



## Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

2022-2023

---

The following plan is in accordance with the ISBE, the IDPH and the CDC. The plan will cover many aspects of the school day, although we are aware situations may occur that will need further guidance as they arise.

This plan is meant to apply to times of a pandemic or other health emergency. A pandemic is a global outbreak of disease. Pandemics happen when a new virus emerges to infect individuals, and because there is little to no pre-existing immunity against the new virus, it spreads sustainably. Your child's school and district play an essential role, along with the local health department and emergency management agencies, in protecting the public's health and safety during a pandemic or other health emergency. During this pandemic or other health emergency, you will be notified in a timely manner of all changes to the school environment and schedule that impact your child. Please be assured that even if school is not physically in session, it is the goal of the district to provide your child with the best educational opportunities possible.

### In-Person Learning

It is JAMP Special Education's goal to maintain traditional in-person learning activities. In guidance for schools released in July 2022, local control has been affirmed to allow the cooperative along with member districts, in cooperation with the Southern Seven Health Department, to monitor school/community transmission of COVID-19, vaccination coverage, screening testing, and occurrence of local outbreaks to guide decisions on the level of layered prevention strategies. The CDC identifies the following prevention/mitigation strategies reduce the spread of COVID-19:

- ★ vaccination
- ★ correct/consistent use of masks
- ★ physical distancing
- ★ screening testing
- ★ ventilation
- ★ handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- ★ staying home when sick and getting tested
- ★ contact tracing/isolation/quarantine
- ★ cleaning/disinfection

JAMP will utilize a layered approach to prevention/mitigation strategies which is based upon the level of school/community transmission of COVID-19. The higher the level of transmission, the greater the magnitude of prevention/mitigation strategies in place. Cooperative strategies in this

plan may be removed or increased based upon local conditions, levels of community transmission (i.e., low, moderate, substantial, or high), local vaccine coverage, and use of screening testing to detect cases in K-12 schools.

If a student is not excluded from school or quarantined by IDPH, per their regulations, but requests remote learning due to a medical condition, the request for remote learning will be evaluated under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If the student has a qualifying medical condition, the student may be provided home/hospital instruction. The District will operate in accordance with federal and state guidance, consistent with its legal authority.

## Foundation Layer of Prevention/Mitigation Strategies

### **Face Coverings/Masks**

- Students and staff may, but are not required to wear masks. The CDC recommends universal indoor masking in communities with high COVID-19 levels.
- If community COVID-19 levels increase to medium or high transmission, students, staff, and visitors are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings while indoors.
- School staff members are to model support for and encourage students to be supportive of people who choose to continue to wear a mask as a personal choice or because of a personal medical reason.

### **Bus Protocol**

JAMP will follow the member districts bus protocol, but will recommend assigned seating. At this time, masking is optional on school buses, but will be recommended during times of HIGH transmission in the school community.

### **Contact Tracing/Isolation/Quarantine**

If the cooperative is made aware a student or staff member has tested positive for COVID-19, the county health department will be informed. The IDPH no longer requires schools to conduct contact tracing, but school personnel will cooperate with local health department officials and parents/guardians of students who have been exposed to a positive case at school will be notified by school nursing staff.

**Household contact:** If a child is exposed to a positive case within the household, the health department should be contacted by the parent/guardian. Household situations are handled by the health department, not by our schools.

- ★ During a time of quarantine/exclusion from school, students will have access to all material covered in class and will have the opportunity to utilize remote learning.

**This plan is subject to change based on updated guidance from the CDC, IDPH, and/or ISBE. JAMP staff located in Member Districts will follow that Districts Return to Learn Plan**

- It will be up to the student if they are able to work while in quarantine or wait until they return to make up their work.
- ★ If a student becomes ill during school:
  - A health screening of the student will be done to identify symptoms.
  - The school nurse or an administrator will immediately notify the family.
  - Students will be put in an isolation room under the supervision of faculty/staff.
  - Parents will need to have a plan to get their child from school quickly.

### **Health Reminders for Parents/Faculty/Staff**

- On days of school attendance, all students, faculty/staff should be free from symptoms which may be the result of COVID-19 virus. We simply ask those who have possible symptoms to stay home. JAMP had great cooperation from families in this area in previous years which was a key to keeping case numbers low. The symptom list includes the following:
  - Fever/Chills
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Fatigue
  - Muscle or body aches
  - Headache
  - New loss of taste or smell
  - Sore throat
  - Congestion or runny nose
  - Nausea or vomiting
  - Diarrhea

### **Social Distancing**

- During times of HIGH transmission, activities should allow 3 ft distancing to the greatest extent possible.
- Physical distancing may be utilized as necessary based on community transmission levels.

