Cissna Park C.U.S.D. 6

2021-2022 School Year

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

**\*This plan is tentative in nature until Approved by the Cissna Park C.U.S.D. 6 Board of Education.**

Overview

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic the United States Congress has made emergency funds available

to local school districts to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19. This year monies have been

allocated through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act solely for this purpose. The ARP Act requires

school districts to develop a Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services. The

goal of this plan is to align our safety procedures and protocols with the ARP Act and the various

emergency orders issued by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). This plan is aligned with

guidance provided by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH); and addresses changes needed to

respond to the ever changing COVID-19 environment.

This plan was developed in meaningful consultation with school community stakeholders and county

health department officials. Opportunity for the public to provide input was provided at a public

hearing on October 18, 2021 at the district’s regularly scheduled board meeting. A public hearing notice

was published in the Cissna Park News on Thursday, October 14, 2021 and the plan was posted on the

district website on Friday, October 8, 2021.

Upon request, this plan will be provided in an alternative format accessible to parents who are

individuals with a disability as defined by the ADA. School practices and protocols in this plan may be

removed or amended based upon any of the following factors:

* Conditions at the local level
* Community transmission levels
* Vaccine coverage levels
* Screening testing results
* Information/Input from the County Health Department

Maintaining the Health and Safety of Students, Educators, and Other Staff

Cissna Park C.U.S.D. 6 schools will be open fully for in-person learning for all student attendance days for

the 2021-22 school year in accordance with the declaration by Illinois State Superintendent of Schools

on July 9, 2021. All emergency rules adopted by ISBE as it relates to COVID-19 protocols and return-to-

learn guidelines will be followed. These guidelines include the following:

1. Remote Learning

● Beginning with the 2021-22 school year, all schools must resume fully in-person learning for

all student attendance days, provided that, pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/10-30 and 105 ILCS

5/34-18.66, remote instruction be made available for students who (1) have not received a

COVID-19 vaccine and (2) only while they are under quarantine consistent with guidance or

requirements from a local public health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health.

2. Mask Use

● ISBE requires masks be worn by individuals entering school facilities.

● Mask use is recommended outdoors during activities (e.g., participating in outdoor play,

recess, physical education, sports, interscholastic, etc.) that involve sustained close contact

with other people who are not fully vaccinated, particularly in areas of substantial to high

transmission.

● We will continue to work with the Iroquois County Public Health Department, monitor the health

and well-being of our students and staff and adjust our plans accordingly.

3. Transportation

● All passengers and drivers must wear a face mask while on school buses.

● Masks will be available on all buses for those who need them.

● A driver does not need to wear a mask if they are the only person on the bus.

● The building will be open daily for student drop off at 7:55 a.m.

● Students riding with parents are discouraged from arriving before 7:55 a.m. due to lack of

adequate supervision prior to that time.

4. Physical/Social Distancing

● To the extent possible within school and classroom structures so that it does not exclude

students from full day in-person learning, school staff are to help students commit to

physical/social distancing as much as possible by:

* Maintaining at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms.
* Providing assigned seating for students and encourage students to remain in these seats to the greatest extent possible; and
* Developing marked paths of travel in classrooms and corridors.

● School staff will maximize physical distance as much as possible when moving through food

service lines and while eating indoors. Aside from the cafeteria, additional spaces for

mealtime seating will be utilized when available and feasible (e.g., weather permitting).

5. Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

● School staff will monitor and reinforce frequent handwashing and respiratory etiquette by

* continuing to teach handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds;
* assisting young children with handwashing;
* reminding everyone in the facility to wash hands frequently;
* using hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol (for teachers, staff, and older
* students who can safely use hand sanitizer) when hand washing is not possible;
* continuing to teach respiratory etiquette (e.g., covering coughs and sneezes); and
* providing adequate handwashing and hand sanitizer supplies that are safely stored
* (up, away, and out of sight of young children and used only with adult supervision for children under 6 years of age).

6. Facility and Transportation Cleaning, Disinfection and Ventilation

● School custodial staff and transportation staff will continue to clean surfaces daily.

