

DIMMICK COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT #175

2021-22 Learning Plan

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

Updated: January 11, 2022

THIS PLAN IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS A RESULT ONGOING CHANGES IN GUIDANCE FROM ISBE, IDPH, CDC, OR BY EXECUTIVE ORDER.

District Priorities:

1. Ensuring the health and safety of all students, staff and visitors at Dimmick School through layered prevention and mitigation strategies.
2. Return to full day, in-person learning and activities.
3. Ensure that students are engaged in meaningful and rigorous learning experiences.

Changes to this plan, including a possible interruption of in-person learning, will be made by the Superintendent in consultation with the Board of Education, Transition Team, and, if necessary, under the direction of the Governor, Illinois Department of Public Health, local health department, Illinois State Board of Education and/or Regional Office of Education.

Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) encourage districts to track and monitor the following factors.

1. Levels of community transmission of COVID-19
2. COVID-19 vaccination coverage in the community and among students, teachers, and staff
3. Use of frequent SARS-CoV-2 screening testing programs for students, teachers and staff who are not vaccinated if feasible
4. COVID-19 outbreaks or increasing trends in the school or surrounding community
5. Ages of children served by K-8 schools and the associated social and behavioral factors that may affect risk of transmission and the feasibility of different prevention strategies

CDC/IDPH Recommendations:

Evidence to date suggests that when prevention strategies are layered and implemented with fidelity, transmission within schools is limited. Information on transmission patterns following the uptake of COVID-19 vaccines and the experiences of schools as they use different mixes of effective prevention strategies to address COVID-19 will help refine guidance.

Reducing SARS-CoV-2 transmission in schools is a shared responsibility. Schools can limit transmission by layering the following effective prevention strategies:

1. Promoting COVID-19 vaccination for those eligible
2. Consistent and correct use of masks by people who are not fully vaccinated ages 2 and older who are not fully vaccinated, appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) including facemasks should be worn at all times when in the building, except while eating or unless they have a medical condition (Verified by a physician) preventing them from wearing masks, then a face shield may be worn.
3. Physical distancing of 3' to 6' whenever possible
4. Screening testing in K-12 schools if available
5. Proper ventilation
6. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
7. Staying home when sick and getting tested
8. Testing and contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine
9. Routine cleaning with disinfection under certain conditions.

Implementing these strategies is particularly important in areas with moderate, substantial, or high transmission rates and low vaccination rates exist. CDC has developed guidance that administrators in K-12 schools can use to help protect students, teachers, and staff; slow the spread of SARS-CoV-2; and support in-person learning and care.

Expectations for In-Person Learning: All students are required to attend in-person unless specific circumstances warrant remote learning. Social distancing, universal masking, enhanced sanitation measures and other layered strategies will be in place to ensure students, staff and visitor safety.

LaSalle County Health Department: 815.433.3366 / environmentalhealth@lasallecounty.org

Bureau County Health Department: 815.872.5091

1. **Return to Regular School Day:**
 - **8:15 AM to 3:15 PM (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday)**
 - **8:15 AM to 2:30 PM (Wednesday)**
2. **Symptom Screening Self-Certification Agreement:**
 - Parents will be required to complete a 1-time form acknowledging their responsibility to screen their children for COVID-19 symptoms daily. Children exhibiting COVID-19 related symptoms must stay home and follow proper quarantine procedures. Students exhibiting symptoms will be sent home and proper quarantine procedures will be followed.
 - Staff will be required to complete a 1-time form acknowledging responsibility to monitor themselves for COVID-19 symptoms daily.
3. **Masks: MANDATED AS PER EXECUTIVE ORDER FOR ALL STUDENTS, STAFF AND PARENTS REGARDLESS OF VACCINATION STATUS WHEN INDOORS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.** Parents should ensure that their children know how to wear masks properly in to ensure the greatest level of protection. Parents should work with their children to ensure masks are worn properly and for sustained periods.
4. **Prevention Measures:** Students will be encouraged to wash their hands with soap and water frequently throughout the day.
 - Frequent hand washing and or use of hand sanitizer will be encouraged.
 - Student access to hallways and restrooms will be limited to maintain social distancing.
 - Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle, which can be refilled using the no-touch refill stations.
 - Classrooms are equipped with motion sensor lighting eliminating the need to touch switches.
 - Soap dispensers, faucets and urinals are hands free throughout the building.
 - To the extent possible, the district will follow social distancing guidance of 3' to 6'.
 - Seating charts will be maintained to allow for accurate contact tracing should it be necessary.
 - The cafeteria schedule and seating charts have been modified to ensure the greatest social distancing possible given students will have masks off while eating and drinking.
 - In dressing for school, parents need to consider their children's abilities to tie shoes, use zippers, buttons etc. District staff will not be able to assist students, so they will need to be independent.
5. **COVID-19 Symptoms:** The safety of all children and staff begins at home. We all must do our part to keep students and staff safe, to stop the spread of Covid and to ensure that our school can remain open. If your child exhibits any of the following symptoms, keep them home and contact your physician immediately:

