

**Sherrard Community Unit School District 200**



**Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan  
2022-2023**

Revised 8.6.21  
Revised 9.22.21  
Revised 1.19.22

Revised 8.16.21  
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Revised 3.16.22

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Revised 11.17.21  
Revised 8.17.22





## Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan 2022-23

The following safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services plan:

- Describes how the LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff.
- Explains the extent to which it has adopted policies, and provide a description of any such policies, on each of the prevention and mitigation strategies recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- Describes how an LEA will ensure continuity of services, which must address students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, and which may include student health and food services.

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has fully adopted the school guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Sherrard School District uses this guidance along with the advice of the local health departments, [the Governor's Executive Orders, and the advice of](#) disease experts and attorneys. The plan is subject to change throughout the year.

### Full Return to In-Person Instruction

Per State requirements, all students will be expected to return for full in-person instruction. The only time students will be remote is when they test positive for the virus or when they are excluded from school. Government agencies emphasize in-person learning regardless of whether all prevention strategies such as social distancing can be implemented at school.

### Face Coverings

Sherrard School District's goal is to protect the health of all students and staff. On Wednesday, August 4, Governor JB Pritzker announced an Executive Order requiring that masks be worn indoors by all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. ~~Since then, the Governor has announced that individuals are no longer mandated to wear masks indoors. The mask mandate also extends to pre-kindergarten through grade 12 indoor recreational sports. All fans must wear a mask while they are inside a school building for athletic events. According to CDC guidance, an employee does not need to wear a mask when occupying an office or conference room alone.~~

~~Families who do not want their children to wear face masks for medical reasons should get a note from a healthcare provider. There are no other options available at this time for families who do not want their children to wear a mask at school.~~

The face mask should have two or more layers to stop the spread of COVID-19 and should be worn over the nose and mouth, be secured under the chin, and should fit snugly against the sides of the face without gaps.

Face shields do not provide adequate source control because respiratory droplets may be expelled from the sides and bottom. They may only be used as substitutes for face masks in the limited circumstances.

The district and all buses maintain a supply of cloth and disposable face masks in the event that a staff member, student, or visitor does not have one for use.

In addition to mask wearing, it is especially important to layer other preventive strategies to keep our schools safe. These strategies include maintaining at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms, screening testing, ventilation, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick, contact tracing in combination with exclusion and isolation, cleaning and disinfection.

#### Wearing PPE When Evaluating Individuals with symptoms

Staff members involved in the assessment or clinical evaluation of a student or staff member with COVID-19-like symptoms should wear the required PPE and remove it correctly and safely. The PPE includes a fit-tested N95 mask, eye protection with face shield or goggles, gown, and gloves.

#### Governor's Vaccine Mandate

On August 26, 2021, Governor Pritzker announced a vaccine mandate for all school personnel. In lieu of vaccination, staff members can take a weekly COVID-19 test. The COVID-19 test must be either a nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT), including PCR tests, or an antigen test.

All unvaccinated staff, coaches, subs and volunteers must be tested weekly for COVID-19. Vaccinated individuals are exempt from the weekly testing protocol. According to the Governor's Executive Order, those who are unvaccinated must not be on the premises of the school district.

It is the responsibility of those who are unvaccinated to take the initiative to be tested. They should not wait for a nurse or administrator to remind them.

Testing can be done on-site by school staff, or it can be done by an authorized COVID-19 testing facility (e.g., Walgreens, CVC, Hy-Vee, health department, etc.).

If testing is done on-site, a testing consent form needs to be completed by each individual prior to testing each week. A supply of the forms can be found in the staff lounge of each building.

Those who have contracted the COVID-19 virus are exempt from the weekly testing requirement for 90 days beginning with the day the individual tested positive.

Coaches and coaching volunteers only need to be tested during the weeks they have contact with the students. For example, if an unvaccinated individual only coaches track in the spring, then they don't need to be tested in the fall. This person would start testing when the preseason practices begin. Coaches would need to be tested throughout the year if they have regular open gyms or other contact with the students during the off season.

Staff members who decline to be tested must notify the superintendent by the end of the work day on Friday, September 24, 2021. If a reasonable accommodation cannot be made, the staff members will be placed on unpaid leave beginning Monday, September 27, 2021. Unused personal days can be applied before unpaid leave begins. The staff members must indicate their final intent about weekly testing before the Board meeting on October 20, 2021. Staff members who decline to be tested at this time will be given an opportunity to resign or face a recommendation for termination that will be presented to the Board of education on October 20, 2021.

On November 8, 2021, Governor Pritzker signed into law a change to the Illinois Health Care Right of Conscience Act to clarify the law was not intended to cover a contagious and deadly pandemic. The law was established in response to individuals who cited it as a way to avoid repercussions for refusing to wear a mask and/or participate in COVID-19 testing.

#### Staying Home from School with Vaccine Side Effects

Some of the side effects from the vaccine are the same as the symptoms for COVID-19. It is important to note that the vaccine does not contain SARS-CoV-2 and cannot give your child COVID-19. Occasionally, the side effects following vaccination are indicative of COVID-19 infection instead. There are a few ways to tell if it's just the side effects or something more serious. Most times, the side effects are mild and usually fade within 24 hours. An individual shouldn't feel prolonged effects from the vaccine itself. Everyone's reaction will be on a case-by-case basis. If a recently vaccinated person finds the symptoms worsening or lingering longer than a day or two, that person should contact a healthcare provider who will be able to provide direction on the best next steps, including, potentially, a COVID-19 test. In summary, as long as the student feels good enough to go to school, it is okay for them to attend. The student should stay at home, however, if the side effects linger and there is concern about COVID-19 infection.

#### Updated COVID-19 Symptoms

Over the past 18 months, there have been numerous changes to the list of COVID-19 symptoms. People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough

- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or Vomiting
- Diarrhea

### Illness

Students, teachers, and staff should stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care. Students with symptoms should not come to school with the expectation of being tested for COVID-19. However, parents may contact the school nurse to set up a time to receive a drive-up test at school. Doing so will put others at risk of infection. Students who develop symptoms at home should get tested at the health department, a local pharmacy, or a medical facility.

A symptomatic individual must provide verification a negative COVID test administered by a licensed facility such as a clinic, pharmacy, health department or be tested by a trained tester at school. Negative home tests are not accepted; however, positive home tests are accepted.

If a rapid test is negative, the building nurses or administrators may require a PCR test if the individual reports loss of taste or smell, has had a recent exposure, or has other concerning symptoms. ~~A PCR test is required if the symptomatic individual has had known COVID exposure in the last 14 days.~~

## ISOLATION AND GUIDANCE FROM CDC, ISBE, AND IDPH

### Isolation for those testing positive with COVID-19

- Staff or students who test positive for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, should isolate for 5 days after onset of symptoms, or 5 days after specimen collection if no symptoms are present.
- Staff or students who test positive for COVID-19 and have no symptoms or their symptoms are resolving can be released from isolation after 5 days. To calculate the 5-day isolation period, day 0 is the 1<sup>st</sup> day of symptoms or specimen collection date if no symptoms. If they continue to have a fever, or other symptoms have not improved after

5 days of isolation, they should wait to end isolation until they are fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication and their symptoms have improved.

- Staff or students who test positive and qualify for release after day 5 of isolation need to do the following:
  - ✓ Wearing a well-fitted mask around others at school and home for 5 additional days after release from isolation is recommended. ~~If unable to wear a mask, they need to continue to isolate for a total of 10 days.~~
  - ✓ Avoid being around students or staff who are immunocompromised or at high risk for severe disease.
  - ✓ ~~If masks are removed for meals/snacks, there must be 6 feet social distancing until 10 days after symptom onset or positive test.~~

### **Exclusion Guidelines for Close Contacts to Someone with Covid-19**

#### **Those who do not have to be excluded from school**

- Those who are age 18 or older and have received all recommended vaccine doses, including boosters, and additional primary shots for some immunocompromised people do not have to be excluded from school.
- Those who are 5-17 years old and have completed the primary series of vaccine do not have to be excluded from school.
- Those who have been confirmed to have COVID-19 in the last 90 days using a viral test do not have to be excluded from school.
- The above do need to wear a mask around others for 10 days and they should test on day 5 if possible.
- If the individual develops symptoms, they should immediately isolate until a negative test confirms symptoms are not caused by COVID-19.

