**COOK COUNTY SCHOOLS**

**RETURN GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2021-2022**

**FACE COVERINGS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING**

Masks and social distance protocols are no longer required within Cook County School District (CCSD) buildings. **Fully vaccinated individuals** may resume classes and other campus activities without a face covering or social distancing, if they so choose.

**Unvaccinated individuals** are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated. Until fully vaccinated (two weeks after receiving the last vaccine dose), such individuals are strongly encouraged to continue wearing a face covering and exercising social distancing from others when possible. Vaccines remain available for all faculty, staff, and students that meet the age requirements through the Department of Public Health (DPH) and Southwell/Tift Regional Medical Center.

Please note that CCSD will not track vaccinations for the school district or community. Therefore, adherence to this guidance is based on personal responsibility. Some subgroups of our community (such as student athletes, student health professionals, student teachers, etc.) may be subject to vaccination reporting at the direction of an affiliated organization.

**ALTERNATE WORK ARRANGEMENTS (EMPLOYEES)**

All employees are expected to return to their previous work schedule for the 2021-22 school year.

**ALTERNATE EDUCATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS (STUDENTS)**

All students are expected to return to in-person learning for the 2021-22 school year.

**\*\*Parents who wish for their child to continue with virtual learning will be required to use a State approved Homeschool Program. Please schedule an appointment with your child’s school counselor for more information.**

**VACCINES**

CCSD will continue to ensure vaccine availability to faculty, staff, and students either through vaccination opportunities on campus or in partnership with local providers. CCSD will not assess COVID-19 vaccination rates for the district.

The Department of Public Health (DPH) and Southwell/Tift Regional are available to offer COVID-19 testing and vaccination services to all employees and students. For COVID vaccines, please call for an appointment at (DPH) 229-896-3030, (Southwell) 229-896-8000 or (Tift Regional) 229-353-2200. You may also contact your local pharmacy for vaccinations.

**QUARANTINE AND ISOLATION**

Students, faculty, and staff who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 are not required to quarantine if they have been fully vaccinated against the virus and show no symptoms. Individuals who have not been fully vaccinated and have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19, anyone who shows symptoms, and those diagnosed as COVID-19 positive should continue to follow CDC Guidelines for self-monitoring and quarantining.

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND ENGAGEMENT**

CCSD will resume traditional student extracurricular activities beginning Fall 2021. The recommended mitigation practices by the Georgia Department of Public Health should be practiced and observed during all activities and within the physical spaces where these activities take place.

**EVENTS AND GATHERINGS**

CCSD will follow the Governor’s most recent Executive Order related to events and gatherings as well as follow appropriate mitigation practices recommended by the Georgia Department of Public Health. Event reservation policies will include additional mitigation guidelines as needed.

**TRAVEL AND FIELD TRIPS**

CCSD will follow the CDC Guidelines for travel. All travel and field trips must be approved by the Superintendent or designee.

**ATHLETICS**

CCSD will continue to follow GHSA guidelines for COVID-19.

***All guidance listed here is subject to change based on***

***recommendations from the Georgia Department of Public Health.***

***CCSD reserves the right to adjust plans as necessary.***

**QUARANTINE FOR VACCINATED INDIVIDUALS**

**If you are fully vaccinated for COVID-19 with an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19,** you are NOT required to quarantine if you meet the criteria below:

• You are fully vaccinated for COVID-19 (it has been greater than 2 weeks following receipt of your second dose in a 2-dose series, or it has been greater than 2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine), AND

• You do not experience any symptoms since your current COVID-19 exposure. -OR-

• You have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 3 months and recovered, AND

• You do not develop new symptoms.

\*\* Anyone who develops symptoms again within 3 months of their first bout of COVID-19 may need to be tested again if there is no other cause identified for their symptoms.

If you meet these criteria, you should still monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days. **If you develop symptoms,** you should follow the guidance in the Return to Work Guidelines for Employees in the Cook County Reopening Plan for 2020-2021. Vaccinated persons with symptoms should follow all DPH guidance to protect themselves and others, including wearing a mask, social distancing, avoiding crowds, avoiding poorly ventilated spaces, covering coughs and sneezes, and washing hands often.

**QUARANTINE FOR UNVACCINATED CONTACTS**

All unvaccinated close contacts MUST be quarantined from school and all extracurricular activities. Asymptomatic persons who have had a known exposure to a person with COVID-19 can return to school under the following conditions. **NOTE: The day of exposure is day 0.**

• A**fter 7 full days have passed since their most recent exposure if they fulfill ALL THREE of the following criteria:**

• Test for COVID-19 (PCR/molecular or antigen test) no earlier than day 5 of quarantine, AND

• Receive a negative result, AND

• Do not experience any COVID-19 symptoms during the quarantine period. -OR-

• A**fter 10 full days have passed since the most recent exposure if they are not tested for COVID-19 AND do not experience any COVID symptoms during the quarantine period.**

After stopping quarantine after day 7 or 10, individuals who do not have symptoms should:

• Closely monitor for COVID-19 symptoms for 14 days from their most recent date of exposure.

• For at least 14 days, strictly adhere to mitigation measures including appropriate mask usage, staying 6 feet from others except for brief transitional movements (e.g., changing classes), washing hands, avoiding crowds, and taking other steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

\*\*Any close contact who develops symptoms after a 7 or 10 day quarantine should be sent home immediately, follow guidelines for symptomatic individuals, and seek COVID testing.

***Anyone not fully vaccinated or vaccinated less than 2 weeks***

***must follow the guidelines for unvaccinated contacts!***