### **Hand Washing and Respiratory Etiquette:**

The Cooperative will encourage frequent and proper hand washing and will continue to teach respiratory etiquette (e.g., covering coughs and sneezes). Hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol (for teachers, staff, and older students who can safely use hand sanitizer) will be offered in addition to hand washing but will not be used in place of proper handwashing.

**This plan is subject to change based on updated guidance from the CDC, IDPH, and/or ISBE. JAMP staff located in Member Districts will follow that Districts Return to Learn Plan**

## **Regular Cleaning and Disinfecting**

Per the CDC, daily cleaning of spaces is generally sufficient to remove potential viruses that may be on surfaces and disinfecting removes any remaining germs on surfaces which further reduces risk of infection. In the event of a sick individual or an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 being present, the spaces impacted will be cleaned and disinfected as soon as possible.

## **Screening Testing Availability for Faculty/Staff/Students**

Faculty and staff will have the opportunity to utilize COVID-19 screening tests at school through our administrative office or in partnership with local healthcare providers in our community. Students may have the opportunity to utilize screening tests at their home school district through their nursing offices during times of MEDIUM or HIGH transmission (as available and if supplies exist). The testing of students will only be conducted with parental consent. Staff members may be required to submit to a COVID-19 diagnostic test to determine eligibility for COVID paid administrative leave. We will be asking all parents to continue helping eliminate the spread of any virus by keeping their students home when they are not feeling well.

## **Promoting Vaccination**

Those who want to get vaccinated against COVID-19 can visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to find out where they can get vaccinated in our community.

## **Ventilation**

- HVAC systems will begin operating on normal schedules prior to the start of the school year to ensure good airflow and proper operation of systems.
- As needed, windows may be open to allow for fresh air in buildings.

## Additional Layers of Prevention/Mitigation Strategies

### **Modifications to School Day Procedures**

During periods of HIGH transmission, modifications may be made to daily procedures to increase distancing and reduce the risk of transmission. These modifications may include the following:

- Students will report to a classroom or other designated location prior to the start of the instructional day. Students will not congregate in common areas. Details will be provided by each building/program.
- Breakfast/lunch will be organized differently to accommodate social distancing.
  - JAMP will utilize homeroom classes for student meals.

This plan is subject to change based on updated guidance from the CDC, IDPH, and/or ISBE. JAMP staff located in Member Districts will follow that Districts Return to Learn Plan

- Recess - Students will be in cohorts (same class group daily) to reduce the exposure to students from other classes.

## Determining Level of Transmission

JAMP will consider the level of transmission of the virus which causes COVID-19 at the local level which includes Local Health Departments, Member Districts, and JAMP. The Cooperative will use the same levels used by the IDPH: Low, Medium, and High.

## Ensuring Continuity of Services

Our expectation for the 2022-2023 school year is for all students to experience in-person, full-day learning. We will be using the opening weeks of school to assess where students' skill levels and abilities are to start the school year. Teachers within our programs will be using existing assessment tools to gather data which will be used to assist teachers in their planning of instruction. Evidence-based teaching practices designed to improve achievement and promote positive student outcomes will be utilized.

JAMP Special Education, provides a continuum of special education and related services to eligible students. Our programs have systems and personnel in place to support students who are struggling academically, socially, or emotionally. We understand that many students have experienced difficulties related to impacts of COVID-19. JAMP has many measures in place, including access to School Social Workers and outside mental health counselors as support if needed.

Our food program will continue to provide breakfast and lunch to students during the regular school day. Social distancing will be in place for meal time routines, to the greatest extent possible, during times of HIGH transmission. If Buildings/Programs are on remote JAMP will provide families with member district contacts to ensure they have access to school breakfast and lunch.

## Remote Learning

For the 2022-2023 school year, remote learning will be utilized during the time that a student is placed under quarantine/isolation by a local health department or the IDPH. The Board has approved a remote instruction plan, which includes a multitude of delivery methods. Remote instruction is available for students who are under isolation or quarantine for COVID-19. Student absences related to COVID-19 will be recorded as excused. To ensure continuity of services, school work missed during such an absence can be requested and made up in accordance with the school's policy (refer to student handbook). Social, emotional, mental health, or other needs will be provided in accordance with a student's IEP or 504 Plan. Parents of students who have social,

**This plan is subject to change based on updated guidance from the CDC, IDPH, and/or ISBE. JAMP staff located in Member Districts will follow that Districts Return to Learn Plan**

emotional, mental health, or other needs outside of an IEP or 504 Plan should contact their child's principal to discuss those needs. High levels of infection within grade levels or a building may necessitate a return to remote learning. Any outbreaks will be reviewed with help from the County Health Department in consideration of Full Remote Learning.