#### **Test to stay**

- ~~ISBE and IDPH now allow close contacts to Close contacts who agree to test may remain in school through a test to stay protocol.~~
- ~~Test to stay may be used for both students and staff.~~



- ~~Test to stay may be used for the following individuals:
 
  - ✓ ~~Those who are 18 years of age or older and have completed the primary series of recommended vaccines or vaccine but have not received a recommended booster shot when eligible, or~~
  - ✓ ~~Those who are unvaccinated or have not completed a primary vaccine series.~~
  - ✓ ~~Those who have close contact with a positive individual outside of school.~~~~
- ~~Following an exposure occurring in the school setting that occur during the school day, close contacts are permitted to remain at school as long as close contacts are tested twice during the designated period of time. Generally, individuals will test on days 3 and 5 or 4 and 6 after the exposure. Occasionally, an individual will need to be tested only once if time has lapsed before the district becomes aware of the positive case.~~
- ~~If at any time the student or staff person tests positive or becomes symptomatic, they should be immediately isolated and sent home, excluded from school, and the local health department notified (if the individual tests positive).~~

#### ~~Those who do need to be excluded from school~~

- ~~Those who choose not to participate in the test to stay protocol must be excluded from school.~~
- ~~Those who had close contact with an individual who lives in the home (usually immediate family members) must be excluded from school. The five-day exclusion period begins after isolation from the positive contact begins. If the close contact does not isolate from the positive person, the close contact must be excluded from school for 10 days.~~
- ~~These individuals need to stay home and mask around others for 5 days. After that, they need to continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.~~
- ~~These individuals should test on day 5 if possible.~~
- ~~If masks are removed for meals/snacks, there must be 6 feet social distancing until 10 days after their last exposure to a positive individual. Masks need to be worn once the individual is finished eating.~~
- ~~If the individual develops symptoms, they should immediately isolate until a negative test confirms symptoms are not caused by COVID-19.~~

## Extra-Curricular Participation

~~Students and staff who are not fully vaccinated or unboosted may participate in extracurricular activities during the testing period but may not participate in competitive play or performances during the testing period. After the five day testing period has concluded, close contacts may fully participate in all aspects of the school day and extracurricular activities including competitions and performances, as long as they remain consistently and correctly masked and physically distanced as much as possible. Test to stay participants should avoid social gatherings and remain at home when not at school functions for the full testing period and monitor for symptoms for 10 days. Students testing positive may return to full extra-curricular competition on day 6 after symptom onset if symptoms have improved and the student is fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication.~~

## Testing

Rapid testing (antigen) will be available for symptomatic individuals at school. ~~Individuals who qualify for Test to Stay will also be tested using an antigen test. Students who have symptoms at home should not come to school to get a test. The health department does not allow schools to use the negative results of tests that were administered at home.~~

## Social Distancing

~~Social distancing will be maintained to the greatest extent possible utilizing the 3-foot guidelines for those who are properly masked. The social distance threshold increases to 6 feet when the students remove the mask while eating or when the students are not wearing their masks properly. Six feet of social distance must be maintained for unmasked students who have a medical note from a healthcare provider. Physical distance should be measured as the distance between persons (i.e., "mouth to mouth") rather than between furniture (e.g., desk to desk).~~

## Busing

- ~~• Parents are encouraged to transport their own students to and from school~~
- The wearing of masks is optional for the drivers and riders.
- ~~Bus riders, drivers included, will be required to wear a mask.~~
- ~~• Bus riders will have assigned seats with siblings when possible~~
- The buses will be sanitized daily
- PPE and sanitizing products will be available on all buses
- ~~Unvaccinated drivers must keep the front two seats on the bus unoccupied.~~

- ~~To determine 6 feet of social distance, the two seats in front, two seats behind, and three seats beside the positive student will be used.~~
- ~~To determine 3 feet of social distance, one seat in front, one seat behind, and one seat beside the positive student will be used.~~
- Air purifier machines using HEPA filters have been will be installed on all buses. The use of the filter machines allows the district to use a 3-foot social distance benchmark.
- Because of social distance concerns and contact tracing difficulties, students will not be allowed to ride a non-assigned bus (e.g., go home with a friend).

### Outbreak

The IDPH has adopted the CDC definition of what constitutes an outbreak. A school outbreak is now defined “as either (1) multiple cases comprising at least 10% of students, teachers, or staff within a core group or (2) at least three cases within a specified core group. A core group means only those individuals who were together during an exposure period. For example, this could be limited to a classroom, a sports team, before/after school care, performing arts, or other groups and likely does not apply to the entire school population.”

These individuals are identified to be close contacts with each other while in the school setting and not another setting outside of school. The cases must also be epidemiologically linked to the school setting or extracurricular activity, meaning they were at the same place at the same time.

### School Day

All schools will return to a full-day schedule five days a week.

### Preschool

The half-day preschool schedules will return to their pre-pandemic start and end times. The morning preschool hours will be 8:50-11:30. The afternoon preschool hours will be 12:45-3:40.

### Wednesday Teacher Institutes

Teacher institutes will be implemented on various Wednesdays throughout the school year. Junior/Senior high students will be dismissed at 1:00 and the elementary students will be dismissed at 2:00.

### Capacity Limits

There are no longer any capacity limits for outdoor and indoor areas. School buses are no longer limited to 50 students.

#### Daily Symptom Screening

Schools do not have to conduct daily symptom screenings this year. ~~However, there still needs to be daily self-certification checks.~~ The parents are asked to daily check their children for COVID-19 symptoms and keep them home if the child displays one or more of the symptoms. ~~The staff will also be asked to sign a form promising to conduct daily symptom checks.~~

#### Website Posting of Positive Cases

The District will continue posting the number of positive COVID-19 cases to the district website under the “Community” tab on the homepage. The information will be given for each building in two formats: 1) results for the current week and 2) cumulative results for the school year.

#### Nurses

The district will continue to employ two additional nurses in the district (total of 4). A full-time nurse will be assigned to each campus.

#### PreK-4 Art and Music

The elementary art and music teachers will travel to Winola and Sherrard Elementary as they did prior to the pandemic. The students will travel to the designated classrooms for instruction.

#### Field Trips

Field trips with a strong academic connection will be allowed during the second semester of the ~~2021-2022~~ 2022-23 school year.

#### Backpack Night and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation

The backpack nights and 7<sup>th</sup> grade orientation will be held as usual.

#### ~~Family Nights, Career Days, Grandparents Days~~

~~None of these activities will take place during the first semester. They will be reevaluated at the end of the first semester to see if they can be implemented at some point~~

~~during the second semester. Some of them will be allowed during the second semester in a limited capacity. These activities may resume, when possible, for the 2022-23 school year.~~

#### ~~Matherville Cohort~~

~~———— Last year, the sixth grade students were grouped together for most of their classes. This year, the students will be interspersed throughout the classes so they can get to know more students. The students will return to the cohort model if the number of positive cases reaches 5%. In November, the number of positive cases exceeded the 5% threshold and the school pivoted to the cohort model.~~

#### ~~Desks and Tables~~

~~———— To maintain 6 feet of social distance last year, some classrooms replaced their tables with desks. That arrangement will be maintained for another school year.~~

#### ~~Free Breakfast and Lunch~~

~~———— The federal government provided free breakfast and lunch meals to all students regardless of income last year. The free meals will continue again this year.~~

#### ~~Lunch Room Protocol~~

~~———— The JH/SH will continue with the sack meal format at the beginning of the school year. There may be a transition to tray meals at some point. The elementary schools will provide tray meals on the first day of school. There will be a limited number of a la carte items available for sale this year.~~

~~———— The elementary schools will continue to have the expanded lunch schedule as a means to maintain social distance. The JH will spread the students out among the tables. The HS will continue to use multiple locations (commons, gym, outside) to increase social distance.~~

#### ~~Playgrounds~~

~~There will be no restrictions on the use of the playground equipment. It is recommended students use hand sanitizer when they leave the building and when they enter the building.~~

#### ~~Toys~~

~~Students will not be allowed to bring toys to school.~~

## Physical Education

PE activities will return to normal. Students at the JH/SH will change into PE clothes. The showers will be used as appropriate (e.g., wrestling team). The students will be assigned lockers in the locker rooms for PE class and for athletics. So that students can have a mask break, PE teachers are strongly encouraged to have class outside during the suitable weather.

