



DISTRICT 186
SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Frequently Asked Questions 2020-21 School Year

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Remote Learning Expectations

Q: What will the daily remote learning schedule for students look like?

A: Students must have five (5) clock hours of instruction which will include student independent assignments as required in ISBE Guidance.

Elementary students will be expected to log into their Canvas account and Zoom Classroom Account each day at their school's normal start time, either 8:30 or 9:00 AM. Their day will conclude at 2:00 or 2:30 PM.

Middle and high school students will have direct instruction virtually (e.g., Zoom) following an A/B schedule. Students will follow the same daily schedule on the two (2) direct instruction days and the three (3) independent days. The A/B groups will be split alphabetically. Siblings will be assigned to the same groups.

Remote Teaching / Hybrid Teaching Expectations

Q: How do we ensure that remote and hybrid instruction are comparable and equitable?

A: Pacing and curriculum guides are being developed by teachers and departments. Our District instructional leaders will be communicating relentlessly during remote and hybrid learning.

Tech Help for Families

Q: How will we assist families with curriculum and technology? Will we be able to meet with them virtually?

A: We are planning Boot Camps for students and families so that they can get the assistance and ask questions as needed. This will include a hotline for families to call. Many of our purchases have virtual resources for families as well.

Q: How will we communicate about remote learning platforms and expectations with families?

A: There will be a series of videos ready for use by the beginning of this school year and have a series of boot camp opportunities for families to learn the expectations of online learning once they receive their devices.

Q: How can we access help for each type of technology, application, or platform?

A: The District will generate a help sheet where teachers can access resources for help and know who to call if they have questions. This will be a combination of our technology teacher instructional leaders and well as other teacher leaders who have classroom knowledge about the use of a variety of platforms.

Grades and Standards

Q: Where will teachers be required to input grades?

A: Grades will be given and will count during the 2020-2021 school year. Teachers will input grades as they have in the past. If teachers choose to enter grades into Canvas, the grades will appear on the intranet in the student's cumulative folder.

Q: Where can parents access their students' grades?

A: Families and students will be able to see their grades within their cumulative folder which can be accessed via password on our District Intranet system as they did pre-COVID. In addition, students will have additional opportunities to view grades and feedback to assignments through electronic means.

Q: Will students receive grades that will count?

A: Yes, students will receive grades. However, we also want to provide specific actionable feedback; Per State Superintendent Ayala in her guidance document, "Students can learn without grades, but they cannot learn without formative feedback."

Standards and Teaching

Q: How will students receive textbooks this year?

A: In conjunction with technology rollout, textbooks, needed supplies and other important information will be distributed to families picking up a device.

Q: How will we address students who are not completing work?

A: The best way to address this issue is to engage the student and their family and find out why. Although we will be giving grades this year, we want to make sure that we work alongside the families to provide support and guidance.

Specials - Art, Music, PE

Q: How will specials (art, music and PE) teachers work with students?

A: We are developing a plan which will be shared soon. The plan is designed to reduce travel.

Q: Will students have access to musical instruments?

A: Yes, but students will not be sharing instruments.

Q: Will students have access to PE equipment?

A: Individual PE equipment has been purchased for students and additional shared items have been purchased so that they can be sanitized between uses. The PE teachers were consulted and a part of the decision making about orders.

Health Related / Quarantine / COVID Process

Q: What is contact tracing? What can I expect?

A: Contact tracing is an important tool in stopping the spread of COVID-19 or other communicable illnesses. If you or someone you know tests positive for COVID-19, you can expect a call from your county's department of public health (or another county's if you have been traveling) as part of the contact tracing process. Please do your best to recall everyone

you've spent time with and everywhere you've been during the time period specified by the contact tracer. This information will remain confidential, and it is crucial in helping public health professionals identify people who may be at risk. School Administration will ask you who you have had primary contact with at school, for our internal notifications. Administrators will not ask you about out of school contacts. Any information that you have will help both the District and the County greatly.

Q: What will happen if someone in the school is exposed to a confirmed positive COVID case at home or in their classroom?

A: If a person is exposed to someone with a positive COVID test in their home they will be advised to quarantine away from school for 14 days and follow the guidance of the Sangamon County Department of Public Health regarding COVID testing. If a person is in a classroom with someone who has been diagnosed COVID positive the same protocol would be followed.

