



ROADMAP TO REOPENING

Bellwood School District 88 Schools

A GUIDE FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

We are all in this together



District 88 - A Guide to Reopening Our Schools

All staff, students, parents, and visitors will be required to observe all public health and safety measures implemented by the school and district in conjunction with state and local requirements.

The Covid-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the way our schools operate. Since the pandemic began, District #88 has worked collaboratively to prioritize the safety and well-being of its students and staff. Using what we learned from the end of last year, along with guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Illinois Department of Health (IDPH), the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) local conditions and the state's Part 5 - Supporting the Full Return to In-Person Learning for All Students, August 2021, the District has developed this reopening guide to best provide continuity of educational services for all of our students.

The outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19) has been declared a global pandemic. While COVID-19 continues to spread, it is important that communities take action to prevent further transmission, reduce the impacts of the outbreak and support control measures.

Mission Statement:

The mission of Bellwood School District #88 is to protect our staff, students, parents, and visitors within our educational facilities. This mission is vitally important given our current times. Precautions are necessary to prevent the potential spread of COVID-19 in school settings. Education settings should continue to be welcoming, respectful, inclusive, and supportive environments to all. Safety measures need to be taken by schools and the school community to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. School District #88 is committed to providing the safest environment for our staff, students, parents, and visitors. If we all do our part, we will stop the spread of the coronavirus.

Return to School 2021-2022 Summary of Updates:

- **Governor JB Pritzker announced [Covid-19 Executive Order No 85](#) on August 4, 2021. The order requires that masks be worn indoors by all teachers, staff, students, and visitors, regardless of vaccination status.**
- Additionally, the American Academy of Pediatrics likewise recommends universal masking in schools of everyone over the age of two, regardless of vaccination status, because a significant portion of the student population is not yet eligible for vaccines, and masking is proven to reduce transmission of the virus and to protect those who are not vaccinated.
- Anyone (both staff or student) who rides a school bus must wear a mask.
- Furthermore, on July 9, 2021 the Illinois State Board of Education formally issued a declaration stating that all Illinois schools must "resume fully in-person learning for all attendance days."

- District #88 will have full in-person learning for all students. The current guidance for remote learning from ISBE states that remote instruction is only available for students who are under quarantine order by a local public health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health and are not eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. It is also available to our medically fragile students upon request by their primary care physician.
- The state of Illinois has made COVID-19 testing available to all schools in Illinois through SHIELD Illinois. District 88 will be screening students and staff.
- We will discontinue health screenings, including temperature and symptom checks, for all students, staff, and visitors prior to entering the school or boarding a school bus.
- We will continue to monitor local health conditions, including positivity rates in our area to determine mitigation strategies. This document will be updated whenever new information/guidance is provided by ISBE, IDPH, and/or the CDC. Any changes will be communicated to families and staff.

General Health Expectations

Personal Protective Equipment/PPE: *(Required for anyone 2 yrs.+ to wear a mask while inside our schools)* All students/staff/visitors/delivery personnel/contractors for buildings & grounds, technology, etc. must wear a mask throughout the course of the school day. This includes classrooms, hallways, washrooms, Main Office, lunch areas, etc. Prior to entering the school building all masks must be securely in place.

All students and staff should be reminded of the proper way to wear a mask. Appropriate mask use (i.e., covering over face AND nose, correct fit across the face and the correct material used for masking) is essential to prevent transmission. Please see the CDC [Guide to Masks](#). Students should be reminded to keep hands away from the mask/face throughout the course of the day. Building administrators are responsible for making sure “Masks are Required” signs are clearly posted on entry doors as well as throughout the building. Face shields do not provide the proper protection and will not be an option for students and/or staff to replace face masks unless there is a documented medical condition.

Face gaiters and neck warmers are not acceptable face masks. For any students using a reusable face mask, the reusable face mask should be machine washed or washed by hand after each use and allowed to completely dry prior to the next use.