## Water Fountains

Each school has at least two water bottle filler stations and the students use them to fill their water bottles. The same protocol will be followed this year. The water fountains will remain off. An additional bottle filler station will be installed at each of the schools. Students are encouraged to bring their water bottles from home.

## Building Rentals

The school facilities can be rented by community groups. ~~All persons attending events held in school facilities must be properly masked at all times.~~ Students being excluded from school are not allowed to be on school property for any reason during the exclusion period. This includes participation in evening and weekend events held in the schools.

## Signage

Signage will be posted regarding [suggestions on](#) masks, handwashing, and social distancing

## Visitors

Visitors and volunteers will be allowed into the school buildings for authorized purposes only. The vestibules will be used for routine situations (e.g., dropping off a permission slip or pick up homework). Visitors and volunteers who enter the building will confirm they have no COVID-19 symptoms ~~and they will wear a mask.~~ The district will be exploring the feasibility of purchasing background check software for each of the schools.

## Sharing of Materials

Students will not be allowed to share materials without first sanitizing those materials.

## Band and Choir

Bell covers will continue to be used in band. Disposable cups will be used when emptying spit from instruments. Air purifiers will be purchased for all band and chorus rooms.

#### Driver's Education

All occupants in the driver's education vehicles will wear a mask while they are in the vehicles.

#### Concerts and Christmas Programs

There will be band and chorus concerts, elementary Christmas concerts and plays/musicals as scheduled. ~~The K-6 students will not use risers, but will be socially distanced across the gym floor while performing.~~

#### Veteran's Day

Each school will host its own Veteran's Day activities (i.e., schools will not travel to one location for a presentation). ~~The students will not gather together for a whole school for a whole school assembly. Instead, they will have classroom activities. For health's sake, veterans will not be invited to participate in person.~~

#### Internet signal being broadcast at Coyne Center and New Windsor

For the second year, an internet signal will broadcast from the Coyne Center Fire Station and the New Windsor Presbyterian Church. A permanent internet signal will continue to be broadcast into the parking lots of each school campus.

#### Mental Health Caseworker

The district's mental health caseworker services will be reduced from full-time to part-time.

#### Classroom Parties and Birthdays

Schools will be allowed to resume having parties again. All food items must be individually wrapped. Homemade treats will not be allowed. No parents will be allowed to attend the parties. The Halloween parades will be outside weather permitting. If the parades must be indoors, they will be video-streamed live over the internet (i.e., no parents can come into the buildings to see the parades).

#### Staff Food Celebrations

The staff may resume having food celebrations (e.g., birthdays). The use of individually-wrapped food items is preferred. Participants should wear gloves if serving utensils will be shared.

## IEPs and 504 Plans

The district encourages the staff and parents to conduct all IEP and 504 plans virtually.

## Parent-Teacher Conferences

The Parent-teacher conferences may be conducted in-person, but it is permissible for them to occur virtually.

## Teachers Cleaning Desks

The teachers are encouraged to continue sanitizing student desks at key points during the school day. Hand sanitizer, bottles of sanitizer, micro cloths and gloves will be available to all classrooms.

## H2Orange2

The H2Orange2 spray is a sanitizer/virucide and is used to clean surfaces in the classrooms. Hydrogen peroxide is a disinfectant and it is a key ingredient in the H2Orange 2 cleaner. Each teacher has been provided with a spray bottle containing this product and some micro cleaning cloths.

The custodians will clean and sanitize all the classrooms once a day and the maintenance staff will use the electrostatic sprayer once a day to disinfect the classrooms. The 6-12 teachers are encouraged to use the cleaner before a new group of students comes into the room. The PreK-5 teachers are encouraged to use the cleaner at some point in the middle of the day. The following is a list of procedures for the use of the cleaner.

1. The cleaner is safe enough to use without gloves. Teachers are welcome to use gloves, however.
2. The cleaners should be sprayed 6-8 inches from the surface. A micro cloth should be used to wipe off the surface. The cleaner can be allowed to dwell on the surface for a few minutes or it can be wiped off immediately.
3. Damp wipe (i.e., wipe while the surface is still wet) all the student desktops.
4. Damp wipe door handles, light switches, pencil sharpeners and other frequently touched surfaces.
5. Store the now-soiled micro cloth in a spot that is mutually agreed upon with the custodians who will take the soiled cloths to be laundered.

## Transmission Via Surfaces

The virus is transmitted primarily through droplets in the air, not from touching surfaces. However, it is important to clean, sanitize and disinfect surfaces because, when the virus is transmitted by touching surfaces, it is usually because individuals rubbed their eyes or



touched their mouths with their fingers. Because of this, everyone should wash their hands frequently for 20 seconds with soap and water and use hand sanitizer when hand washing isn't an option.

The following is a quote from a CDC statement: *"In most situations, the risk of infection from touching a surface is low. The most reliable way to prevent infection from surfaces is to regularly wash hands or use hand sanitizer. When no people with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 are known to have been in a space, cleaning once a day is usually enough to sufficiently remove virus that may be on surfaces and help maintain a healthy facility."*

#### Library Books

The school libraries will no longer isolate books when they are returned. The books will be a part of the regular cleaning protocol and made available to the students and staff.

#### Extra Cleaning

The custodial staff will continue to conduct extra cleaning throughout the buildings. The two new custodial positions will continue to be used for extra cleaning and as substitutes for other custodians who are absent.

#### Isolation Rooms

Each building will continue to maintain an isolation room for students who display COVID-19 symptoms but have to wait for a parent to pick them up from school.

#### ~~Close Proximity Classroom Activities~~

~~Teachers are discouraged from having classroom activities that cause the students to be in close proximity with each other.~~

#### ~~Lockers~~

~~The 5-12 students will be able to use the lockers, but they will be assigned in a way to allow for social distancing.~~

#### Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program (DHH)

Sherrard School District hosts the Blackhawk Special Education District's (BHASED) DHH program at Winola Elementary and Matherville Intermediate School. The individuals in that program will follow the protocols set by BHASED including a mask mandate.

## Music

Students should avoid sharing instruments. If instruments must be shared (e.g., drums, mallet instruments, ukuleles), they should be cleaned and disinfected between students. Students are discouraged from sharing music stands so that students do not inadvertently move closer to each other to see the music.

~~Masks must be worn while singing. Masks with slits should be worn when possible while playing instruments involving the mouth.~~ Bell covers should be used while playing wind and brass instruments. Brass fluid (saliva) should be eliminated using disposable cups. The cups should be dropped into a lined garbage can after each practice.

## Exclusion

Governor Pritzker issued an Executive Order (EO) on Friday, September 17 clarifying exclusions effective immediately. The EO defines exclusion as a school's obligation to refuse admittance to the school premises, extracurricular events or any other events organized by the school, regardless of whether an isolation or quarantine order issued by a local health department has expired or has not been issued; exclusion from a school shall not be considered isolation or quarantine. Because of this definition in the EO, Sherrard School District will endeavor to start using the word "exclude" or "exclusion" in place of "quarantine" and "isolation."

~~Close contacts will be excluded for at least 10 days after their last exposure to the positive individual. If they remain symptom free, they may return to school on day 11. Anyone developing symptoms after exposure should be tested.~~

~~For household close contacts, they will be excluded for at least 10 days, after they are able to separate from the positive family member. This may not be possible with younger students. If they are not able to separate, then the 10-day count will begin the day the positive person is released. If another family member develops symptoms the count will start over.~~

The local health departments are consulted about have the final say about exclusion. Generally, the district will make decisions that are in line with the health department in the county where individuals live will make the decisions about being excluded.

