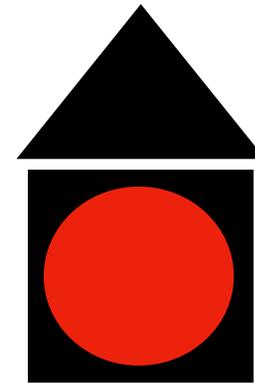


# **Return to Learn Plan**

**Springfield Ball Charter School Overview**



**August 12, 2021**

# Priority #1

## Students Will Come Back To In-Person Learning

- It is our goal to resume the 2021-2022 school year with an emphasis on combating the opportunity and learning loss experienced by students and to provide in-person direct instruction as well as all extracurricular activities and events in a welcoming and safe environment for students, staff, and families.
- In accordance with the Illinois State Superintendent of Schools July 9, 2021 declaration, Springfield Ball Charter School will be open for in-person learning for all student attendance days for the 2021-2022 school year on August 16, 2021.
- Remote instruction will only be made available for non-vaccinated or vaccine ineligible students who are under quarantine as directed by the local health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health.

# Mitigation Levels

- Mitigation Level 1 — Universal masking
- Mitigation Level 2 — Fully vaccinated individuals (two weeks after completing the full vaccination) may be mask free, while unvaccinated students and staff remain masked.
- Mitigation Level 3 — Optional masking

# A Phased and Scaffolded Approach to Mitigation

- As stated by Illinois Governor Pritzker (August 4, 2021), schools will begin at Mitigation Level 1 as written in the District #186 Return to Learn Plan.
- We will begin to peel back the layers of mitigation strategies as we continue to improve vaccination rates and see infection rates decline in the community.

# Masking - Mitigation Level 1

- Mask use is required for all elementary and middle level students regardless of vaccination status.
- Mask use is required on all school buses including regular routes and field trips.
- All teachers, staff, students, and visitors at SBCS will wear a mask while indoors, regardless of vaccination status.
- Disposable masks will be available to individuals that need one, but we encourage mask responsibility.

# Social Distancing

- Social distancing of 3 feet or more will be used as much as possible within school and classroom structures so that it does not exclude students from full-day in-person learning.
- Social distancing continues to be the best way to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

# Other Mitigation Practices

- Testing Protocols: U of I Shield Testing and BinaxNow K-12 (Approval is was a part of registration) is required for all students participating in extracurricular activities and athletics.
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- Ventilation mitigation
  - Highest MERV rated air filters have been purchased and are installed.
  - AirBox Purifiers have been purchased for all non-airconditioned rooms and small spaces including quarantine spaces.
- District #186 is offering vaccination opportunities
- Daily cleaning protocols and COVID response teams are in place.
- Visitors to Springfield Ball Charter School are limited to required staff and approved volunteers.

# Other Mitigation Practices

## (Continued)

- All students will be assigned a number from their classroom/homeroom teacher. This will assist with contact tracing in all areas of the school.
- As of now, students are not required to wear masks outside. That being said, playground practices include:
  - Social distancing, discourage any skin to skin contact (hand shakes, high fives, hugs)
  - Promote play between small groups of 2, 3, or 4.
- Indoor mask breaks are allowed, but only within the classroom when 6 feet of social distance is achievable. We recommend that a break is taken during student independent work time. Teachers will also implement outdoor breaks per their schedule.

# **Discretionary Return to Remote Education**

The Board authorizes administration officials and staff to implement a return to remote education for all or parts of grade levels based on available staffing and safety related to COVID-19 exclusions.