In classrooms, everyone must keep his/her mask on unless eating lunch or snack. As soon as eating is over, masks must be used for the remainder of the day.

Individuals who have a condition or medical contraindication (e.g., difficulty breathing) that prevents them from wearing a face mask are required to provide documentation from the individual's health care provider. These persons may wear a face shield in lieu of a face mask; however, physical distancing should be maintained. Measures to reduce risk of exposure for these persons will be implemented, where possible.

Symptom Screenings:

IDPH no longer requires students, staff or visitors to self certify or have temperature checks upon entering school buildings. However students and staff should continue to monitor themselves for symptoms and must stay at home when they are not feeling well. Students and staff with a sudden onset of any of the following symptoms that can not be attributed to an alternative diagnosis must remain at home:

- Temperature greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit/38 degrees
- Cough,
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing,
- Chills,
- Fatigue,
- Muscle and body aches,
- Headache,
- Sore throat,
- New loss of taste or smell,
- Congestion or runny nose,
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea,

Individuals who exhibit symptoms should notify the school and contact their medical provider for evaluation.

Parents Coming to the School:

At any given time, parents will randomly come to the school for such things as new registration, early dismissal, sick child, etc. Please be aware that no more than two parents/families will be allowed in the main office at one time. All other parents will be asked to wait and socially distance in designated waiting areas. Parents will be required to properly wear a mask during the duration of their visit. Parents will not be allowed to walk to the child's classroom for any reason. .

If you need to pick your child up early, please call the school office and a staff member will bring your child to you. Please have an ID ready as you will be asked to provide identification. If you need to bring an item to your child during the school day, please follow the guidance as set forth by the building principal.

Travel Guidance:

District 88 is following the travel guidance provided by CCDPH. If you plan to travel to a high risk area or internationally, we ask that you notify the nurse at your child's school. They will provide you with guidance on how to safely return your child to school after traveling.

Health Offices:

Health offices will be reserved for healthy students that need medical management, such as medications, assessment of injury, or first aid. Masking and socially distancing guidelines are

still applied in the nurses' offices. Students with symptoms of illness will be escorted by school staff to the **Care Room** for further assessment and treatment.

Preparing for When a Student or Staff Member Becomes Sick:

When a student or staff member becomes sick at school with COVID-19 symptoms they will remain at their current location. The nurse/CNA or building administrator will report to the location of the symptomatic individual and escort them to the **Care Room**. At no time should a symptomatic person be allowed to enter the main office or nurse office. If the symptomatic person is wearing a reusable cloth mask, they will be asked to replace it with a surgical mask, to minimize transmission of droplets.

Students in the Care Rooms must be supervised by an adult at all times. The supervising adult should wear appropriate PPE.

Nursing staff will utilize the current **COVID-19 Exclusion Guidance Decision Tree** to determine proper management.

Shield Illinois COVID-19 Testing:

COVID-19 testing is most helpful in identifying new cases in presymptomatic or asymptomatic individuals to prevent outbreaks, reducing risk of further transmission, and protecting students and staff from COVID-19. SHIELD Illinois is a testing program that deploys the University of Illinois' innovative PCR covidSHIELD saliva test across the state of Illinois. PCR tests are the gold standard of testing for COVID-19. The test has a U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) emergency use authorization (EUA) for both asymptomatic and symptomatic individuals and, therefore, can be used for surveillance, screening, and diagnostic purposes. The Illinois Department of Public Health is providing the test along with a trained third party to collect the test. Test results can be received as soon as 24 hours after arrival to the lab.

All students enrolled in District 88 will automatically be part of the screening program. Parents that do not want their child to participate in the screening, should submit the opt out form to their child's school. Fully vaccinated students and staff will not participate in the screening program, however they may be tested if they become symptomatic during the school day.

Click on the link for more information on the [Shield Testing Program](#).

Confirmed Case of COVID-19:

In the event there is a confirmed case in our school population, we will work closely with the Cook County Department of Public Health to determine the best course of action.