~~Individuals who have been fully vaccinated and do not have any COVID-19 symptoms do not have to be excluded from school.~~

~~To avoid exclusion, a six-foot social distance must be maintained by unvaccinated staff members.~~

~~With local health department approval, the following protocols will be used for exclusion:~~

- ~~1. For situations where the close contact student and/or the individual who tested positive were not wearing masks properly, six feet of social distance will be used in determining exclusion.~~
- ~~2. For situations where the positive individual and the student are both wearing their masks properly, 3 feet of social distance will be used in determining exclusion.~~

- ~~3. Students and teachers who have not maintained social distance have the option of a Test to Stay protocol. Close contacts must be tested on days 1, 3, 5, and 7 after exposure. The days of testing will be adjusted with weekends and holidays. Parents may also choose to keep their child home from 10 days, returning on day 11 after exposure, if they remain symptom free. As long as close contacts remain negative, they are not required to be excluded. Close contacts are only eligible for Test to Stay if both the close contact and infected individual were properly wearing masks at the time of exposure. Students on a test to stay may now return to sports once they have completed the 7-day testing protocol as long as they remain asymptomatic and test negative throughout the testing period. They also must remain masked and should social distance as much as possible.—~~
- ~~4. If the excluded students and staff have a negative PCR test result from a test taken on day 6 of the exclusion period, they may return to school on day 7 of the exclusion period. This provision has been temporarily suspended by the local health departments.~~
- ~~5. Families should notify the school when a close contact develops COVID-19 symptoms while in exclusion.~~
- ~~6. Close contacts may return to sports when released from exclusion.~~
- ~~7. Students in test to stay may now return to sports once they have completed the 7-day testing protocol as long as they remain asymptomatic and test negative throughout the testing period. They also must remain masked and should social distance as much as possible.—~~

### Help with Excluded Students

From the newly ratified labor agreement: “Teachers who have total of three (3) or more excluded students in their PreK-5th grade class, and teachers who have a total of six (6) or more excluded students in their 6th-12th grade classes will have access to district-provided staff who will assist with communication, questions, and instruction with the excluded students. This access will last until the number of excluded students falls below the aforementioned levels.”

## Revisions for 8.17.22 (Changes in BLUE)

Pages 4-7:

If a rapid test is negative, the building nurses or administrators may require a PCR test if the individual reports loss of taste or smell, **has had a recent exposure**, or has other concerning symptoms. ~~A PCR test is required if the symptomatic individual has had known COVID exposure in the last 14 days.~~

• Staff or students who test positive and qualify for release after day 5 of isolation need to do the following:

- ✓ Wearing a well-fitted mask around others at school and home for 5 additional days after release from isolation is recommended. ~~If unable to wear a mask fo, they need to continue to isolate for a total of 10 days.~~
- ✓ ~~If masks are removed for meals/snacks, there must be 6 feet social distancing until 10 days after symptom onset or positive test.~~

### **Test to stay**

- ~~ISBE and IDPH now allow close contacts to~~ Close contacts who agree to test may remain in school through a test to stay protocol.
- ~~Test to stay may be used for both students and staff.~~
- ~~Test to stay may be used for the following individuals:~~
  - ✓ ~~Those who are 18 years of age or older and have completed the primary series of recommended vaccines or vaccine but have not received a recommended booster shot when eligible, or~~
  - ✓ ~~Those who are unvaccinated or have not completed a primary vaccine series.~~
  - ✓ ~~Those who have close contact with a positive individual outside of school.~~
- ~~Following an exposure occurring in the school setting that occur during the school day, close contacts are permitted to remain at school as long as close contacts are tested twice during the designated period of time. Generally, individuals will test on days 3 and 5 or 4 and 6 after the exposure. Occasionally, an individual will need to be tested only once if time has lapsed before the district becomes aware of the positive case.~~
- ~~If at any time the student or staff person tests positive or becomes symptomatic, they should be immediately isolated and sent home, excluded from school, and the local health department notified (if the individual tests positive).~~

### **~~Those who do need to be excluded from school~~**

- Those who choose not to participate in the test to stay protocol must be excluded from school.
- Those who had close contact with an individual who lives in the home (usually immediate family members) must be excluded from school. The five-day exclusion period begins after isolation from the positive contact begins. If the close contact does not isolate from the positive person, the close contact must be excluded from school for 10 days.
- These individuals need to stay home and mask around others for 5 days. After that, they need to continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.
- These individuals should test on day 5 if possible.
- If masks are removed for meals/snacks, there must be 6 feet social distancing until 10 days after their last exposure to a positive individual. Masks need to be worn once the individual is finished eating.
- If the individual develops symptoms, they should immediately isolate until a negative test confirms symptoms are not caused by COVID-19.

### **Extra-Curricular Participation**

Students and staff who are not fully vaccinated or unboosted may participate in extracurricular activities during the testing period but may not participate in competitive play or performances during the testing period. After the five-day testing period has concluded, close contacts may fully participate in all aspects of the school day and extracurricular activities including competitions and performances, as long as they remain consistently and correctly masked and physically distanced as much as possible. Test to stay participants should avoid social gatherings and remain at home when not at school functions for the full testing period and monitor for symptoms for 10 days. Students testing positive may return to full extra-curricular competition on day 6 after symptom onset if symptoms have improved and the student is fever free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication.

Page 7:

Busing

- Parents are encouraged to transport their own students to and from school

- The wearing of masks is optional for the drivers and riders.
- ~~Bus riders, drivers included, will be required to wear a mask.~~
- ~~Bus riders will have assigned seats with siblings when possible~~
- The buses will be sanitized daily
- PPE and sanitizing products will be available on all buses
- ~~Unvaccinated drivers must keep the front two seats on the bus unoccupied.~~
- ~~To determine 6 feet of social distance, the two seats in front, two seats behind, and three seats beside the positive student will be used.~~
- ~~To determine 3 feet of social distance, one seat in front, one seat behind, and one seat beside the positive student will be used.~~

Page 9:

#### Daily Symptom Screening

Schools do not have to conduct daily symptom screenings this year. ~~However, there still needs to be daily self-certification checks.~~ The parents are asked to daily check their children for COVID-19 symptoms and keep them home if the child displays one or more of the symptoms. ~~The staff will also be asked to sign a form promising to conduct daily symptom checks.~~

#### Field Trips

Field trips with a strong academic connection will be allowed during the second semester of the 2021-2022 2022-23 school year.

Pages 9-10:

#### ~~Family Nights, Career Days, Grandparents Days~~

~~None of these activities will take place during the first semester. They will be reevaluated at the end of the first semester to see if they can be implemented at some point during the second semester. Some of them will be allowed during the second semester in a limited capacity. These activities may resume, when possible, for the 2022-23 school year.~~

#### ~~Matherville Cohort~~

~~Last year, the sixth grade students were grouped together for most of their classes. This year, the students will be interspersed throughout the classes so they can get to know more students. The students will return to the cohort model if the number of positive cases reaches 5%. In November, the number of positive cases exceeded the 5% threshold and the school pivoted to the cohort model.~~

#### ~~Desks and Tables~~

~~———— To maintain 6 feet of social distance last year, some classrooms replaced their tables with desks. That arrangement will be maintained for another school year.~~

#### Free Breakfast and Lunch

~~———— The federal government provided free breakfast and lunch meals to all students regardless of income last year. The free meals will continue again this year.~~

#### Lunch Room Protocol

~~———— The JH/SH will continue with the sack meal format at the beginning of the school year. There may be a transition to tray meals at some point. The elementary schools will provide tray meals on the first day of school. There will be a limited number of a la carte items available for sale this year.~~

~~———— The elementary schools will continue to have the expanded lunch schedule as a means to maintain social distance. The JH will spread the students out among the tables. The HS will continue to use multiple locations (commons, gym, outside) to increase social distance.~~

#### Playgrounds

There will be no restrictions on the use of the playground equipment. It is recommended students use hand sanitizer when they leave the building and when they enter the building.