Q: Will a child who is exposed to COVID due to siblings in the school or another school need to be quarantined as well?

A: If a child is exposed to a sibling or adult who tests COVID positive they would be subject to a 14 day quarantine. If the student has a sibling who is exposed at school but that student has not been around a COVID positive person they would not be subject to the 14 day quarantine based on the algorithm provided by Memorial Medical Center.

Q: Will teachers in self- quarantine be required to work from home?

A: This would not be required but it would save the use of leave time if remote work can be accommodated.

Q: Do teachers need to quarantine if a family member is having to test and quarantine? If I am exposed does my family have to quarantine?

A: A person will need to quarantine if they are in direct contact with a COVID positive family member. If a family member is being tested but has not been diagnosed COVID positive quarantine is not mandatory. If a teacher is exposed to a COVID positive person that does not necessarily mean their family must quarantine. This would depend on the type of exposure and if the employee is diagnosed COVID positive.

Q: What will the protocol be for students testing positive returning for school? Will they have to have a COVID negative test?

A: If a student or employee tests positive for COVID they will follow the protocol of the Sangamon County Department of Public Health for return to school or work.

Q: If a child or teacher tests positive for COVID does the whole school close or just that room?

A: The decision to close a school or a room will be based on the exposure to the COVID diagnosed person. This could result in the room or whole school being closed. The District will base the decision to close classrooms or buildings on guidance from the Sangamon County Department of Public Health.

Q: What if I come into contact with a positive case outside of school? Who do I need to contact? Will the whole class need to quarantine?

A: If a student or employee comes in contact with a COVID positive person outside of the school setting they will need to contact their supervisor to report the contact and get guidance on next

steps. Depending on the amount of contact and timeline of the contact the class may need to quarantine.

Q: What will the protocol be for a student who comes to school with a fever (or any one symptom)?

A: If a student arrives at school with a temperature or any other COVID symptoms, they will be moved to a quarantine room within the school to be further evaluated by the school nurse or building administrator. The nurse or administrator will retake the temperature and check additional symptoms. If the temperature is above 100.4 degrees the child will be sent home. If the other symptoms are verified the student will be sent home.

Q: What can we do to ensure that families pick up students who are symptomatic?

A: We will work with all available resources to make contact with families.

Q: If a teacher has 150 kids a day, do all of those students need to stay home and quarantine or get tested?

A: There will not be this many students reporting to a teacher in a given day. If the teacher tests positive, contact tracing will need to determine if they were within 6 feet, without a mask for more than 10 to 15 minutes.

Q: Is there going to be a dedicated person at the district or each school to make sure contact tracing happens?

A: There is a flow chart for steps to be followed. The actual contact tracing is done by the SCDPH.

Q: How will we address students who are getting tested and their return? Who will keep track of returning students?

A: If a student is excluded from a building due to a reported COVID exposure, the administrative staff, attendance staff, and/or nursing staff will monitor the student's return to the building. This includes the expectation of families providing a return to school release from a physician.

Q: What do we do if students come to school with symptoms?

A: If a student comes to school ill they will be screened at the door prior to entering the building. If they are screened and found with any symptoms they will be moved to a quarantine room within the school to be further evaluated by the school nurse or building administrator. The nurse or administrator will retake the temperature and check additional symptoms. If the temperature is above 100.4 degrees the child will be sent home. If the other symptoms are verified the student will be sent home.

Q: Who will triage a student if there is no nurse?

A: If a nurse is not available in the building the administrative staff will work with the student.

Q: How will we address the need for increased nursing services?

A: We are currently in conversations with Brightstar and have hired replacements to fill 3 nursing positions.

Q: If I teach at one school but my own children are exposed at a different school in the District or elsewhere, will they have to quarantine?

A: Quarantine will be based on the exposure level. If students are in the classroom with a COVID positive person the District will follow the recommendation of the Sangamon County Department of Public Health regarding quarantine.

Q: How will we communicate with other Districts because I teach in Springfield and my kids attend elsewhere?

A: Notification will be up to the family that is affected if they have children of their own in another District.

Q: How is the extent of a closure determined (e.g. a classroom, hallway or entire school)?

A: The level of exposure at the building and the recommendation of the Sangamon County Department of Public Health will be used to determine the extent of a closure.