- Fever of 100.4 or higher	- Muscle or body aches from unknown causes
- New cough	- Vomiting
- Fatigue or tiredness from unknown cause	- New loss of taste or smell
- Shortness of breath	- Sore throat
- New onset of moderate to severe headache	- Diarrhea

Should any student exhibit 1 or more symptoms above, they will be isolated, and parents/guardians will be contacted to pick them up immediately. Siblings will be permitted to remain at school as long as they are not exhibiting any symptoms, are masked, and the sibling that was sent home with symptoms gets an acceptable negative COVID test within 24 hours. If the negative results are not received, then the siblings will be sent home. Both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals exhibiting symptoms will be required to follow CDC/IDPH quarantine protocols as follows:

6. Exclusion Guidance:

<p>If you test positive for COVID-19</p>	<p>Everyone, regardless of vaccination status, must do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay home for at least 5 days and a maximum of 10 days after the 1st day of symptoms or from the date in which the positive specimen was collected • Continue to strictly adhere to mask wearing at all times for an additional 5 days after returning to school. • Individuals may return on day 6 if asymptomatic or if fever-free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication, diarrhea and vomiting have ceased for 24 hours and other symptoms have significantly improved, especially coughing • Student athletes may return to school on day 6 but may not participate in a practice or game until day 11 <p>Note, that your clinical provider may determine that longer isolation periods are necessary for various reasons.</p>
<p>If you have COVID-19 symptoms</p>	<p>Everyone, regardless of vaccination status, must immediately be excluded from school until:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receiving a negative test result that confirms symptoms are not attributable to COVID-19; or • For at least 5 days and a maximum of 10 days until fever-free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication, diarrhea and vomiting have ceased for 24 hours and other symptoms have significantly improved, especially coughing. • Student athletes may return to school on day 6 but may not participate in a practice or game until day 11 • Continue to strictly adhere to mask wearing at all times for an additional 5 days after returning to school. • Those who test positive should be excluded from school and follow the guidance for persons testing positive above.
<p>If you were exposed to someone with COVID-19 and have no symptoms</p>	<p>The following people are considered close contacts* and must be excluded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student and staff who are not fully vaccinated (complete primary series). • Students and staff aged 18 years and older who have received primary COVID-19 vaccine doses but have not received a booster dose when eligible (“boosted”). <p><i>As an alternative to exclusion for individuals who are close contacts, schools may permit close contacts without symptoms of COVID-19 who were exposed in the school setting during the school day (excludes extracurricular activities) to remain in school through test to stay if testing is available.</i></p> <p>Individuals without symptoms of COVID-19 who are not participating in Test to Stay:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remain home for 5 days after the last contact with the person with COVID-19; • Must strictly mask for an additional 5 days and remain asymptomatic; and • Should test on day 5 before returning. Those testing positive should be excluded from school and follow guidance for persons testing positive. <p>The following people are not considered close contacts requiring exclusion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A student who is within 3’ in a classroom setting for at least 15 minutes with a confirmed or probable student case if both were consistently masked for the entire exposure period. • Students and staff who have completed all recommended vaccine doses (adults-primary doses plus booster/ages 5-17 who have completed the primary doses). • An individual on school transportation within 3’ if both the confirmed case and the exposed individual were consistently masked for the entire exposure period as long as the bus was properly ventilated. • An individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 90 days from the date of exposure. • An individual who is solely exposed to a confirmed case while outdoors; however, schools may need to contact the local health department to determine the necessity of exclusion for higher risk exposures. <p>These individuals must mask around others for 10 days and may consider testing on day 5, if possible. Those testing positive should be excluded from school following guidance for persons testing positive.</p>