Page 11:

#### Signage

Signage will be posted regarding suggestions on masks, handwashing, and social distancing

Page 12:

#### Concerts and Christmas Programs

There will be band and chorus concerts, elementary Christmas concerts and plays/musicals as scheduled. ~~The K-6 students will not use risers, but will be socially distanced across the gym floor while performing.~~

#### Veteran's Day

Each school will host its own Veteran's Day activities (i.e., schools will not travel to one location for a presentation). ~~The students will not gather together for a whole school for a whole school assembly. Instead, they will have classroom activities. For health's sake, veterans will not be invited to participate in person.~~

Page 14:

### ~~Close Proximity Classroom Activities~~

~~Teachers are discouraged from having classroom activities that cause the students to be in close proximity with each other.~~

### ~~Lockers~~

~~The 5-12 students will be able to use the lockers, but they will be assigned in a way to allow for social distancing.~~

Page 15:

### Music

Students should avoid sharing instruments. If instruments must be shared (e.g., drums, mallet instruments, ukuleles), they should be cleaned and disinfected between students. Students are discouraged from sharing music stands so that students do not inadvertently move closer to each other to see the music.

~~Masks must be worn while singing. Masks with slits should be worn when possible while playing instruments involving the mouth.~~ Bell covers should be used while playing wind and brass instruments. Brass fluid (saliva) should be eliminated using disposable cups. The cups should be dropped into a lined garbage can after each practice.

### Revisions for 3.16.22

Page 1: The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has fully adopted the school guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Sherrard School District uses this guidance along with the advice of the local health departments, the Governor's Executive Orders, and the advice of disease experts and attorneys. The plan is subject to change throughout the year.

Page 4: Students with symptoms should not come to school with the expectation of being tested for COVID-19. However, parents may contact the school nurse to set up a time to receive a drive-up test at school.

If a rapid test is negative, the building nurses or administrators may require a PCR test if the individual reports loss of taste or smell, had a recent exposure, or has other concerning symptoms. A PCR test is required if the symptomatic individual has had known COVID exposure in the last 14 days.

Pages 5 & 6: **Test to stay**



- ISBE and IDPH now allow close contacts to Close contacts who agree to test may remain in school through a test to stay protocol.
- Test to stay may be used for the following individuals:
  - ✓ ~~Those who have close contact with a positive individual outside of school.~~
- Following an exposure occurring in the school setting that occur during the school day, close contacts are permitted to remain at school as long as close contacts are tested twice during the designated period of time. Generally, individuals will test on days 3 and 5 or 4 and 6 after the exposure. Occasionally, an individual will need to be tested only once if time has lapsed before the district becomes aware of the positive case.
- If at any time the student or staff person tests positive or becomes symptomatic, they should be immediately isolated and sent home, excluded from school, and the local health department notified (if the individual tests positive).

Page 7: Students testing positive may return to full extra-curricular competition on day 6 after symptom onset if symptoms have improved and the student is fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication.

Social distancing will be maintained to the greatest extent possible utilizing the 3 feet guidelines for those who are properly masked.

#### Busing

- Parents are encouraged to transport their own students to and from school
- The wearing of masks is optional for the drivers and riders.
- ~~Bus riders, drivers included, will be required to wear a mask.~~

Page 9 & 10: Field trips with a strong academic connection will be allowed during the second semester of the 2021-2022 school year.

#### Family Nights, Career Days, Grandparents Days

None of these activities will take place during the first semester. ~~They will be reevaluated at the end of the first semester to see if they can be implemented at some point during the second semester.~~ Some of them will be allowed during the second semester in a limited capacity.

#### Matherville Cohort

Last year, the sixth grade students were grouped together for most of their classes. This year, the students will be interspersed throughout the classes so they can get to know more students. The students will return to the cohort model if the number of positive cases reaches

5%. In November, the number of positive cases exceeded the 5% threshold and the school pivoted to the cohort model.

Page 11: The school facilities can be rented by community groups. ~~All persons attending events held in school facilities must be properly masked at all times.~~

Visitors and volunteers who enter the building will confirm they have no COVID-19 symptoms ~~and they will wear a mask.~~

Pages 15 and 16: ~~Masks must be worn while singing. Masks with slits should be worn when possible while playing instruments involving the mouth.~~

~~Close contacts will be excluded for at least 10 days after their last exposure to the positive individual. If they remain symptom free, they may return to school on day 11. Anyone developing symptoms after exposure should be tested.~~

~~For household close contacts, they will be excluded for at least 10 days, after they are able to separate from the positive family member. This may not be possible with younger students. If they are not able to separate, then the 10-day count will begin the day the positive person is released. If another family member develops symptoms the count will start over.~~

The local health departments are consulted about have the final say about exclusion. Generally, the district will make decisions that are in line with the health department in the county where individuals live will make the decisions about being excluded.

~~Individuals who have been fully vaccinated and do not have any COVID-19 symptoms do not have to be excluded from school.~~

~~To avoid exclusion, a six-foot social distance must be maintained by unvaccinated staff members.~~

With local health department approval, the following protocols will be used for exclusion:

- ~~1. For situations where the close-contact student and/or the individual who tested positive were not wearing masks properly, six feet of social distance will be used in determining exclusion.~~
- ~~2. For situations where the positive individual and the student are both wearing their masks properly, 3 feet of social distance will be used in determining exclusion.~~
- ~~3. Students and teachers who have not maintained social distance have the option of a Test-to-Stay protocol. Close contacts must be tested on days 1, 3, 5, and 7 after exposure. The days of testing will be adjusted with weekends and holidays. Parents may also choose to keep their child home from 10 days, returning on day 11 after exposure, if they remain symptom free. As long as close contacts remain negative, they are not required to be excluded. Close contacts are only eligible for Test-to-Stay if both the close contact and infected individual were properly wearing masks at the time of exposure. Students on a test to stay may now return to sports once~~

- ~~they have completed the 7-day testing protocol as long as they remain asymptomatic and test negative throughout the testing period. They also must remain masked and should social distance as much as possible.—~~
- ~~4. If the excluded students and staff have a negative PCR test result from a test taken on day 6 of the exclusion period, they may return to school on day 7 of the exclusion period. This provision has been temporarily suspended by the local health departments.~~
  - ~~5. Families should notify the school when a close contact develops COVID-19 symptoms while in exclusion.~~
  - ~~6. Close contacts may return to sports when released from exclusion.~~
  - ~~7. Students in test to stay may now return to sports once they have completed the 7-day testing protocol as long as they remain asymptomatic and test negative throughout the testing period. They also must remain masked and should social distance as much as possible.—~~

#### Revisions for 1.19.22

Delete the following from Page 2: ~~Vaccine Amnesty~~

~~———— Students and staff who are fully vaccinated with no COVID-19 like symptoms do not need to be excluded from school, extracurricular events, or other events organized by the school if they were exposed to a confirmed or probable case.~~

Make the following changes under “Illness” on page 4:

~~Schools must exclude any student or school personnel that exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 a) until they test negative for COVID-19 or for a minimum of 10 days, b) until they are fever free for 24 hours, and c) until 48 hours after diarrhea and vomiting have ceased.~~

A symptomatic individual must provide verification a negative covid test administered by a licensed facility such as a clinic, pharmacy, health department or be tested by a trained tester at school. Negative home tests are not accepted; however, positive home tests are accepted.

The following will be added to pages 4-6:

#### ISOLATION AND GUIDANCE FROM CDC, ISBE, AND IDPH

##### Isolation for those testing positive with COVID-19

- Staff or students who test positive for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, should isolate for 5 days after onset of symptoms, or 5 days after specimen collection if no symptoms are present.

- Staff or students who test positive for COVID-19 and have no symptoms or their symptoms are resolving can be released from isolation after 5 days. To calculate the 5-day isolation period, day 0 is the 1<sup>st</sup> day of symptoms or specimen collection date if no symptoms. If they continue to have a fever, or other symptoms have not improved after 5 days of isolation, they should wait to end isolation until they are fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication and their symptoms have improved.
- Staff or students who test positive and qualify for release after day 5 of isolation need to do the following:
  - ✓ Properly wear a well-fitted mask around others at school and home for 5 additional days after release from isolation. If unable to wear a mask, they need to continue to isolate for a total of 10 days.
  - ✓ Avoid being around students or staff who are immunocompromised or at high risk for severe disease.
  - ✓ If masks are removed for meals/snacks, there must be 6 feet social distancing until 10 days after symptom onset or positive test.