Q: What is required for a child to be able to return with any symptom?

A: If it is COVID related symptoms, we can request a test or a doctor's note to return if the symptom is deemed another illness.

Q: Is there a place where sick students will wait?

A: Each school is working on establishing locations (isolation area that will be supervised) for students who are ill, who have COVID symptoms, and who need medication given at school. These locations will be clarified prior to the beginning of hybrid learning.

Q: How long will a location be closed if there is an outbreak?

A: If there is an outbreak the classroom will need to sit empty for 24 hours prior to being cleaned. Once deep cleaned the classroom would be able to be used again.

Q: If we have a positive test in a building how are next steps determined?

A: We have developed a flowchart that will assist in assessing next steps that take into consideration primary and secondary contact. It is likely that a 48 hour closure will happen for deep cleaning unless there is a weekend in between.

Q: How will the intake assessment work each day?

A: Each school will designate an area(s) for intake each morning and assign a team with a variety of roles to make sure that the flow of traffic is monitored for social distancing and provides the time needed to complete the intake effectively. This will include a temperature check and a series of questions that will be asked.

Q: Will there be separate spaces for isolation and regular nursing care?

A: Each building is working to find larger locations for the school nurse. Depending on the size of the school and available space the locations of isolation areas may not be in the same room.

Q: How do you distinguish regular colds from COVID?

A: There is a large overlap in the symptoms of COVID and the common cold. We will work with the information from the Sangamon County Department of Public Health to determine if a student needs to be sent home due to symptoms they are showing.

Q: Where will students eat with the limit of 50 students in one area?

A: Cafeterias will be set up for students to be socially distanced. Other common areas in the building may also be utilized. If the cafeteria cannot accommodate the number of students in a building students may be required to eat in classroom spaces.

Q: What is the procedure if a student has a family member test positive?

A: If a student is around a family member who tests COVID positive they would need to quarantine for 14 days and follow the recommendations of the Sangamon County Department of Public Health prior to returning to school.

Q: Will we do an extra temperature check in the PM?

A: Employees will be asked to certify in the afternoon if they have been in the building for more than 5 hours. Students will only be in attendance for 5 hours.

Q: Will the nurses' offices be "clean spaces" away from staff and high traffic areas?

A: Nurses' Offices will be reserved for the nurse and for isolation if there is not a separate space. This will be determined by the size of the space and the ability to keep well kids separate from symptomatic students. Other staff will not be allowed to be in the nurses area unless they are monitoring students in quarantine / isolation.

Q: Will we ask teachers and staff to self quarantine 14 days before the beginning of the school year?

A: This will not be requested nor will a negative test be required in order to not overwhelm the testing sites.

Q: What types of thermometers will be used?

A: We have purchased over 530 high quality digital forehead reader thermometers for school use across the District and 1 forehead reading thermometer that has a high medical grade for each school nurse. In addition, each coach or extracurricular activity supervisor will have a thermometer.

Hiring

Q: Have additional nurses been hired?

A: Yes, and we are in the process of hiring more.

Q: Have additional custodians been hired?

A: Yes. When we move back into a hybrid model there will be 12 new full time custodians.

Notification

Q: Will we get notified of who is specifically infected?

A: You will be notified if you are a primary contact by the SCDPH. You will receive an email/letter if there is a case in the building.

Q: How and when will we be notified if someone in our building tests positive for COVID-19 or is quarantined?

A: We will notify the school community, which includes students, families and staff.

Q: What is the process for notification if the tests are positive after exposure?

A: If you have a positive test, you will be notified personally by the testing entity and the Sangamon County Public Health Department. Additionally, the person who tests positive should tell their supervisor, and in turn the District will notify the school stakeholders of a positive test. Primary contacts will be notified immediately.

Q: What is the timeline for notification? How soon will we be notified if we have to go on quarantine?

A: As soon as the school is notified.

Q: How and when will notifications be sent to all school families?

A: Notifications of COVID positive diagnosis at the school or exposure at the school will be sent as soon as the facts of the situation are gathered and decisions around room or building closure is made. Communication may be sent by email, phone call, text or printed letter.

Q: Will those notifications expand to anyone that may have come in contact?

A: The notifications will be extended to anyone deemed necessary by contact tracing in that specific school community.

