

Looking Forward to 2021-22!



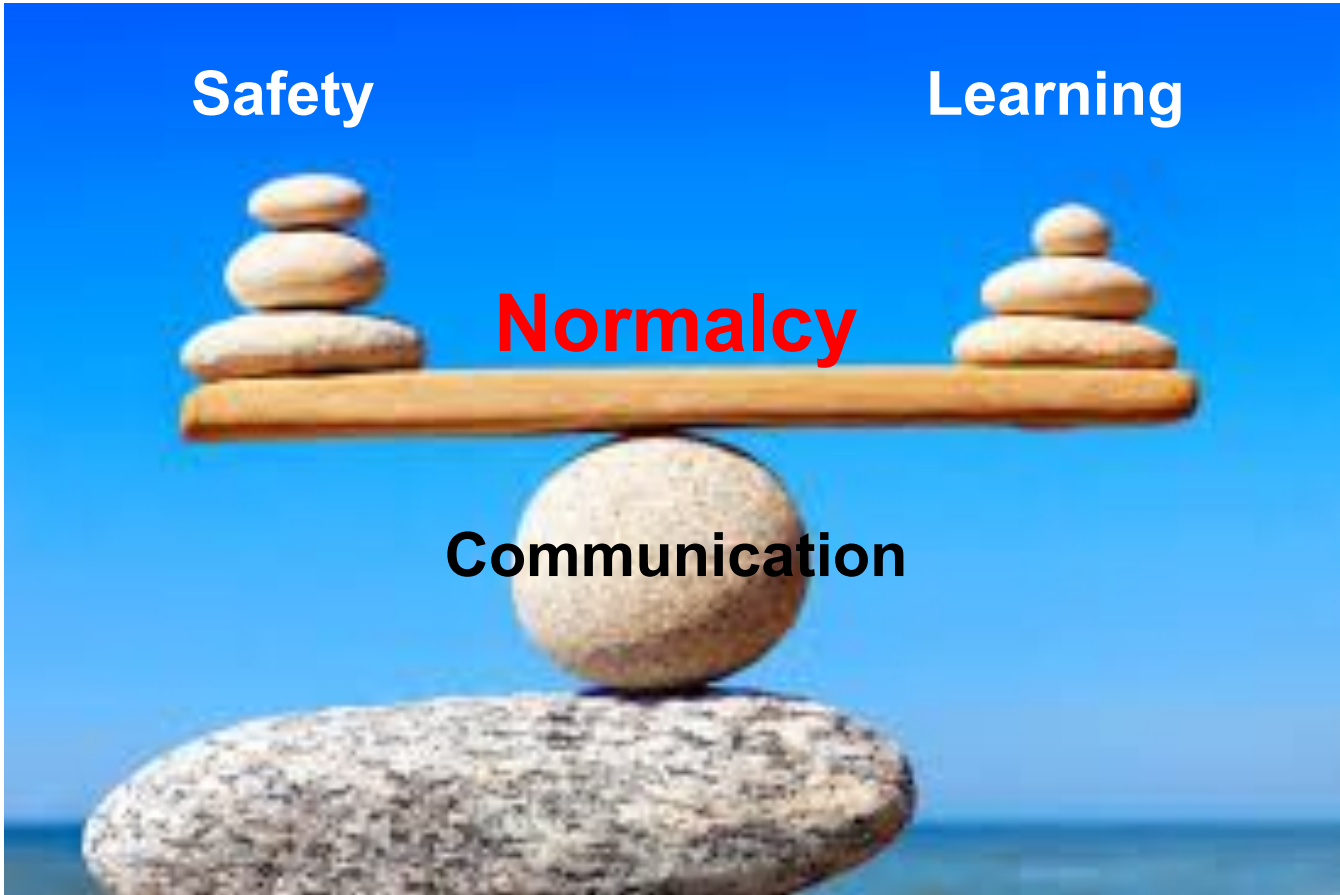
July 20, 2021

Safety

Learning

Normalcy

Communication





So What Is the Most Current Information?

Updated guidance received from CDC, IDPH and ISBE on July 9, 2021:

- Key takeaway from all guidance - students benefit from in-person learning, and safely returning to in-person learning is priority!
- In-person learning shall take place regardless of whether all prevention strategies recommended can be implemented at school.
- Implement physical distancing to extent possible within structure, but do not exclude students from in-person learning to keep a minimum distance requirement.
- If school administrators decide to remove any of the prevention strategies based on local conditions, remove them one at a time and monitor closely (with adequate testing through the school and/or community) for any increases in COVID-19 cases.