### Exclusion Guidelines for Close Contacts to Someone with Covid-19

#### Those who do not have to be excluded from school

- Those who are age 18 or older and have received all recommended vaccine doses, including boosters, and additional primary shots for some immunocompromised people do not have to be excluded from school.
- Those who are 5-17 years old and have completed the primary series of vaccine do not have to be excluded from school.
- Those who have been confirmed to have COVID-19 in the last 90 days using a viral test do not have to be excluded from school.
- The above do need to wear a mask around others for 10 days and they should test on day 5 if possible.
- If the individual develops symptoms, they should immediately isolate until a negative test confirms symptoms are not caused by COVID-19.

#### Test to stay

- ISBE and IDPH now allow close contacts to remain in school through a test to stay protocol.

- Test to stay may be used for both students and staff.
- Test to stay may be used for the following individuals:
  - ✓ Those who are 18 years of age or older and have completed the primary series of recommended vaccines or vaccine but have not received a recommended booster shot when eligible, or
  - ✓ Those who are unvaccinated or have not completed a primary vaccine series.
  - ✓ Those who have close contact with a positive individual outside of school.
- Following an exposure occurring in the school setting that occur during the school day, close contacts are permitted to remain at school as long as close contacts are tested twice during the designated period of time.
- If at any time the student or staff person tests positive or becomes symptomatic, they should be immediately isolated and sent home, excluded from school, and the local health department notified.

#### **Those who do need to be excluded from school**

- Those who choose not to participate in the test to stay protocol must be excluded from school.
- Those who had close contact with an individual who lives in the home (usually immediate family members) must be excluded from school. The five-day exclusion period begins after isolation from the positive contact begins. If the close contact does not isolate from the positive person, the close contact must be excluded from school for 10 days.
- These individuals need to stay home and mask around others for 5 days. After that, they need to continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.
- These individuals should test on day 5 if possible.
- If masks are removed for meals/snacks, there must be 6 feet social distancing until 10 days after their last exposure to a positive individual. Masks need to be worn once the individual is finished eating.
- If the individual develops symptoms, they should immediately isolate until a negative test confirms symptoms are not caused by COVID-19.

#### **Extra-Curricular Participation**

Students and staff who are not fully vaccinated or unboosted may participate in extracurricular activities during the testing period but may not participate in competitive play or performances during the testing period. After the five-day testing period has concluded, close contacts may fully participate in all

aspects of the school day and extracurricular activities including competitions and performances, as long as they remain consistently and correctly masked and physically distanced as much as possible. Test to stay participants should avoid social gatherings and remain at home when not at school functions for the full testing period and monitor for symptoms for 10 days. Students testing positive may return to full extra-curricular competition on day 6 after symptom onset if symptoms have improved and the student is fever-free.

Revisions adopted by the Board on 11.17.21

On page 2, the following was added: Vaccine Amnesty  
Students and staff who are fully vaccinated with no COVID-19 like symptoms do not need to be excluded from school, extracurricular events, or other events organized by the school if they were exposed to a confirmed or probable case.

The following changes were made to page 3:

Staff members who decline to be tested must notify the superintendent ~~by the end of the work day on Friday, September 24, 2021.~~ If a reasonable accommodation cannot be made, the staff members will be placed on unpaid leave ~~beginning Monday, September 27, 2021.~~

On November 8, 2021, Governor Pritzker signed into law a change to the Illinois Health Care Right of Conscience Act to clarify the law was not intended to cover a contagious and deadly pandemic. The law was established in response to individuals who cited it as a way to avoid repercussions for refusing to wear a mask and/or participate in COVID-19 testing.

#### School Exclusion Regarding Vaccine Side Effects

Some of the side effects from the vaccine are the same as the symptoms for COVID-19. It is important to note that the vaccine does not contain SARS-CoV-2 and cannot give your child COVID-19. Occasionally, the side effects following vaccination are indicative of COVID-19 infection instead. There are a few ways to tell if it's just the side effects or something more serious. Most times, the side effects are mild and usually fade within 24 hours. An individual shouldn't feel prolonged effects from the vaccine itself. Everyone's reaction will be on a case-by-case basis. If a recently vaccinated person finds the symptoms worsening or lingering longer than a day or two, that person should contact a healthcare provider who will be able to provide direction on the best next steps, including, potentially, a COVID-19 test. In summary, as long as the student feels good enough to go to school, it is okay for them to attend. The student should stay at home, however, if the side effects linger and there is concern about COVID-19 infection.

The following changes were made to page 4 & 5:

Schools must exclude any student or school personnel that exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 a) until they test negative for COVID-19 or for a minimum of 10 days, b) until they are fever free for 24 hours, and c) until 48 hours after diarrhea and vomiting have ceased.

A symptomatic individual must provide verification a negative covid test administered by a licensed facility such as a clinic, pharmacy, health department or be tested by a trained tester at school. Home tests are not accepted.

If a rapid test is negative, the building nurses or administrators may require a PCR test if the individual reports loss of taste or smell or other concerning symptoms. A PCR test is required if the symptomatic individual has had known Covid exposure in the last 14 days.

### Testing

~~The health department does not allow schools to use the results of tests that were administered at home.~~

### Social Distancing

Social distancing will be maintained to the greatest extent possible utilizing the 3 feet guidelines. The social distance threshold increases to 6 feet when the students remove the mask while eating or when the students are not wearing their masks properly. Six feet of social distance must be maintained for unmasked students who have a medical note from a healthcare provider. Physical distance should be measured as the distance between persons (i.e., “mouth to mouth”) rather than between furniture (e.g., desk to desk).

### Busing

- Air purifier machines using HEPA filters have been will be installed on all buses. The use of the filter machines allows the district to use a 3 foot social distance benchmark.

The following changes were made to page 8:

### Water Fountains

Each school has at least two water bottle filler stations and the students use them to fill their water bottles. ~~The same protocol will be followed this year.~~ The water fountains will remain off. ~~An additional bottle filler station will be installed at each of the schools.~~ Students are encouraged to bring their water bottles from home.

### Building Rentals

The school facilities can be rented by community groups. All persons attending events held in school facilities must be properly masked at all times. Students being excluded from school are not allowed to be on school property for any reason during the exclusion period. This includes participation in evening and weekend events held in the schools.

The following section was added to page 11:

### Library Books

The school libraries will no longer isolate books when they are returned. The books will be a part of the regular cleaning protocol and made available to the students and staff.

The following changes were made to page 13:

Close contacts will be excluded for at least 10 days after their last exposure to the positive individual. If they remain symptom free, they may return to school on day 11. Anyone developing symptoms after exposure should be tested.

For household close contacts, they will be excluded for at least 10 days, after they are able to separate from the positive family member. This may not be possible with younger students. If they are not able to separate, then the 10-day count will begin the day the positive person is released. If another family member develops symptoms the count will start over.

The local health departments are consulted about ~~have the final say about~~ exclusion. Generally, ~~the district will make decisions that are in line with the health department in the county where individuals live will make the decisions about being excluded.~~

Individuals who have been fully vaccinated and do not have any COVID-19 symptoms do not have to be excluded from school.

To avoid exclusion, a six-foot social distance must be maintained by unvaccinated staff members.

With local health department approval, the following protocols will be used for exclusion.

1. For situations where the close contact student and/or the individual who tested positive were not wearing masks properly, six feet of social distance will be used in determining exclusion.
2. For situations where the positive individual and the student are both wearing their masks properly, 3 feet of social distance will be used in determining exclusion.
3. Students and teachers who have not maintained social distance have the option of a Test-to-Stay protocol. Close contacts must be tested on days 1, 3, 5, and 7 after exposure. The days of testing will be adjusted with weekends and holidays. Parents may also choose to keep their child home from 10 days, returning on day 11 after exposure, if they remain symptom free. As long as close contacts remain negative, they are not required to be excluded. Close contacts are only eligible for Test-to-Stay if both the close contact and infected individual were properly wearing masks at the time of exposure. Students on a test to stay may now return to sports once they have completed the 7-day testing protocol as long as they remain asymptomatic and test negative throughout the testing period. They also must remain masked and should social distance as much as possible.
4. If the excluded students and staff have a negative PCR test result from a test taken on day 6 of the exclusion period, they may return to school on day 7 of the exclusion



period. This provision has been temporarily suspended by the local health departments.

