



CANTON UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT 66

RETURN TO LEARN 2021–2022

The Policies and Procedures Established in This Plan are Subject to Revisions Based Upon Local Conditions

Over the past two years, the COVID–19 pandemic has impacted all aspects of our lives, and the impact on students and staff is no exception. In response to the significant academic, social, emotional, and mental health challenges that have resulted from COVID–19 pandemic, the U.S. Congress made emergency funds available to local school districts to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID–19. Most recently, funds available through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act require that school districts develop a plan for a safe return to in–person instruction and continuity of services.

On Wednesday, August 4, 2021, Governor Pritzker announced a universal mask mandate for all Illinois P–12 schools. The mandate required that in schools all individuals must wear a mask while indoors. Also, mask exemptions for medical conditions remain available.

In creating the 2021–2022 Return to Learn Plan for Canton Union School District all guidance and mandates from the CDC, IDPH, ISBE, and the Fulton County Health Department have been taken into consideration. In addition, the district has and will continue to closely monitor COVID–19 infection rates in our community and schools. School strategies in this plan may be added or removed based upon local conditions, levels of community transmission (i.e., minimal, moderate, substantial), 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 the district’s regular communication platforms.



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Remote Learning

In accordance with the Illinois State Superintendent of Schools' July 9, 2021 declaration, all Canton Union School District #66 schools will be open fully for in-person learning for all full-day student attendance days for the 2021-22 school year. Remote instruction will only be made available for non-vaccinated or vaccine-ineligible students who are under quarantine as directed by the local health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health. In addition, remote learning may take place in response to various changes of mitigation levels.

Masks

Mask use is required indoors for students, staff, and visitors regardless of vaccination status. In addition, in accordance with IDPH and CDC guidelines, masks must be worn on busses by all passengers and bus drivers.

Quarantine and Contact Tracing

Students and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as influenza (flu) or COVID19, 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 the school's office to be either sent home or be quarantined in the school's supervised safe area while awaiting pickup/evaluation. Parents should ensure that ill students are picked up from school within 30 minutes of being notified. All Fulton County Health Department guidelines for contact tracing and quarantining will be followed. Current guidelines are as follows:

Close Contact through Proximity and Duration of Exposure: Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes). An infected person can spread SARS-CoV-2 starting from 2 days before they have any symptoms (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days before the positive specimen collection date), until they meet the criteria for discontinuing home isolation.



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Quarantine and Contact Tracing Continued.....

Exception: In the K-12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or clinically compatible illness) where:

- Both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting masks, and
- Other K-12 school prevention strategies (such as universal and correct mask use, physical distancing, increased ventilation) were in place in the K-12 school setting.

New Exclusion Policy issued by IDPH-Updated 1/11/2022

The the Illinois Department of Public Health and Illinois State Board of Education announced that the agencies have adopted CDC guidance for P-12 schools . The Centers for Disease Control updated its guidance for P-12 schools on January 6, 2022, and is effective immediately for Canton Union School District.

This new guidance provides four major revisions:

- Schools are to exclude for at least 5 calendar days from onset of symptoms of a student who tested positive for covid-19 or have covid-19 symptoms without testing but were confirmed exposed to a positive case
- Schools are to exclude symptomatic individuals with a negative COVID-19 diagnostic test(home tests not allowed) 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.
- Schools are to exclude for at least 5 calendar days from onset of symptoms any symptomatic individual without diagnostic testing who is not a known close contact to a confirmed case. Return after the 5 calendar days AND for 24 hours with no fever (without fever reducing medicine), vomiting and diarrhea have ceased AND improvement of symptoms.
- Unless fully vaccinated, and boosted if 17 and over, schools must exclude for 5 days after the last exposure to the COVID-19 case any asymptomatic individual who is a close contact to a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case.

Screening

Screening will take place in response to various mitigation levels. The district may screen additionally as needed.



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Lockers & Drinking Fountains

Students will resume the use of hall lockers. In addition, students at all buildings will continue the use of the newly implemented water stations, drinking directly from a water fountain will not be permitted.

Band and Choir

At this time, music programs will resume all regular programming including competitions, concerts, and programs. This may be altered to a virtual format or maybe canceled if additional mitigation measures must be taken.

Field Trips and Assemblies

Pending administrative approval, field trips that align with instructional outcomes and/or are in extension of the learning environment will be permitted. Some trips may require additional safety mitigations.

Visitors

Volunteers and visitors, that are present for an academic purpose, will be permitted pending proof of vaccination. In addition, changes in the visitor policy may take place in response to various changes of mitigation levels.

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 to discuss those need(s).

Staff members who need accommodations, modifications, or assistance related to COVID-19 safety protocols, disabilities, underlying medical conditions, or weakened immune systems should contact the district superintendent 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.



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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 by:

- Arranging furniture, controlling movement, play spaces and naptime materials to model and reinforce physical distancing of at least 3 feet;
- Providing assigned seating for students and requiring students to remain in these seats to the greatest extent possible; and
- School staff will maximize physical distance as much as possible when moving through food service lines and while eating indoors. Aside from the cafeteria, additional spaces for mealtime seating may be utilized when available and feasible.

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;
- Assisting young children with handwashing;
 - reminding everyone in the facility to wash hands frequently;
- Using hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol (for teachers, staff, and older students who can safely use hand sanitizer) when handwashing is not possible;
- Continuing to teach respiratory etiquette (e.g., covering coughs and sneezes).

Vaccination Clinics

Those who want to get vaccinated against COVID-19 can visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) or contact the Fulton County Health Department to find out where they can get vaccinated in our community. Canton Union School District #66 will continue to partner with the Fulton County Health Department to provide vaccination opportunities.

Plan Review

This plan will be reviewed as needed and revised as is appropriate.



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MITIGATION LEVELS

LEVEL 1- MINIMAL

Metric- Past 7 days of new positive cases per school (staff and students) is 0-1% for two consecutive weeks



- Masks are required indoors for all students and staff
- 3 feet of distance will be maintained between individuals when possible
- Students will be quarantined per the recommendation of the Fulton County Health Department
- Provide remote learning to qualifying students

LEVEL 2-MODERATE

Metric- Past 7 days of new positive cases per school (staff and students) is 1.01-3.0% for two consecutive weeks



- Masks required indoors for all students and staff at all times
- 3 feet to 6 feet of distance will be maintained between individuals when possible
- Students will be quarantined per the recommendation of the Fulton County Health Department
- Provide remote learning to qualifying students and/or implement remote learning for classes, grade level or building if needed
- Self-certification badges are required for entry
- Field trips, assemblies, and some programs may be canceled or postponed

LEVEL 3-SUBSTANTIAL

Metric- Past 7 days of new positive cases per school (staff and students) is > 3.01% for two consecutive weeks



- Masks required for all students and staff at all times
- 3 feet to 6 feet of distance will be maintained between individuals when possible
- Students will be quarantined per the recommendation of the Fulton County Health Department
- Provide remote learning to qualifying students and/or implement remote learning for classes, grade level or building if needed
- Self-certification badges and temperature screening are required for entry
- Field trips, assemblies, and some programs may be canceled or postponed