Q: Will we be notified at the point of exposure or confirmed test?

A: We will notify the school community at the earliest point possible.

Q: Will we announce school quarantines to the public?

A: We will notify the school community, which includes students, families and staff.

Masks

Q: What is our policy surrounding masks?

A: Masks are required per guidelines from ISBE and the Governor. COVID-19 is able to spread rapidly in communities through transmission by asymptomatic individuals or those who have not yet developed symptoms. Researchers are also examining why some people shed more of the virus than others, making them more likely to pass the virus to a larger number of people. This phenomenon is known as “super spreading.” Although these factors can make controlling the spread of COVID-19 more complicated, masks reduce much of this risk by making it more difficult for the droplets that transmit the virus to pass from you to others. This is why it’s so important to wear one, even if you aren’t experiencing symptoms.

Q: Will parents and/or visitors be required to wear masks?

A: Only essential visitors will be permitted into buildings. They are required to wear a mask. They will be provided a single use mask if they do not have one.

Q: What if they refuse to wear a mask?

A: They will be asked to leave or make arrangements to address their needs over the phone or by email.

Q: Will visitors have to document a disability if they do not wear a mask?

A: We will have signage at all entries showing that masks are required and that only essential visitors are allowed in the building. Visitors will be given a mask if they arrive at the building without one. If they refuse to wear a mask due to a medical reason they will be required to show documentation to enter the building.

Q: Will masks be provided for students and staff?

A: We are providing teachers and staff with masks? They may wear their own as well. We are providing students with masks and will have single use masks if needed. They can also wear their own.

Q: What if a student gets their mask dirty?

A: If a child gets a mask dirty they will be provided with a disposable mask or extra cloth masks for the remainder of the day. The cloth mask that is dirty will be sent home with the student to be laundered. The District has ordered disposable masks that will be delivered to each building and child size disposable masks are also being supplied to elementary schools.

Q: What are the rules about when and how long students need to wear masks? What about lunch and recess?

A: Students will be required to wear masks at all times in the school building unless they are breakfast or lunch. When students are outside for recess they will be allowed to remove masks as long as they are at least 6 ft. away from other students and staff.

Q: Will teachers get N95 Masks?

A: There is national supply shortage and N95 masks are prioritized for healthcare workers.

Q: Are there any accommodations for students who cannot tolerate masks?

A: We will need to work with families individually to ensure that students are wearing masks. If there is a medical reason, we have documentation that will need to be completed, and a 504 plan or review of an IEP could be created. Students can be accommodated with a type of mask that is comfortable for the student, but a type of face covering will be ultimately required, and social distancing will have to occur. We will also offer remote learning for anyone not comfortable with wearing a mask as requested.

Q: What is the process for medical exclusion?

A: We have a required note developed by our legal counsel to be signed by a physician. Additional social distancing may be required depending on the accommodation required. No face covering at all is not an option.

Q: Can students wear personal masks from home?

A: Yes, as long as it follows the Student Handbook for appropriateness.

Q: I cannot medically tolerate a mask. Can I teach in a building?

A: We have a required note to be signed by a physician. Additional social distancing may be required depending on the accommodation required. No face covering at all is not an option.

Q: How will it be addressed if an employee does not follow the mask requirements?

A: Issues with employees will be addressed through HR protocols for not following procedures.

Legal Questions

Q: Would COVID testing at schools be an option?

A: At this time, that is not an option with current testing capacity. We will continue to watch developments and advancements in testing options.

Q: Can we require notifications if employees or families travel to hotspots?

A: The District encourages staff to practice safety first in all interactions outside of school. We would encourage staff to be open and honest so that the supervisors can have conversations with staff to make sure that safety is the first priority. Each individual instance will need to be considered. Hotspots change daily.

Q: What do the HIPAA Laws, as it relates to notifications, require for COVID 19 cases?

A: HIPAA does not necessarily apply to the District, with the exception of electronic healthcare transactions, if any. Nonetheless, The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is exercising its enforcement discretion and is not imposing penalties for violations of HIPAA against health care providers or their business associates for the good faith uses and disclosures of COVID-19 related health information during the COVID-19 nationwide public health emergency.

Q: What is the process for staff or students who refuse to wear masks for medical reasons?