5. Families should notify the school when a close contact develops COVID-19 symptoms while in exclusion.
6. Close contacts may return to sports when released from exclusion.

#### Revisions adopted by the Board on 10.20.21

The following additions were made on pages 3 & 4:

- To determine 3 feet of social distance, one seat in front, one seat behind, and one seat beside the positive student will be used.
- An air purifier machine using HEPA filters will be installed on all buses.

#### Outbreak

The IDPH has adopted the CDC definition of what constitutes an outbreak. A school outbreak is now defined “as either (1) multiple cases comprising at least 10% of students, teachers, or staff within a core group or (2) at least three cases within a specified core group. A core group means only those individuals who were together during an exposure period. For example, this could be limited to a classroom, a sports team, before/after school care, performing arts, or other groups and likely does not apply to the entire school population.”

These individuals are identified to be close contacts with each other while in the school setting and not another setting outside of school. The cases must also be epidemiologically linked to the school setting or extracurricular activity, meaning they were at the same place at the same time.

The following changes were made on pages 7 & 8:

#### Concerts and Christmas Programs

There will be band and chorus concerts, elementary Christmas concerts and plays/musicals as scheduled. The K-6 students will not use risers, but will be socially distanced across the gym floor while performing.

#### Veteran’s Day

Each school will host its own Veteran’s Day activities (i.e., schools will not travel to one location for a presentation). The students will not gather together for a whole school for a whole school assembly. Instead, they will have classroom activities. For health’s sake, veterans will not be invited to participate in person.

## Classroom Parties and Birthdays

Schools will be allowed to resume having parties again. All food items must be individually wrapped. Homemade treats will not be allowed. No parents will be allowed to attend the parties. The Halloween parades will be outside weather permitting. If the parades must be indoors, they will be video-streamed live over the internet (i.e., no parents can come into the buildings to see the parades).

Revisions adopted by the Board on 9.22.21

On page 1, added the following information:

The face mask should have two or more layers to stop the spread of COVID-19 and should be worn over the nose and mouth, be secured under the chin, and should fit snugly against the sides of the face without gaps.

Face shields do not provide adequate source control because respiratory droplets may be expelled from the sides and bottom. They may only be used as substitutes for face masks in the limited circumstances.

The district and all buses maintain a supply of cloth and disposable face masks in the event that a staff member, student, or visitor does not have one for use.

On pages 2 and 3, added the following information:

### Evaluating Individuals with symptoms

Staff members involved in the assessment or clinical evaluation of a student or staff member with COVID-19-like symptoms should wear the required PPE and remove it correctly and safely. The PPE includes a fit-tested N95 mask, eye protection with face shield or goggles, gown, and gloves.

### Governor's Vaccine Mandate

On August 26, 2021, Governor Pritzker announced a vaccine mandate for all school personnel. In lieu of vaccination, staff members can take a weekly COVID-19 test. The COVID-19 test must be either a nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT), including PCR tests, or an antigen test. All unvaccinated staff, coaches, subs and volunteers must be tested weekly for COVID-19. Vaccinated individuals are exempt from the weekly testing protocol. According to the Governor's Executive Order, those who are unvaccinated must not be on the premises of the school district.

It is the responsibility of those who are unvaccinated to take the initiative to be tested. They should not wait for a nurse or administrator to remind them.

Testing can be done on-site by school staff, or it can be done by an authorized COVID-19 testing facility (e.g., Walgreens, CVC, Hy-Vee, health department, etc.).

If testing is done on-site, a testing consent form needs to be completed by each individual prior to testing each week. A supply of the forms can be found in the staff lounge of each building.

Those who have contracted the COVID-19 virus are exempt from the weekly testing requirement for 90 days beginning with the day the individual tested positive. Coaches and coaching volunteers only need to be tested during the weeks they have contact with the students. For example, if an unvaccinated individual only coaches track in the spring, then they don't need to be tested in the fall. This person would start testing when the preseason practices begin. Coaches would need to be tested throughout the year if they have regular open gyms or other contact with the students during the off season. Staff members who decline to be tested must notify the superintendent by the end of the work day on Friday, September 24, 2021. If a reasonable accommodation cannot be made, the staff members will be placed on unpaid leave beginning Monday, September 27, 2021. Unused personal days can be applied before unpaid leave begins. The staff members must indicate their final intent about weekly testing before the Board meeting on October 20, 2021. Staff members who decline to be tested at this time will be given an opportunity to resign or face a recommendation for termination that will be presented to the Board of education on October 20, 2021.

On page 10, made the following changes to Quarantine

Governor Pritzker issued an Executive Order (EO) on Friday, September 17 clarifying exclusions effective immediately. The EO defines exclusion as a school's obligation to refuse admittance to the school premises, extracurricular events or any other events organized by the school, regardless of whether an isolation or quarantine order issued by a local health department has expired or has not been issued; exclusion from a school shall not be considered isolation or quarantine. Because of this definition in the EO, Sherrard School District will endeavor to start using the word "exclude" or "exclusion" in place of "quarantine" and "isolation."

The local health departments have the final say about ~~quarantine~~ exclusion. Generally, the health department in the county where individuals live will make the decisions about being ~~quarantined~~ excluded.

Individuals who have been fully vaccinated and do not have any COVID-19 symptoms do not have to be ~~quarantined~~ excluded from school.

To avoid ~~quarantine~~ exclusion, a six-foot social distance must be maintained by unvaccinated staff members.

With local health department approval, the following protocols will be used for ~~quarantine~~ exclusion.

1. For situations where the close contact student and/or the individual who tested positive were not wearing masks properly, six feet of social distance will be used in determining ~~quarantine~~ exclusion.

2. For situations where the positive individual and the student are both wearing their masks properly, 3 feet of social distance will be used in determining quarantine exclusion.
3. Students and teachers who have not maintained social distance have the option of a Test-to-Stay protocol. Close contacts must be tested on days 1, 3, 5, and 7 after exposure. As long as close contacts remain negative, they are not required to quarantine be excluded. Close contacts are only eligible for Test-to-Stay if both the close contact and infected individual were wearing masks at the time of exposure.
4. If the quarantined excluded students and staff have a negative PCR test result from a test taken on day 6 of the quarantine period, they may return to school on day 7 of the quarantine exclusion period.
5. Families should notify the school when a close contact develops COVID-19 symptoms while in exclusion.

#### Help with Quarantined-Excluded Students

From the newly ratified labor agreement: “Teachers who have total of three (3) or more quarantined excluded students in their PreK-5th grade class, and teachers who have a total of six (6) or more quarantined excluded students in their 6 th-12th grade classes will have access to district-provided staff who will assist with communication, questions, and instruction with the quarantined excluded students. This access will last until the number of quarantined excluded students falls below the aforementioned levels.”

Revisions adopted by the Board on 9.1.21

#### Changed the title of the plan: Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan 2021

On page 3, added: The following safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services plan:

- Describes how the LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff.
- Explains the extent to which it has adopted policies, and provide a description of any such policies, on each of the prevention and mitigation strategies recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- Describes how an LEA will ensure continuity of services, which must address students’ academic needs and students’ and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, and which may include student health and food services.

On page 3, changed the following under face coverings: According to CDC guidance, an employee does not need to wear a mask when occupying an office or conference room alone.

Additionally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strengthened its guidance last week for universal indoor masking in schools.

