

Hartsburg-Emden CUSD #21

400 West Front Street

Hartsburg, IL 62643

Terry Wisniewski, Superintendent

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Return to School Plan

2022-2023

Introduction:

On May 28th, the ISBE (Illinois State Board of Education) and IDPH (Illinois Department of Public Health) adopted guidelines for reopening school this fall; starting the 2022-23 School Year.

The last 2 school years were unprecedented in a number of ways. COVID-19 hit the world and much mitigation and many plans were put in place to protect as many people as possible. The State of Illinois created a five (5) phase plan. Schools went from Phase III (very strict protocols) to Phase IV (moderate protocols) to Phase V (lighter protocols). Hartsburg-Emden took a reserve approach to dealing with the pandemic. The State ensured us in the summer of 2021, that schools would have local control. We created a plan that started with the less restrictive environment and move to environments that are more restrictive if COVID-19 cases increase. However, the State took control of the first 3 quarters of last year and finally gave us local control in the 4th quarter (March) of last school year (after a losing a court battle).

As we look forward to the 2022-23 school year, we find ourselves in more familiar territory. We realize that COVID-19 is something we will continue to live with for the near future and need to do so without sacrificing the quality of educational opportunities our students deserve. However, we need flexibility to ensure the safety of students, staff, family, and community members as COVID-19 numbers change. The Guidance that the State has adopted this year is very similar to what Hartsburg-Emden had as last year's Reopening Plan. So, we will begin this school year dealing with COVID-19 in a very similar way that we ended last school year.

Just like last year, your diligence in sending healthy students to school will be of the utmost importance. We continue to ask that you symptom check your child(ren) each morning. Most of our cleaning and disinfecting protocols will continue to be in place. We are looking forward to the upcoming year and appreciate your continued support of the Hartsburg-Emden Community Unit School District #21, go Stags!!

Safety Precautions for Students/Staff:

Hartsburg-Emden CUSD #21 seeks to balance reasonable safety precautions with a positive, productive learning environment that results in the high levels of success for student and staff . While Hartsburg-Emden CUSD #21 cannot eliminate the risk of COVID-19, our strategies are designed to minimize the risk while maximizing educational opportunities.

Hartsburg-Emden C.U.S.D. #21 strategies for mitigating risk at all risk levels:

- Use seating charts in each class to assist with contact tracing
- Encouragement of hand washing routines
- Nightly disinfection of surfaces
- Hand sanitizer will be provided in all classrooms
- Routine disinfecting of surfaces throughout the day
- Social Distancing as much as possible

Preventing the spread of COVID-19 begins at home. Before sending students to school each day, parents/caregivers need to make sure that their children are:

- Fever free
- Not exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19

Testing – the State recommends that anyone who is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms to test. Hartsburg-Emden is a licensed testing site. We are an extension of the Logan County Health Department and they supply us with the tests.

Parents/Caregivers are encouraged to be overly cautious when considering whether or not to send a child to school. **Please help us keep our school a Sick Free Zone.**

Cleaning/Disinfecting – Schools and buses will continue to be completely disinfected each night using the disinfecting foggers we purchased. We will also be disinfecting and cleaning surfaces often throughout the day.

Social Distancing – With our smaller numbers, we will continue to be able to follow the three (3) feet social distancing guidelines recommended by the CDC most of the time.

Masks – Hartsburg-Emden C.U.S.D. #21 is leaving the decision to mask-up to parents/caregivers and staff members when we are in Level I (low risk/least restrictive environment). Should school and/or community transmission rates increase the mask recommendations will be modified as outlined in our mitigation levels and become a requirement. If parents/caregivers wish to have their child in a mask at all times in the school building (whether or not distancing is being maintained), we ask that you notify the school and we will do our best to ensure your child(ren) is masking.

Quarantines – Hartsburg-Emden C.U.S.D. #21 will continue to assist the Logan County Health Department when it comes to quarantines. All quarantines are 10 days. There are 2 sets of individuals who will need to quarantine. Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 (vaccinated or unvaccinated) and Close Contacts. Positive Individuals Quarantine has two (2) parts. Part I: Isolation for 5 days . . . if symptom free may you may go to Part II. Part II: Wear Mask and Social Distance through the 10th day. Close Contacts are only unvaccinated individuals or individuals not fully vaccinated (received a booster shots) may be considered Close Contacts. Fully vaccinated individuals or individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 3 months will not be considered Close Contacts. A close contact will be an individual who was within 6' for more than 15 minutes during a 24 hour period of a positive individual. Quarantines for Close Contact is to Wear Mask and Social Distance through the 10th day (no Isolation necessary). However, if symptoms start, please isolate immediately and it is recommended that you test for COVID-19.