Any close contacts to the positive case that are unvaccinated may be asked to stay home and quarantine. Teachers are asked to keep seating charts readily available, to assist with identifying close contacts.

CDC defines a close contact as an individual not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. For students in the indoor classroom setting, contacts who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student do not require quarantine as long as both the case and the contact were consistently masked. If they were not consistently masked, then close contacts are classroom students who were within 6 feet of the infected student for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.

Quarantine:

How and when a person must quarantine will be determined on a case by case basis. The local health department will make the final determination on who is to be quarantined and for how long. They also may determine that a close contact is not a candidate for modified quarantine due to a high-risk exposure (e.g., sustained close contact without masking). Currently there are four options for quarantining:

- Option 1: Individual quarantines for 14 days (**individual is not vaccinated**)
- Option 2: If no symptoms are present by Day 10, individuals may reduce quarantine to 10 days and return on the 11th day.
- Option 3: A negative PCR test taken on Day 6 or after can reduce quarantine to 7 days. (available to both students and staff)
- Option 4: Test-to-Stay
 - **This option is only available to students participating in the weekly COVID-19 screening**
 - **Students and staff deemed as close contacts are still able to attend school/work, however they will be tested on designated days.**
 - A close contact will be tested on Days 1, 3, 5, and 7 with an EUA authorized test (PCR or antigen) and if the results are negative at each test, the individual can continue to attend school/work.
 - If testing is not possible on specified days because of a weekend or holiday, test as soon as possible.
 - CCDPH needs to be notified of an individual participating in this program.
 - The individual has to remain asymptomatic the entire time. If symptoms develop, isolation must occur immediately. If they become symptomatic during the school day they will be sent home
 - In order to have this option, correct and consistent mask use has to be occurring at all times, and for the close contact that occurred.
 - This option is only available if the exposure occurred at school. It is not available if the close contact is a household member with COVID-19
- Please be aware that If the sibling of a positive case is vaccinated, they can remain at school as long as they don't develop symptoms.
- Students that have a negative PCR test but remain symptomatic will not be allowed to return to school unless they can provide the school with an alternate diagnosis documented by their primary care provider.
- Fully vaccinated people who were in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 but does NOT have COVID-19 symptoms does not need to quarantine. It is recommended that the close contact be tested 3-5 days after exposure, but does not need to quarantine during this time. However, if the contact does develop possible symptoms of COVID-19, they should isolate immediately.

Returning to School after COVID-19 Infection or Quarantine:

Students: Parents must contact the nurse prior to returning their student to school. Upon return but before entering the classroom, the student must be assessed by the nurse to verify the resolution of symptoms.

District Staff: Employees who have symptoms of and have been exposed to the COVID 19 virus should first notify their immediate supervisor, the office of Human Resources and proceed home. Employees who are well but who have a sick family member at home and awaiting testing results should notify their supervisor and stay home.

Prior to returning to the worksite, all employees must provide a release to return to work to the Office of Human Resources. During the quarantine period, employees will be unable to work from home and any sick days will be deducted.

Illnesses and Diagnoses Monitoring:

Confirmed cases of COVID-19 will be reported to the local health department by the school nurse or designee as required by the Illinois Infectious Disease Reporting Requirements issued by IDPH. In the event of a positive case only close contacts will be notified. Districts will inform the school community of outbreaks per local and state health department guidelines while maintaining student and staff confidentiality rights.

School Closures:

Any decisions regarding school closures due to COVID-19 will be under the direction of the Cook County Department of Public Health.

General Guidance

General Classroom Guidance:

- Maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms to the fullest extent possible.
 - In classrooms, this means that desks should be 3 feet apart from edge to edge, or students should be 3 feet apart shoulder to shoulder in classrooms without desks.
 - If this is not possible, distance to the greatest possible extent, and be sure to keep seating charts for contact tracing purposes.
- Building staff should follow the procedures outlined by their building principal regarding student pick-up and drop-off procedures.
- Students will remain with the same classroom group (cohort) throughout the day when possible.