On page 4, added the following: Governor's Vaccine Mandate

On August 26, 2021, Governor Pritzker announced a vaccine mandate for certain workers and entities. The Executive Order requires vaccination for all school personnel unless one can opt out for medical religious belief reasons. Sherrard School District will require weekly testing in lieu of vaccinations for unvaccinated school personnel even if there is no religious or medical opt out reason. The testing requirement will apply to all staff members, coaches, substitutes and regular volunteers. The testing will begin the week of September 5, 2021. Individuals who have been vaccinated must show a building principal or nurse proof of COVID-19 vaccination. Examples of proof include a vaccine card, a picture of the vaccine cart, a doctor's note signifying the vaccine has been administered or by looking up the information on the state's electronic system (ICARE). In compliance with the Executive Order, unvaccinated individuals will not be allowed on district premises if they refuse to be vaccinated or if they refuse to be tested weekly.

On page 2, made the following changes:

- ~~To determine 3 feet of social distance, the seat in front, behind and beside the positive student will be used.~~ To determine 6 feet of social distance, the two seats in front, two seats behind, and three seats beside the positive student will be used.
- Because of social distance concerns and contact tracing difficulties, students will not be allowed to ride a non-assigned bus (e.g., go home with a friend).

On page 4, add the following: Testing

Rapid testing (antigen) will be available for symptomatic individuals at school. Individuals who qualify for Test-to-Stay will also be tested. Students who have symptoms at home should not come to school to get a test. The health department does not allow schools to use the results of tests that were administered at home.

Revisions adopted by the Board on 8.18.21

Face Coverings: Add the following sentence - All fans must wear a mask while they are inside a school building for athletic events.

Illness: Add the following sentences - Students with symptoms should not come to school with the expectation of being tested for COVID-19. Doing so will put others at risk of infection. Students who develop symptoms at home should get tested at the health department, a local pharmacy, or a medical facility.

Social Distancing: Add the following sentences - The social distance threshold increases to 6 feet when the students remove the mask while eating. Six feet of social distance must be maintained for unmasked students who have a medical note from a healthcare provider.

Busing: Add the following points

- Unvaccinated drivers must keep the front two seats on the bus unoccupied.
- To determine 3 feet of social distance, the seat in front, behind and beside the positive student will be used. To determine 6 feet of social distance, the two seats in front, two seats behind, and three seats beside the positive student will be used.

Daily Symptom Screening: Make the following changes - The parents ~~will be~~ are asked to ~~sign a form promising to~~ daily check their children for COVID-19 symptoms and to keep them home if the child displays one or more of the symptoms.

Website Posting of Positive Cases: Make the following change - The District will continue posting the number of positive COVID-19 cases to the district website under the "Community" tab on the homepage.

Visitors: Make the following change - Visitors and volunteers who enter the building will confirm they have no COVID-19 symptoms and they will wear a mask ~~if they are not fully vaccinated.~~

Add the following:

#### H2Orange2

The H2Orange2 spray is a sanitizer/virucide and is used to clean surfaces in the classrooms. Hydrogen peroxide is a disinfectant and it is a key ingredient in the H2Orange 2 cleaner. Each teacher has been provided with a spray bottle containing this product and some micro cleaning cloths.

The custodians will clean and sanitize all the classrooms once a day and the maintenance staff will use the electrostatic sprayer once a day to disinfect the classrooms. The 6-12 teachers are encouraged to use the cleaner before a new group of students comes into the room. The PreK-5 teachers are encouraged to use the cleaner at some point in the middle of the day. The following is a list of procedures for the use of the cleaner.

1. The cleaner is safe enough to use without gloves. Teachers are welcome to use gloves, however.
2. The cleaners should be sprayed 6-8 inches from the surface. A micro cloth should be used to wipe off the surface. The cleaner can be allowed to dwell on the surface for a few minutes or it can be wiped off immediately.
3. Damp wipe (i.e., wipe while the surface is still wet) all the student desktops.
4. Damp wipe door handles, light switches, pencil sharpeners and other frequently touched surfaces.

5. Store the now-soiled micro cloth in a spot that is mutually agreed upon with the custodians who will take the soiled cloths to be laundered.

Add the following:

#### Transmission Via Surfaces

The virus is transmitted primarily through droplets in the air, not from touching surfaces. However, it is important to clean, sanitize and disinfect surfaces because, when the virus is transmitted by touching surfaces, it is usually because individuals rubbed their eyes or touched their mouths with their fingers. Because of this, everyone should wash their hands frequently for 20 seconds with soap and water and use hand sanitizer when hand washing isn't an option.

The following is a quote from a CDC statement: "In most situations, the risk of infection from touching a surface is low. The most reliable way to prevent infection from surfaces is to regularly wash hands or use hand sanitizer. When no people with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 are known to have been in a space, cleaning once a day is usually enough to sufficiently remove virus that may be on surfaces and help maintain a healthy facility."

Close Proximity Classroom Activities: Deleted the following sentence - ~~When close proximity cannot be avoided, the students should wear masks.~~

Lockers: Make the following changes - ~~The JH/SJ students will not use the hallway lockers this year.~~ The 5-12 students will be able to use the lockers, but they will be assigned in a way to allow for social distancing.

Add the following;

#### Help with Quarantined Students

From the newly ratified labor agreement: "Teachers who have total of three (3) or more quarantined students in their PreK-5th grade class, and teachers who have a total of six (6) or more quarantined students in their 6 th-12th grade classes will have access to district-provided staff who will assist with communication, questions, and instruction with the quarantined students. This access will last until the number of quarantined students falls below the aforementioned levels."

Revisions adopted by the Board on 8.6.21

Face Coverings: The following changes were made

Sherrard School District's goal is to protect the health of all students and staff. On Wednesday, August 4, Governor JB Pritzker announced an Executive Order requiring that masks be worn indoors by all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. Additionally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strengthened its guidance last week for universal indoor masking in schools.

Families who do not want their children to wear face masks for medical reasons should get a note from a healthcare provider. There are no other options available at this time for families who do not want their children to wear a mask at school.

~~In alignment with recommendations from the CDC and IDPH, the district expects and strongly encourages individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated to continue to wear a mask indoors. Masks do not have to be worn outdoors. Though unvaccinated individuals should wear a mask, it will not be mandatory. The district will continue to closely monitor the number of positive COVID-19 cases among the students and staff, and will make necessary changes including reimplementing of a mask mandate if warranted. Individuals who are fully vaccinated may resume activities without wearing a mask except where required by federal, state, and local rules and regulations. Per state guidelines, masks will be required to be worn in all school buses.~~

In addition to mask wearing, it is especially important to layer other preventive strategies to keep our schools safe. These strategies include maintaining at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms, screening testing, ventilation, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick, contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation, cleaning and disinfection.

~~Students cannot be removed from school or the bus when they refuse to wear a mask or when their parents will not allow them to wear a mask. Because of this restriction, all masking mandates, in essence, become optional.~~

Music: The following information was added

Students should avoid sharing instruments. If instruments must be shared (e.g., drums, mallet instruments, ukuleles), they should be cleaned and disinfected between students. Students are discouraged from sharing music stands so that students do not inadvertently move closer to each other to see the music.

Masks must be worn while singing. Masks with slits should be worn when possible while playing instruments involving the mouth. Bell covers must be used while playing wind and brass instruments. Brass fluid (saliva) should be eliminated using disposable cups. The cups should be dropped into a lined garbage can after each practice.

Quarantine: The following information was added

Individuals who have been fully vaccinated and do not have any COVID-19 symptoms do not have to be quarantined.

To avoid quarantine, a six-foot social distance must be maintained by unvaccinated staff members.

With local health department approval, the following protocols will be used for quarantine.



1. For situations where the close contact student and/or the individual who tested positive were not wearing masks properly, six feet of social distance will be used in determining quarantine.
2. For situations where the positive individual and the student are both wearing their masks properly, 3 feet of social distance will be used in determining quarantine.
3. Students and teachers who have not maintained social distance have the option of a Test-to-Stay protocol. Close contacts must be tested on days 1, 3, 5, and 7 after exposure. As long as close contacts remain negative, they are not required to quarantine. Close contacts are only eligible for Test-to-Stay if both the close contact and infected individual were wearing masks at the time of exposure.
4. If the quarantined students and staff have a negative PCR test result from a test taken on day 6 of the quarantine period, they may return to school on day 7 of the quarantine period.