A: District legal counsel has created a document that will need to be completed by the student or teacher's physician. The District also has a description of the appropriate accommodation that requires alternate face coverings and social distancing. This will be attached to an Asthma Plan or 504 Plan if there is not an Individual Education Plan in place.

Student Concerns

Q: How will other safety drills still occur? Will we do small groupings?

A: We do have a responsibility to continue to do state mandated drills. This has not been altered or waived. We will do so in small groups to teach the same skills in a socially distanced manner.

Q: Will we still maintain uniforms?

A: We will not be dressing for PE. Uniforms, in schools that normally have uniforms, will be required for hybrid students when they are in school. It is our goal to resume normal in person instruction and maintain the integrity of our current systems in place.

Q: Will transfers be handled any differently?

A: Transfers that were already in place were maintained in 2020-2021. New transfers were considered through regular practices.

Entry Procedures

Q: Will building entries be limited for traffic control and screening purposes?

A: Yes. During the walkthroughs that O&M and the School Support Office has been doing with building principals and custodial staff entry points for students have been discussed and planned. The entry points for students will be at multiple entrances. The entry point for school visitors will remain at the same single point as in previous school years.

Q: If a person is screened and has a high temperature, will there be a temperature re-check? While waiting will they have to be with other COVID suspected individuals?

A: If a student is screened and has a temperature of 100 degrees or higher they will be put in a quarantine room. While in the quarantine room a temperature recheck will be done using another thermometer. If this check is also 100 degrees or higher then the student will be sent home. We are working on quarantine areas in each building to provide social distance for students while they are in these designated quarantine areas.

Q: Will we have a temperature / health check team?

A: If a school does not have a nurse assigned to the school in the morning the administrative staff will be in charge of the primary and secondary temperature checks. They will be able to call District nursing staff or one of the District area medical partners for information on working with a potentially COVID student. Nurses will always manage the students who are symptomatic. Most often, the well checks will be completed by District staff and their designees.

Q: If students enter from many directions, how we do entry checks? What is the protocol for walkers?

A: Each school will assign students specific entry points throughout the day. Building principals and custodial staff have discussed these entry points with O&M and the School Support Office during walkthroughs. By giving students assigned entry points this should assist in regulating the daily traffic into the building.

Q: Are adults that pick up a child required to stay in their cars?

A: Signs have been posted in all buildings for Essential Visitors Only. If a parent is going to pick up a student it will be recommended that they stay in the car and school staff will escort the student to the parent's vehicle as opposed to the parent coming into the building. If a parent must come into the building they will follow the same COVID symptom check that staff will be required to do daily.

Q: What is the protocol for walkers?

A: Building administration will monitor and develop a plan of action for walkers. Face masks will be encouraged while walking to school and when on school property, students will be asked to wear their mask.

Q: Will lines be socially distanced as we do screenings? Will students be out in the elements?

A: School staff will mark entry doors for social distancing to take place between students. In cases when there is inclement weather students will be allowed to enter covered entryways or other large areas where they can be out of the elements and go through the screening. Arrival

time is often staggered and with few students in the building this can be managed with multiple entry points.

Q: How will we distance in the hallway, at recess etc?

A: During building walkthroughs social distancing in hallways and at recess has been discussed. The hallways in most school buildings are more than 6 feet wide, and using the procedures that most schools already have in place which include walking on the right hand side of the hallway, provide appropriate social distancing between classes. Students in the same class will be reminded to stay 6 tiles away from the person in front of them. Students will have masks on in the hallways in order to protect them if they do get closer than the recommended 6 feet. At recess, classes will be asked to do activities with the people in their room only.

Transportation

Q: Will students maintain 6 ft. distance on the bus?

A: We will seat students diagonally in a zig zag up and down the bus, and siblings will sit together in the same seat. We will ventilate the bus by opening windows and students will wear masks.

Q: Will temperatures be taken before they get on the bus?

A: Bus monitors or other assigned personnel on the bus will take temperatures. Bus drivers cannot monitor health while they are driving and monitoring the stop arms and traffic etc.

Q: If the monitor sees the family member, will they be asked to take a child back that has an elevated fever?

