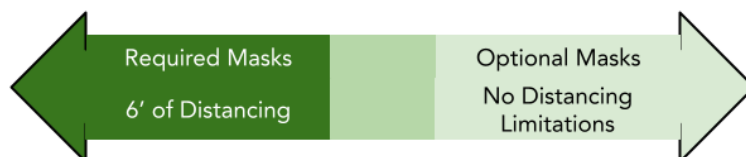




Two very important goals: student safety and a judicious journey towards normalcy.

Rather than settle for safety OR normalcy, we will strive to achieve both to the greatest extent possible. We will move between caution and normalcy based on the need for certain mitigation strategies such as wearing masks and social distancing. The extent to which we use each of these strategies will be based on finding the right balance between being responsive to our local metrics and moving towards the students' typical school experience.

In order to prioritize student safety, a shift towards caution and safety will be made if warranted by community and district data.



In order to enhance the students' experience, a shift towards our typical school functioning will be made if allowed by community and district data.

Will students be required to wear a mask?

Recent changes to our community's COVID metrics and shifting guidance from the CDC and IDPH make this a very unpredictable situation. **We are going to continue to monitor community data and health department guidance for another week in order to make the best and most informed decision possible.** You will receive an email during the week of August 9th with a final determination on whether masks will be required to start the school year. The two masking protocols listed below are both possibilities to begin the school year based on our local metrics and guidance.

- **Universal masking:** All students, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear a mask when indoors.
- **Situational masking:** All students, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear a mask when indoors unless they are seated at their desks or at lunch where they are able to maintain a safe distance of 3+ feet. When seated at their desks, masks will be strongly recommended (but not required) for all students.

It is key to remember that we are only making a decision about how to start the school year based on the information we have at this moment in time which includes the number of new cases, the local positivity rate, and the vaccination rate of our community. Once we start the school year, we will have additional data points such as the number of positive student cases, confirmed in-school transmissions, and required quarantines.

Please be assured that on a weekly basis throughout the school year, our administrative team will be monitoring the trends in local and D106 metrics and will adjust our prevention strategies as needed.

Metrics & Considerations as of July 29, 2021

CDC/IDPH Guidance	Universal Masking Recommended
Vaccine availability	12+
New cases (zip codes 60525 & 60558)	Avg. 3.6 new cases/day 56 new cases/week/100,000
Positivity rate (zip codes 60525 & 60558)	4.03%
Vaccination rate (communities in D106)	71% (one dose) 61% (two doses)
In-school cases	(data will be available once students are in session)
In-school transmission	
Quarantines	

Let's pull together.

We need your help. Every member of the D106 parent and school community has an important part to play in making this a safe and meaningful year for our students. It is essential that students are not sent to school if they are symptomatic, awaiting the results of a COVID test, or were in close contact with a confirmed case. Our ability to keep as many students in school as possible and to utilize a wide range of instructional and engagement techniques needs to be supported by a collective effort that prioritizes the good of all over personal convenience. While parents will not be required to complete a daily self-certification form, we do ask that you monitor your child for any potential COVID symptoms each morning.



What will be our health and safety efforts?

The CDC recommends layering prevention and mitigation strategies. **The strategies shown to the right will be in place at both schools for the upcoming school year.** The degree to which each strategy is used will be determined by our community and school conditions. The CDC continues to recommend "...masking and physical distancing as key prevention strategies. However, if school administrators decide to remove any of the prevention strategies for their school based on local conditions, they should remove them one at a time and monitor closely...for any increases in COVID-19 cases."

masks
hand washing
contact tracing
physical distancing
optimizing ventilation
strategic seating charts
symptomatic students stay home
cleaning and sanitization routines

What else do I need to know?

- **Additional and optional safety measures** such as plexiglass workspace barriers and weekly COVID testing are available if desired. (Additional information will be shared in the coming weeks.)
- **Social distancing** will be three feet or more in all classroom settings when students are seated at their desks. If allowable based on community and school COVID data, there will be times that students are less than three feet apart for short periods of time during guided reading instruction, collaborative group work, etc.
- **Lunch** will take place in the designated lunchrooms where students will maintain three or more feet of social distancing.
- **Sports and extracurricular activities** are expected to resume this year. You will be informed if there are any specific safety protocols for the participants or spectators of a particular sport.
- **Quarantine requirements** are as follows:
 - **Vaccinated individuals** who are close contacts are not required to quarantine unless they become symptomatic.
 - **Unvaccinated and masked individuals** are required to quarantine if they were in close contact (less than three feet) with a positive case for 15 minutes or more over the course of a single day.
 - **Unvaccinated and unmasked individuals** are required to quarantine if they were in close contact (less than six feet) with a positive case for 15 minutes or more over the course of a single day.
- **Quarantine options** are as follows:
 - 14 calendar days
 - 10 calendar days (no symptoms, return with masking and distancing)
 - 7 calendar days (no symptoms and negative PCR test at day 6)
 - Test-to-Stay: The student remains in school with negative tests on days one, three, five, and seven. (This option is only available if the school is engaged in "universal masking." The school would provide on-site testing for the student. Currently, this option is not available to Cook County schools per the Cook County Department of Public Health.)
- **Students' vaccine status** will be used to determine whether or not they need to quarantine if they are a close contact. For this reason, we will be providing an opportunity in the coming weeks to volunteer whether or not your child has been vaccinated. If a student's vaccine status is not reported, we will assume they are not vaccinated for the purpose of determining quarantines.
- **Remote instruction** will only be provided for those students who are unvaccinated and who are required to quarantine according to IDPH guidance. If a quarantine is anticipated to last five days or more, we will provide live stream instruction on the third day of the absence in math and reading (K-8 only). Quarantine instruction in other core subject areas and for ECE will be provided asynchronously.
- **Self-certification** will be a one-time process that happens prior to the first day of school rather than a daily event. (You will receive a link to the form via email at a later date.)
- **Visitors and volunteers** will be required to wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status, until further notice.