, and continuing to maintain a responsible distance from others when possible.

Below, please find a listing of revised mitigation measures that will be implemented in the Irvington UFSD. **The items listed below supersede all previous, related requirements.**

Bus Transportation

The wearing of masks is now optional on school buses. Social distancing, when possible, is encouraged.

Return to School/Work Following Contracting COVID-19

Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 are required to self-isolate for a period of five (5) days, with day "0" being the first day of symptoms or the positive test, and may return to school/work following isolation if their symptoms have lessened and they have been fever-free for at least 24 hours.

Upon returning to school, individuals must wear masks during Days 6 - 10 of their isolation period.

Contact Tracing

For the immediate future, the District will continue to perform contact tracing efforts for each positive case of COVID-19. However, due to individuals not wearing masks, the [parameters for identifying close contacts will be broader](#). For example, due to masks not being worn by some school community members, those who have 15 minutes or longer of contact within a six (6) foot radius of an individual will be considered close contact. This is an increase from the three (3) foot radius that was applied when masks were required.

Exposed, asymptomatic individuals, regardless of vaccination status, may remain in school. It is recommended that such individuals appropriately wear a well-fitted mask and undergo recommended testing. These individuals may participate in school-based extracurricular activities and also may continue to ride the school bus. The District will

no longer operate a Test to Stay (TTS) program. Rather, the District will provide home COVID-19 test kits to those determined to be close contacts for recommended daily testing for a period of five (5) days after the last exposure. These test kits will be available in each school's health offices.

Surveillance Testing

The District will continue to facilitate weekly surveillance testing as long as it continues to be sponsored by the Department of Health.

Lunch and Snack Time

Beginning Monday, March 7th, schools will resume traditional lunch experiences with fewer restrictions on social distancing. In the elementary schools, desks and desk barriers will no longer be utilized during lunches, and snack time will be held in classrooms or outdoors rather than alternate locations.

What Should I Do if My Child Has COVID-like Symptoms?

When an individual is ill, they should always stay home and seek medical care. Home testing is encouraged at the onset of symptoms, and the individual should remain home when symptomatic. They may return to school the following day if their symptoms have improved, and the parent/guardian has communicated with the school nurse about negative home COVID-19 test results. The District will continue to provide free test kits throughout the year.

School Visitors/School Events

In the coming weeks, the District will re-evaluate the limitations that have been placed on school visitors/events. If any changes are to be made to the current practices, the school community will be notified. As always, we will attempt social distancing at events as best as possible and masks may be worn by any individual.

The community's support, cooperation, and flexibility over the past two years has enabled our schools to operate in a safe manner. However, I must extend my sincere appreciation to our students and staff members, as their efforts have made the difference and helped to provide for the health and well-being of everyone.

As more updates on the Irvington UFSD's COVID-19 mitigation plans are available, they will be provided to the school community.

Sincerely,

Kris

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