Non-classroom Indoor Settings:

- This includes music rooms, auditorium, gymnasium, commons, computer lab, etc.
- Schools should maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students
- Avoid assemblies or large meetings.

Hallways, Main Office, and Common Areas:

- Provide access to school buildings to authorized personnel only. Visitor access will be as needed only (clearly visible signage at each entryway)
- Clean high touch areas throughout the day

Restrooms:

- Schedule/coordinate restroom and hand washing breaks throughout the day
- Schools will maintain social distancing in restroom areas to the fullest extent possible.
- Clean high touch surfaces throughout the day

Recess:

- Schedule/coordinate recess to minimize student mixing (Develop student cohorts)
- Students can remove masks and have brief contact during recess. However, contact sports or games should still be avoided
- Students will follow the guidelines as set forth by the building principal regarding outside mask breaks

Hand Hygiene:

Handwashing with soap and water is always the first recommended line of defense, but where this is not feasible or readily accessible, the use of hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol may be used.

- Hands should be washed often with soap and water for 20 seconds.
- Hand hygiene will be performed upon arrival to and departure from school; before and after handling their mask, after blowing one's nose, coughing, or sneezing; following restroom use; before food preparation or before and after eating; before/after routine care for another person, such as a child; after contact with a person who is sick; upon return from the playground/physical education; and following glove removal.

Classroom Ventilation:

The CDC recommends classroom ventilation preferably with outside air. Windows should be opened periodically throughout the day as Covid droplets linger in the air for longer than first thought.

Facilities:

- Schools have been provided additional PPE equipment for staff and student use
- Touchless water fountains have been installed in all schools
- Hand sanitizers have been installed in all schools
- Building custodians have been directed to clean and disinfect throughout the course of the day high touch surfaces such as but not limited to door handles/knobs, sinks and faucets, cafeteria tables, etc.
- Classrooms will be cleaned and disinfected each day after the school day has concluded

Drills - Fire, Tornado, Active Shooter:

Practice drills for fire, tornado, and/or active shooter are necessary for staff and students' awareness. By the nature of each of the drills, it is difficult to maintain 3 ft. of social distancing. Staff and students should keep masks in place throughout the drills and as best as possible limit proximity to each other. Some drills require close proximity and for overall safety reasons staff and students should follow the typical guidelines for that drill.

Technology:

All students in kindergarten through 8th grade will be issued a Chromebook, charger, and Chromebook case. For grade levels that will be bringing their Chromebooks home each night,

students will be expected to bring their Chromebook back each school day fully charged. Students are expected to safely transport their Chromebooks to and from school.

Shared Objects:

IDPH guidelines discourage the borrowing or sharing of any items. It is recommended that items that must be shared or communally used be cleaned after each use - at a minimum -- and that the individuals perform hand hygiene between use.

Band:

- Students will be seated at least 3 feet apart, and should not be facing each other.
- Outdoor whenever possible, windows open when possible.
- All students playing instruments in band or general music settings including choir need to be wearing a mask- for wind instruments, these masks can have slits cut for the mouthpiece.
- These can only be removed when outdoors and physically distanced.
- Trombones need to maintain even more distance from other players (9 feet).
- For wind instruments, a cloth covering must be added over the bell.
- Minimize shared instruments and other objects.
- Rehearsals should be limited to around 30 minutes of playing, singing, or dancing.
- Room should be aired out for one air exchange prior to the next use of the room. (Building engineering staff will likely know the air exchange rates)
- This may mean some instruction occurs outside the music room, or students spend a longer amount of time getting ready for rehearsal.

Physical Education and Gymnasiums:

Physical activity can support students' overall health and well-being and help reduce stress and anxiety. Face coverings must be worn. Activities must allow for 3 feet of distance between students as much as possible. Students can remove masks and have brief contact.