● When possible, staff will open doors and windows, run classroom air conditioning units, use child-safe

fans, and have activities, classes, or lunches outdoors when circumstances allow.

● When it does not pose a safety risk, transportation staff will keep vehicle windows open at

least a few inches to improve air circulation.

7. Eating Lunch

● Students and staff will be allowed to eat lunch in the cafeteria and/or other approved areas within the

school. High school students will be allowed to eat lunch off-site and/or outside the school building.

Social distancing of at least three feet between individuals will be followed to the greatest extent

possible. All contact surfaces will be cleaned thoroughly between lunches.

8. Contact Tracing in Combination with Isolation and Quarantine

● Students and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as influenza (flu) or

COVID-19, should stay home and contact their healthcare provider for testing and care.

● Individuals in our school environments who show symptoms of COVID-19 are to

immediately report to or be escorted to the school’s office to be either sent home or be

quarantined in the school’s supervised safe area while awaiting pickup/evaluation. Parents should

ensure that ill students are picked up from school within 30 minutes of being notified. Ill students will

not be allowed to utilize the school bus to return home.

● Students and staff who are not fully vaccinated should quarantine after a recent exposure to

someone with COVID-19 based on most current school exclusion guidelines.

● Fully vaccinated people who were in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 but do

NOT have COVID-19 symptoms do not need to quarantine or be tested.

● Student absences related to a COVID-19 isolation or quarantine will be recorded as

excused. To ensure continuity of services, school work missed during such an absence can

be requested and made up in accordance with the school’s policy (refer to student

handbook); social, emotional, mental health, or other needs will be provided in accordance

with a student’s IEP or 504 Plan. Parents of students who have social, emotional, mental

health, or other needs outside of an IEP or 504 Plan should contact their child’s principal.

● To the extent allowable by privacy laws and other applicable laws, school health care

professionals will continue to collaborate with Iroquois County Public Health Department officials to

confidentially provide information about people diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19,

including making notifications to staff and parents as soon as possible regarding those who

were in close contact of someone in the school who tested positive for COVID-19.

● Students and staff suspected of having COVID-19 are to follow the CDC/IDPH/ISBE guidelines to

determine when they can return to school.

9. Screening Testing

● When community transmission is at moderate, substantial, or high levels, parents can

request COVID-19 screening testing for their students who have not been fully vaccinated

by contacting the county health department (for a list of approved screening vendors) or their physician.

10. Promoting Vaccination

● Working with the Iroquois County Public Health Department and surrounding clinics staff and school

community we’re offered vaccination appointments and clinics.

● Respectful of peoples’ varying levels of vaccine confidence, those who want to get

vaccinated against COVID-19 can visit vaccines.gov to find out where they can get

vaccinated in our community.

11. Disabilities or Other Health Care Needs

● Parents of students who need accommodations, modifications, or assistance related to

COVID-19 safety protocols, disabilities, underlying medical conditions, or weakened

immune systems should contact their student’s case manager to discuss the need(s).

● Staff members who need accommodations, modifications, or assistance related to

COVID-19 safety protocols, disabilities, underlying medical conditions, weakened immune

systems, or a sincerely held religious belief or practice (covered by Title VII of the Civil

Rights Act of 1964) should contact their school’s principal to discuss the need(s). Staff

members with weakened immune systems are advised to contact their healthcare

professional about the need for continued personal protective measures after vaccination.

12. Visitors

● Nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations

with people who are not fully vaccinated are discouraged from visiting schools.

13. Collaboration with Public Health Officials

● District officials will continue to collaborate and consult with Iroquois County Public Health

Department officials throughout a pandemic on various logistics and decision-making

including, but not limited to, school health and safety protocols, screening testing, contact

tracing, vaccine clinics, and emergency school closings.

14. Plan Review

● Through September 30, 2023, this plan will be reviewed every six months and amended as needed

after seeking and considering public input. Amendments will address the most recently updated safety

recommendations by the CDC, provided in an alternative format accessible to parents who are

individuals with a disability as defined by the ADA, and made publicly available on the district’s website.