7. **Students and their siblings (if applicable) will be sent home as a result of showing COVID related symptoms and may return to school if the child exhibiting symptoms received a negative COVID test (either a SHIELD IL (PCR) saliva test, a SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic (PCR) test, or rapid antigen test, and presents proper documentation from a health care professional) or if the child exhibiting symptoms receives an alternative diagnosis from a medical professional and a note from the medical professional indicating the alternative diagnosis is received by the school district. Home testing kit results will NOT BE ACCEPTED.**
8. **Covid-19 Testing:**
 - Testing must be either a SHIELD IL (PCR) saliva test, a SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic (PCR) test, or a rapid antigen test and proper documentation from a health care professional must be submitted to the District prior to returning.
 - COVID testing may be available through the District. If so, parents must sign a consent form and be notified before any testing is administered at school.
 - No home testing kit results will be accepted.
 - The District will consult with the LaSalle County Health Department to determine the most appropriate course of action when positive cases are identified.
9. **Lunch/Recess:**
 - Students will need to bring their own cold lunch each day in a disposable sack or a small reusable lunch bag or box that will fit in their lockers.
 - Water fountains may be used.
 - All supplies/utensils must be supplied by parents each day.
 - Be sure to consider your child's ability to open containers included in their lunches as they will need to do so independently.
 - A sack lunch will be provided for students qualifying for free and reduced lunch if parents sign up.
 - Lunch will be held in the cafeteria if permitted by ISBE/CDC & IDPH guidelines and social distancing of 3' to 6' can be maintained.
 - Recess will be outside when weather permits and students are not required to wear masks whether in Low to Moderate or Substantial to High Transmission Levels. **Students must dress appropriately each day for the weather since we will be outside for recess on most days.**
10. **8th Grade Algebra:** All 8th grade students participating in algebra courses through L-P, Hall or St. Bede will follow all rules from their respective high school. Please contact the high schools with questions about COVID related rules.
11. **Visitors:**
 - Parents and other visitors need to contact the district office at 815.223.2933 to make an appointment if they need to meet with district staff.
 - Masks will be required for all visitors entering the building until further notice.
12. **Extracurricular Activities:** Extracurricular seasons have been scheduled for the 2021-22 school year. Guidelines for each sport will be shared prior to the start of each season.
 - All athletes will be required to wear masks when indoors.
 - Screening testing may be required for unvaccinated students participating in higher-risk sports.
 - If spectators are permitted, masks will be required regardless of vaccination status.
 - If spectators are not permitted, the District will livestream events when possible.
13. **Remote Learning:** Only available to students while they are under quarantine consistent with guidance or requirements from a local public health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health. When under quarantine, students will be required to participate in learning sessions to be counted for attendance. Sessions may include a blend of live (synchronous), recorded and digital lessons. Parental guidance and assistance may be required to support younger learners participating in remote learning.
 - Sessions will be incorporated into the weekly schedule to ensure all students remain on track with their in-person learning peers.
 - All courses will be graded according to the student handbook.

- Assignments will be linked via Google Classroom (3-8) or SeeSaw (K-2).
- Special education, 504 and Rtl support will be provided.
- Classroom lessons shared by the teacher are assigned to students and are for supporting student learning. No session may be recorded, shared, reproduced or published in any manner without the teacher's permission.
- Devices will be provided for those who need them.
- If parents cannot afford internet service, there are options available. Please contact the school and we will provide a list of providers/options.

14. **Contingency Plan for Parents and Students:** Please note, District-wide remote learning may be required under certain conditions. Given the ever-changing nature of the pandemic, we strongly advise parents to develop a contingency plan should the District need to shift to remote learning for a period of time. If implemented, a modified schedule will be distributed. For support and information on online platforms, click on the following link: **Student/Parent Tutorials** then select "Google Apps" on the top left corner and select "Classroom" for grades 3-8 or select the "Other Apps" and select "SeeSaw" for K-2. These will be the two platforms used.