Games and sport activities that require close guarding and any potential physical contact with another player must be avoided in order to comply with IDPH requirements. Whenever feasible and weather permitting, educators should select outdoor physical education activities that allow natural social distancing.

If physical education must be taught inside, consider using separate partitions in open spaces, utilizing markings on the gymnasium floor/wall/field to maintain distance between participants. Hand shaking, high fives, or other physical contact is prohibited. It is recommended that educators have access to technology to broadcast instruction to maximize social distancing (e.g., megaphone or microphone).

The use of shared equipment is not recommended. Any shared equipment must be cleaned between each student's use and disinfected at the end of each class. Students and staff should perform hand hygiene at the start and end of each class period or when hands are visibly dirty. Students should also perform hand hygiene after the use of each piece of equipment.

Cafeterias/Food Service:

- When moving through the food service line and while eating, students should socially distance as much as possible.
- If 3 feet of distance can't be maintained while eating, keep a seating chart for contact tracing purposes.
- Ideally all students should be facing the same direction
- Prior to eating, masks should be carefully removed/repositioned. The front of the mask is considered contaminated and should not be touched during removal or replacement
- Students will perform hand hygiene upon entering and exiting the cafeteria.
- High touch areas will be cleaned between each lunch period.

Teaching and Learning

Overview:

Teaching and Learning are at the core of what we do in District #88. As we begin to think about our students returning to school in August, we must ask ourselves the ever important question of how we will prioritize teaching and learning to maximize the learning experience. For many District #88 students, their last school experience was in March 2020. Starting off this year, the school experience will look differently than it has in previous years. The classroom may look different then in the past but we are committed to ensuring that all of our students' learning needs are met through high quality engaging instruction across all subject areas.

Our students may enter the upcoming school year with academic knowledge that varies more greatly between students than in previous school years due to the pandemic. Our teachers will use targeted, purposeful planning and differentiated instruction to help individual students reach their learning goals.

In-Person (Full Time):

The Traditional Learning model provides in-person instruction for all students following a typical full-time daily schedule. Our plan is to return to this traditional learning model as of August 2021. We will continue to monitor the latest ISBE, IDPH, CEC guidance and local conditions.

Remote Learning (Offered only for students who are quarantined):

The current guidance for remote learning from ISBE states that remote instruction is available only for students who are under quarantine order by a local public health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health and not eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. Students will be provided with asynchronous activities via Google Classroom and will be allowed to check in with teachers during designated **"Zoom Office Hours."**

Expectations

Attendance:

Daily attendance and engagement for all students are expected whether students are participating in classes in-person or remotely. In accordance with ISBE reporting requirements, attendance will be taken every day using PowerSchool.

Parents will be expected to notify the school office if a child is going to be absent. If your child is sick please report their symptoms.

Grading:





Bellwood #88 will follow ISBE's guidelines for grading as well as District #88 grading policy. Our goal is to help students by providing them with effective and timely feedback that furthers their learning.




Field Trips:

Field Trips will be approved on a case to case basis in accordance with IDPH recommendations.

Digital Learning Resources:

Listed below are digital programs and educational tools used by District 88. The District also uses a number of additional educational tools to support teaching and learning not necessarily outlined below.

Tool	Grade	Purpose	Parent Involvement
Clever Portal 	PreK - 8th	Clever is a single sign-on portal that centralizes the learning applications students have access to.	Set up your Clever Family Portal account. This allows parents to view your student's applications and access their QR code for login purposes. Students can also login using Google.
Zoom 	PreK - 8th	Zoom is a video conferencing tool that allows teachers and students to virtually connect. Zoom can be used to stream classroom activities for any student participating remotely.	Support your child in maintaining good Zoom etiquette at all times.
Powerschool 	PreK-8th	Powerschool is Bellwood School District 88's student information system.	Parents should know their Powerschool username and password. Parents can log into Powerschool to view grades, attendance, and other student information items. You can obtain login information from your building admins.
SeeSaw 	ECC PreK	SeeSaw is a platform for PreK student and parental engagement. A platform for students to create, reflect, share, and collaborate.	Create an account and use the provided classroom code to connect to your child(rens) classroom(s). Access to view student work and communicate with teachers.

