

Hartsburg-Emden CUSD #21

400 West Front Street

Hartsburg, IL 62643

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Return to School Plan

2021-2022

Updated CDC Guidance (2-28-22)

On Friday, February 28, the Illinois Supreme Court issued a decision that it would not hear an appeal on the matters disposed of by the Appellate Court. However, the Supreme Court did decide to vacate the Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) in that litigation. This means the TRO is no longer in effect and the State (Governor, IDPH – Illinois Department of Public Health, and ISBE – Illinois State Board of Education) has the authority returned back to them to do what they feel is in the best interest for schools.

In an interesting turn of events, J.B. Pritzker issued a statement expressing gratitude for the Supreme Court's decision and announced that, in light of new Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Guidance, he was withdrawing the Executive Order that required students and staff in Illinois schools to wear masks, effective Monday, February 28th. He also stated that all schools should follow the new CDC guidance.

In summary, the new CDC Guidance,

Level I - Low Transmission Rate: Masks are not recommended (but they are optional). Get tested if you have any symptoms. Stay up-to-date with vaccination.

Level II – Moderate Transmission Rate: Masks are not recommended (but they are optional). Consult your doctor if you have health concerns. Get tested if you have any symptoms. Stay up-to-date with vaccination.

Level III - High Transmission Rate: Masks are recommended (should wear a mask). Consult your doctor if you have health concerns. Get tested if you have any symptoms. Stay up-to-date with vaccination.

Quarantining of Close Contact Students (has not changed)

Positive COVID-19 individuals must isolate (at home for 5 days) and may return if symptom-free. The quarantine period is still 10 days and a mask must be worn if in school while under quarantine.

Individuals that are close contacts with symptoms must isolate until symptom-free (test is recommended). The quarantine period is still 10 days and a mask must be worn if in school while under quarantine.

Individuals that are close contacts with no symptoms do not need to isolate. The quarantine period is still 10 days and a mask must be worn if in school while under quarantine.

Our lab remains operational for everyone who wishes to test and follow the CDC guidance.

Social Distancing (has not changed)

Social distance at 3 feet should be maintained as much as possible. Students under quarantine, that social distance should be increased to 6 feet as much as possible.

Weekly Testing of Unvaccinated Employees

Weekly test of unvaccinated employees will no longer be required.

Bus Rules

The CDC also announced that masks no longer are required on school buses. They recommend that on full buses, where distancing is difficult to maintain, masks be worn.

Extra-Curricular Activities

The new guidance does not mention Extra-Curricular Activities/Sports or the IHSA/IESA.

When we compete against other teams, we will be expected to follow the home team's rules.

Hartsburg-Emden home team rules will be: Level I - optional, Level II – recommended, and Level III – required.

If the IHSA/IESA comes out with guidance on this issue, we will comply.

Final Comments

Again, Hartsburg-Emden will be following the CDC recommendations.

We will continue to push through this pandemic and deal with any issues as they arise. The safety of our students and staff remains our top priority. Our lab remains open for those who wish to use it. We will continue to disinfect the buildings and buses every night. We still wish to be a Sick-Free-Zone. If your child is sick, please keep them home until they are well so that we do not spread sickness.

Thank you very much for your support.

Sincerely,



Terry L. Wisniewski, *Superintendent*

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