A: We will do a public push for students to have an adult with PK-5 grade students if at all possible at the bus stop so that this may occur. This would only be done if the monitor and driver deemed it safe to do so and they knew that supervision for the student would be in place. Buses will have a quarantine seat and the student will have a mask on. We would ask that the bus provide the name of the student that they turned away to a parent so that the school could do a wellness check. If there is no contact, we would isolate for a nurse visit temperature verification upon arrival.

Building and Grounds

Q: Can teachers be in their classrooms if we are remote?

A: Yes, in Phase 3 and 4, school buildings can be open. If we are remote, schools will be open and custodians, secretaries and administration will staff the buildings.

Q: Will there be a district-wide plan about classroom sizes, playground usage, and playground areas? Will each room be given a number of students that can be inside each room?

A: The number of students for any space will depend on the size of the room, likely between 12-15 students per classroom to allow for proper social distancing. Some rooms may need to have fewer students, depending on the room size. Playground use will be socially distanced and students will be given expectations for activities.

Q: If water fountains are not available for use, what source of water will be available?

A: Students may bring water bottles. We have some water bottle fillers installed in some schools. We are currently installing them where the drinking fountains will accept the adapter. Unfortunately these can not be everywhere by the beginning of the year due to time to install. We will allow students and staff to bring water bottles.

Cleaning and Sanitizing

Q: What are the expectations for sanitizing the school?

A: Day employees will be required to sanitize high frequency touch surfaces throughout the day. Restrooms will be disinfected at a minimum after school starts, after lunch and as needed throughout the day. Night shift employees will be cleaning and disinfecting touch surfaces, desks, and floors in all rooms.

Q: What chemicals will be used?

A: The District uses Buckeye products distributed by our contracted supplier MASCO. They meet the requirements set by the CDC for COVID 19. The E23 Disinfectant will be used for the high touch surfaces and final disinfecting during the night shift.

Q: When will it be applied?

A: Throughout the day and during the night shift.

Q: What will be provided for the teachers?

A: Each classroom will be provided with gloves, and have access to disinfectant spray, disposable rags, individual wipes are not regularly available

Q: What training will be provided to each custodian?

A: Operations and Maintenance is scheduling small group meetings to finalize the expectations for cleaning and sanitizing. This will be completed prior to school starting.

Q: Who will check on custodians to make sure they are following protocols?

A: Operations and Maintenance staff will be making rounds. We will not be able to go to each building every night due to limited staffing. Principals and admin staff could assist and would be welcomed.

Q: Will all surfaces in my classroom be cleaned daily?

A: High frequency touch surfaces, floors, desks, tables will be cleaned and disinfected every night.

Q: Will room cleaning happen throughout the day?

A: No. The teachers will have to address wiping down desks and touch surfaces in the classroom during the day. A request to the custodian for usual clean-ups and needs is always an option.

Q: Will restrooms be cleaned hourly?

A: Every two hours and as needed.

Q: Who is purchasing masks and cleaners?

A: Cleaners are provided by the District. The District and ISBE have also purchased cloth masks for distribution. A supply of disposable masks will be provided for people that come to the building without one.

Q: Will we be installing touchless paper towel dispensers?

A: Not at this time

Q: How is deep cleaning defined?

A: Deep cleaning is defined as removing all furniture out of the room and the furniture and room cleaned, floors waxed. This is done every summer. Daily cleaning and sanitizing will not remove cabinets, case work, shelving from the room daily. High touch surfaces and floors will be cleaned and sanitized. See COVID Cleaning Document.

Q: Are the cleaners considered green products?

A: Yes - our cleaners are green products.

Guidance from Sangamon County Department of Public Health

1) If a teacher tests positive, what will be the next course of action?

The teacher will be isolated immediately until cleared by the local health department to return to work. As part of contact tracing conducted by the health department, children's risk will be determined by the amount of time spent by the teacher in class, distance between them and personal protective equipment worn. The schools are required to notify families when possible exposure occurs. Further instructions on testing and follow up will be given via the contact tracers.

2) If a student tests positive, what actions will be taken?

The student that tests positive will be isolated immediately until cleared by the health department or their pediatrician. Contact tracing will be initiated at once to determine those that are exposed and determine a plan for them based on the level of risk of their exposure.

3) Is fever a good screening tool?