Google Classroom 	K - 8th	Google Classroom is a platform that streamlines the process of sharing assignments, google files, links, images, and videos between teachers and students.	Check-in with your child(ren) to ensure they are logging into their Google Classroom each day to access and complete school work.
Class Dojo 	PreK-8th	Class Dojo is used as a two-way communication tool between teachers and students. *Not used by all teachers.	Create an account using the class code provided by the teachers. Access to stay in-touch with classroom and school communications.
Remind 	Prek-8th	Remind is used as a two-way communication tool between teachers, administrators, and students. *Not used by all teachers	Your student's teacher will send you an invite to connect to their Remind account. This will allow access to message teachers or admins.

Social-Emotional Learning and Concerns:

District #88 recognizes the impact that COVID-19 may have had on the social-emotional health of faculty, staff, students, and their families. Social Emotional Learning Specialists and school teams are preparing to help ensure a safe return to in-person learning through activities designed to assess student readiness to learn and activities to promote self-awareness and self-care for all.

English Learners:

District #88 is committed to equity and will continue to provide high-quality services and programs to our English Learners (ELs),

- The guidelines outlined under Teaching and Learning also apply to the instruction for our EL students.
- Communication with families will remain a critical component of success. District staff will use our parents' preferred language, to the extent possible, for oral and written communications. District and school websites will have translated (English/Spanish) information available.
- Identification of ELs, assessment, placement, and language acquisition services will continue. District #88 will use the appropriate state protocols that are dependent upon the state's Restore Illinois Phase designation.

Early Childhood:

District #88's preschool program will follow all of the mandates/guidelines as set forth from ISBE's Preschool for All grant to the fullest extent possible.

Special Education

PreK Child Find and Evaluation:

District #88 will continue to identify, locate, and evaluate PreK students via Child Finds who may be in need of special education and related services. District #88 will conduct evaluations while adhering to public health guidelines for the safety of students and staff.

Individualized Education Program (IEP) Meetings:

Bellwood #88 is committed to providing families an opportunity to have meaningful participation in the special education process. Depending upon the circumstances and consent from the parent, the meeting may be conducted in person or an alternative format, such as a Zoom meeting or by phone. Special education teams will partner with families to determine the most practical format to conduct IEP meetings and arrange for an interpreter if necessary. Initial, re-evaluation, and meetings with translation services are preferred to be in-person to the fullest extent possible.

Progress Monitoring and Reporting:

Special education teams will have gathered data regarding the child for use across the learning environment. Collecting data will assist educators and families in determining the effectiveness of instruction provided, student performance IEP goals/objectives, and assist IEP teams in making any necessary adjustments to instruction.

Delivery of Special Education and Related Services:

In-Person Learning	Remote Learning for when in Quarantine
Services provided as outlined in the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP)	Services provided as outlined in the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
Any IEP changes being considered must be brought to the Program Supervisor and team meeting	Tele-therapy used for some therapies and services, as necessary and feasible
Provide students with alternative Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), as necessary	Some students may receive in-person special education services, as allowable and appropriate. Schedules set between staff and families at an IEP meeting.

Support Services**Transportation Services:**

- Bus personnel and students must wear a mask at all times while riding the school bus
- Transportation services will continue per Individual Education Plans (IEPs), student home proximity to the attendance school, and PreK need.
- Siblings will be asked to sit together
- Buses will be sanitized each day
- Seats and high-touch areas will also be sanitized between routes

Communication Methods:

Throughout the 2021-2022 school year, District #88 will continue to utilize the following communication methods to keep stakeholders up to date on changes regarding all protocols:

- District #88 website
- Robocall alerts
- Principal newsletters

Parents please make sure we have your most current contact information on file at your child's school this includes cellular numbers and email addresses.