Mitigation Levels – Hartsburg-Emden C.U.S.D. #21 will determine mitigation levels by consulting the Logan County Health Department detailed metrics and using Hartsburg-Emden C.U.S.D. #21 community metrics. Each mitigation level has increased levels of mitigation to assist in keeping the spread of COVID-19 and other diseases to a minimum. In order to move to a lower level, the school buildings metrics must have been at the lower level marker for at least two (2) full weeks at a minimum.

Re-Opening of School:

We are planning to start the 2022-23 school year on Level I, based on our current level of transmission in the school community. We will continue to monitor data on a daily/weekly basis to determine metrics. As metrics change we will adjust in accordance with our plan.

Vaccinated vs. Unvaccinated:

If parents/caregivers wish to provide proof your child(ren) is vaccinated, students will not be considered Close Contacts nor will they have to quarantine for close contact (wear a mask for 10 days). Without proper documentation, students will be treated as if they are unvaccinated.

Athletic and Extra Curricular:

Hartsburg-Emden C.U.S.D. #21 will follow the IESA (Illinois Elementary School Association) and the IHSA (Illinois High School Association) guidance for return to play approved by the IDPH.

Water Fountains:

Students are strongly encouraged to bring a clear water bottle to school each day. The automatic water bottle filling stations will be available for students to fill his/her water bottle throughout the day. We are asking students not to drink from the water fountain.

Visitors:

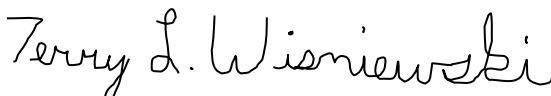
Parents/caregivers will be allowed into the office where 3ft. social distancing is maintained. All unvaccinated individuals are recommended/required to wear a mask based on the school current risk level.

Safety Reminders and Signage:

Safety reminders and signs will be posted throughout the school building.

If you have questions, please send an email or call the school.

Sincerely,



Terry L. Wisniewski, *Superintendent*

[Hartsburg - Emden C.U.S.D. #21](#)

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Level 1: Low

Hartsburg-Emden C.U.S.D. #21 and/or Logan County metrics indicate minimal cases of COVID-19.

- Masks optional
 - parents/caregivers are asked to notify us if you wish your child(ren) to wear masks in school
- Students are encourage to wash hands and use hand sanitizer regularly
- Students are encouraged to practice 3' social distancing as much as possible
- Parents/Caregivers self-screen students prior to coming to school each day
- Quarantines for individuals that are close contact or positive for COVID-19

Level II: Moderate

Hartsburg-Emden C.U.S.D. #21 and/or Logan County metrics indicate moderate cases of COVID-19.

- Masks will be recommended in classrooms
- Students are encourage to wash hands and use hand sanitizer regularly
- Students are encouraged to practice 3' social distancing as much as possible
- Parents/Caregivers self-screen students prior to coming to school each day
- Quarantines for individuals that are close contact or positive for COVID-19

Level III: Substantial

Hartsburg-Emden C.U.S.D. #21 and/or Logan County metrics indicate substantial cases of COVID-19.

- Masks required at all times in the school (unvaccinated or vaccinated)
- Masks required at all times in the school buses (unvaccinated or vaccinated)
- Students are encourage to wash hands and use hand sanitizer regularly
- Students are encouraged to practice 6' social distancing as much as possible
- Parents/Caregivers self-screen students prior to coming to school each day
- Quarantines for individuals that are close contact or positive for COVID-19

Note:

Again, Hartsburg-Emden is an Illinois Licensed COVID-19 Testing Lab. We strongly encourage all individuals with COVID-19 symptoms to test. This way we can ensure we are dealing with positive COVID-19 cases on an individual level and keep transmission rates low. We appreciate your support in keeping Hartsburg-Emden a safe environment for everyone.