## Technology

In the event that remote learning is utilized by students, a loan program for student use of Chromebooks will be made available. This program is intended to serve students who have no computer/laptop/tablet in their home.

- Each device is locked into our school firewall settings, but will be allowed onto any wireless network.
- Students and parents will sign a Chromebook Loan Agreement.
- Google Classroom will be the primary platform utilized by teachers throughout the Cooperative.
- Google Meet may be used to video meet with/teach students during remote learning.

## Exclusion from School Due to COVID-19 Positive Test or Symptoms: See Return to School Flowchart

### A. Test Positive for COVID-19 -- PCR or Antigen Test (Exclude From School)

Everyone, regardless of vaccination status, shall be excluded from school and may return under the following criteria:

- Stay home for a minimum of five (5) days and a maximum of 10 days after the first day of symptoms or the specimen collection date from positive viral test for asymptomatic persons.
- Individuals may return to school after five (5) days if asymptomatic or if fever-free without fever reducing medication for 24 hours, diarrhea/vomiting have ceased for 24 hours, and other symptoms have improved.
- The individual will not be excluded from school if the nurse determines the symptoms are not likely related to COVID-19.
- Individuals are strongly encouraged, to wear a mask around others, even when outdoors, for five more days after returning to school.

This plan is subject to change based on updated guidance from the CDC, IDPH, and/or ISBE. JAMP staff located in Member Districts will follow that Districts Return to Learn Plan

## B. COVID-19- like symptoms (Exclude From School)

Everyone, regardless of vaccination status, who has symptoms that are likely related to COVID-19, shall be excluded from school and may return to school under the following criteria:

- Receives a negative test (PCR, Antigen) result that confirms the symptoms are not attributable to COVID-19 and symptoms have improved or resolved and the criteria to return for that illness is met;

or

- For a minimum of five (5) days and a maximum of 10 days until fever free without fever reducing medication for 24 hours, diarrhea/vomiting have ceased for 24 hours, and other symptoms have improved;

or

- Submit a note from the individual's treating physician confirming the symptoms are not related to COVID-19 and stating the individual is cleared to return to school. Student/employee should only return once symptoms have improved/resolved per return-to-school criteria for diagnosed condition.
- Individuals are strongly encouraged to wear a mask around others for five more days, even outdoors, after returning to school. Those testing positive should be excluded from school and follow guidance for persons testing positive.
- Employees may be required to take a COVID-19 test in order to determine his/her eligibility for COVID-19 paid administrative leave.

## IDPH SCHOOL DECISION TREE

[https://dph.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/idph/covid19/guidance/school/School-decision-tree-guidance\\_7.27.2022.pdf](https://dph.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/idph/covid19/guidance/school/School-decision-tree-guidance_7.27.2022.pdf)

## Disabilities or Other Health Care Needs:

Parents of students who need accommodations, modifications, or assistance related to COVID-19 safety protocols, disabilities, underlying medical conditions, weakened immune systems should contact their student's principal to discuss the need(s).

Staff members who need accommodations, modifications, or assistance related to COVID-19 safety protocols, disabilities, underlying medical conditions, weakened immune systems or a sincerely held religious belief or practice (covered by Title VII of the Civil rights Act of 1964) should contact their school's principal to discuss the need(s) and request accommodations. Staff members with weakened immune systems are advised to contact their healthcare professional about the need for continued personal protective measures after vaccination.

**This plan is subject to change based on updated guidance from the CDC, IDPH, and/or ISBE. JAMP staff located in Member Districts will follow that Districts Return to Learn Plan**

## Collaboration with Public Health Officials:

Cooperative officials will continue to collaborate and consult with Local Public Health Department officials throughout a pandemic on various logistics and decision-making including, but not limited to, quarantines, positive or suspected positive cases of COVID-19, vaccine clinics, and emergency school closings. In accordance with State law, the District will provide the Local Public Health Department with the name and contact information of any employee or student who tests positive or is a suspected positive, along with the names of any close contact known to the District. The Local Health Department shall be responsible for conducting any contact tracing.

## Review of Plan:

Through September 30, 2023, this plan will be reviewed no less frequently than every six months and revised as appropriate based on school, community, and county positivity numbers and after consultation with local public health officials and considering public input. Revisions will address the most recently updated safety recommendations by the CDC, provided in an alternative format accessible to parents who are individuals with a disability as defined by the ADA, and made publicly available on the district's website.

Board Approval:

## References

Center for Disease Control, "Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools", updated on January 13, 2022. Accessed from <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

Illinois Department of Public Health, "Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools", accessed on July 21, 2022 from <https://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/school-guidance.html>

**This plan is subject to change based on updated guidance from the CDC, IDPH, and/or ISBE. JAMP staff located in Member Districts will follow that Districts Return to Learn Plan**