Fever > 100.0 is one of the common symptoms of COVID-19. The infection can occur without the presence of fever or any symptoms and those are harder to identify on screening. However, promptly identifying and isolating anyone that is febrile, will ensure protection from exposure if this individual is determined to have COVID-19.

4) There are many asymptomatic carriers of COVID-19. How can we identify them?

It is exceedingly difficult to identify asymptomatic cases of COVID-19 merely with symptom screening. These are people who are infected with COVID-19 but never develop any symptoms of the infection. Majority of children that develop COVID-19 infections are asymptomatic. Viral transmission from asymptomatic individuals does occur. It is therefore important to continue to socially distance and use appropriate personal protective equipment to prevent spread and help reduce the harm from this dangerous virus.

5) If there is a newly diagnosed positive case in the building, what PPE should be worn?

Isolate this individual in a designated area of the building until they can be sent home. CDC and IDPH require a gown, gloves, N-95 mask, and eye protection while interacting with the person who could be sick.

6) What alternative PPE is available for a child that cannot wear a mask?

Schools should require physician's note for students and staff who are not able to wear a face covering due to trouble breathing. They may attempt to wear a face shield. However, the protection with a face shield is not optimal as it does not fit snugly around the nose and mouth, against the sides of the face. Face shields may be useful in situations where it is important for students to see how a teacher pronounces words (e.g., English Learners, early childhood, foreign language, etc.). ISBE recommends that schools and districts update policies to require the wearing a face covering while on school grounds and handle violations in the same manner as other policy violations.

7) Do the children have to wear masks all the time?

ISBE recommends mask/ face cover all the time including in the classroom. Per ISBE, the masks could be removed for eating and when outside. Cloth masks are recommended for all children. Cloth masks/ face mask are recommended for teachers. CDC has video on how to make cloth masks at home: see reference #2. When unable to mask for children, consider face shields.

8) What are some public health measures taken in school that will keep the children and staff safe?

In addition to masking, it is important to maintain 6 feet of distance from others as much as possible. Maintain 6-foot distance in all directions between the desks and face desks in the same direction. Open windows, if possible, for increased ventilation. Schools can contact their Local Health Department or Fire Department to confirm the number of students to safely seat in a class based on the room size. Build in time for hand hygiene and/or schedule hand hygiene breaks, including before/after eating snacks/meals and upon exiting and returning to the classroom. Schools have ensured adequate hygiene supplies and the methanol content in hand sanitizers used.

9) Can the children share their electronics?

It is preferred that children do not share electronic devices, toys, books, and other games or learning aids. Electronics, including, but not limited to, tablets, touchscreens, keyboards, remote controls, lunchroom keypads, door entry systems, etc., should be cleaned before and after use. Consider using a wipeable cover on electronics and clean per the CDC guidelines.

10) What are some recommendations for COVID-19 specific disinfection in schools?

Per CDC, IDPH and ISBE, more frequent cleaning and disinfection is necessary to reduce exposure. Disinfect with a household disinfectant registered with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and follow contact times on the label. Ensure that EPA-approved disinfectants for use against the coronavirus are available to staff responsible for cleaning. Districts should post scheduled cleaning times and maintain appropriate documentation upon the completion of cleaning.

- a. Gloves and other Personal Protective Equipment must be used during cleaning and disinfection. Ensure that appropriate PPE is available to and used by staff, based on job-specific duties and risk of exposure.
- b. Always follow label directions.
- c. Allow the required wet contact time.
- d. Keep all disinfectants out of the reach of children.
- e. Do not mix bleach or other cleaning products and disinfectants together.
- f. Ensure that cleaning supplies brought by staff and students are approved by the EPA.

11) What do we do if the screening parameters are abnormal but not severe enough to send home?

There may be times while performing the symptom screen, the measurements are not severe enough to send home. For example, if the temperature is 100.0 does the child need to return home? Follow your school policy for sending students home.

12) Runny nose and muscle aches are non-specific symptoms. Do the students need to be sent home?

According to the IDPH guidelines, these symptoms do require students to be sent home. If the student has allergies listed on file and the physician evaluates it as not being COVID-19, the student can be readmitted.

13) What other help is available?

Help is always available from Sangamon County Department of Public Health and its colleagues.

COVID Hotline: 217-321-2606

Communicable Disease Nurse: 217-535-3010

Gail O'Neill: 217-321-2601 (Direct line to Office)