So What Is the Most Current Information?

Updated guidance received from CDC, IDPH and ISBE on July 9, 2021:

- Some local control permissible based on local conditions/variations.
Primary factors to consider:
 - Level of transmission
 - Vaccination coverage among students and staff
 - Screening testing program in place
 - COVID-19 outbreaks in school or community
 - Ages of children served at school and feasibility of different prevention strategies



So What Is the Most Current Information?

CDC Key Takeaways:

- Vaccination is important!
 - Leading public health prevention strategy.
 - Mitigations different for vaccinated vs. not vaccinated:
 - Masking
 - Quarantining
 - Social distancing
 - Districts can ask vaccination status of employees.
 - Districts can request vaccination status of students, but cannot require.
 - Districts cannot mandate vaccination under current IL law.

So What Is the Most Current Information?



CDC Key Takeaways:

- Masks should be worn indoors by all individuals who are not fully vaccinated:
 - Consistent and correct mask use by people who are not fully vaccinated is especially important indoors and in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained.
 - Layered mitigation strategies for those not vaccinated.
 - Regardless of school masking policy and vaccination status, masks **must be worn on school bus by driver and passengers.**
 - Districts may mandate universal masking.

So What Is the Most Current Information?



CDC Key Takeaways:

- Recommendation to maintain 3' of physical distancing in instructional areas:
 - If schools can't accommodate these distances, important to layer other mitigation strategies.
 - Maintain 6' between students and staff as much as possible.
 - Maintain 6' for all non-vaccinated adults.
 - Studies show low transmission among students that had less than 6' of social distancing.

So What Is the Most Current Information?



CDC Key Takeaways:

- Use screening testing and monitor community transmission, vaccination coverage, and occurrence of outbreaks to guide decisions on the level of layered prevention strategies (e.g. physical distancing, screening testing).
- Schools should work with local health departments to determine prevention strategies needed in their area.



So What Is the Most Current Information?

CDC Key Takeaways:

- Continuing prevention strategies:
 - Ventilation.
 - Handwashing & respiratory etiquette.
 - Staying home when sick and getting tested when symptomatic.
 - Contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation.
 - Cleaning and disinfection.
 - Continue with current definition of close contact:
 - “Close contact is defined as someone who was within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more within 2 days prior to illness onset, regardless of whether the contact was wearing a mask.” (CDC)

So What Is the Most Current Information?



Recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics-July 19, 2021

- All who are eligible should be vaccinated to protect against the spread of COVID-19.
- A layered mitigation approach to make school safe for all students, teachers and staff.
- Supports the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recommendations for building ventilation, testing, quarantining, cleaning and disinfection in the updated guidance.
- Everyone older than age 2 wear masks indoors, regardless of vaccination status.



So What Is the Most Current Data?

7/20/21

[CDC thresholds and local data](#) for Lake County

Indicator	Low Transmission	Moderate Transmission	Substantial Transmission	High Transmission	Current Status
Incidence Rate: Total new cases per 100K persons in the last 7 days	0-9	10-49	50-99	100 or greater	23.11
7 Day Average Test Positivity Rate	Less than 5%	5.0%-7.9%	8.0%-9.9%	Greater than 10%	1.51%

D114 Local Zip Codes Data from [Northwestern University COVID Dashboard](#)--ALL DATA INCLUDES ACTUAL AND PROBABLE CASES!

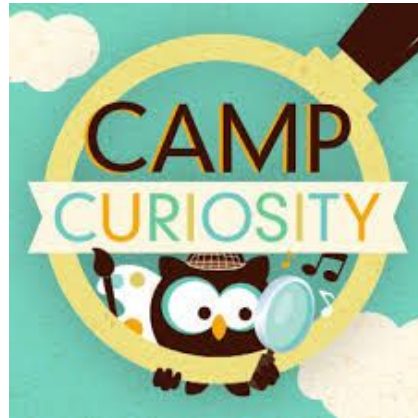
Indicator	Low Transmission	Moderate Transmission	Substantial Transmission	High Transmission	Current Status
Incidence Rate: Total new cases per 100K persons in the last 7 days	0-9	10-49	50-99	100 or greater	41.5
7 Day Average Test Positivity Rate	Less than 5%	5.0%-7.9%	8.0%-9.9%	Greater than 10%	3.99%

So What Is the Most Current Data?



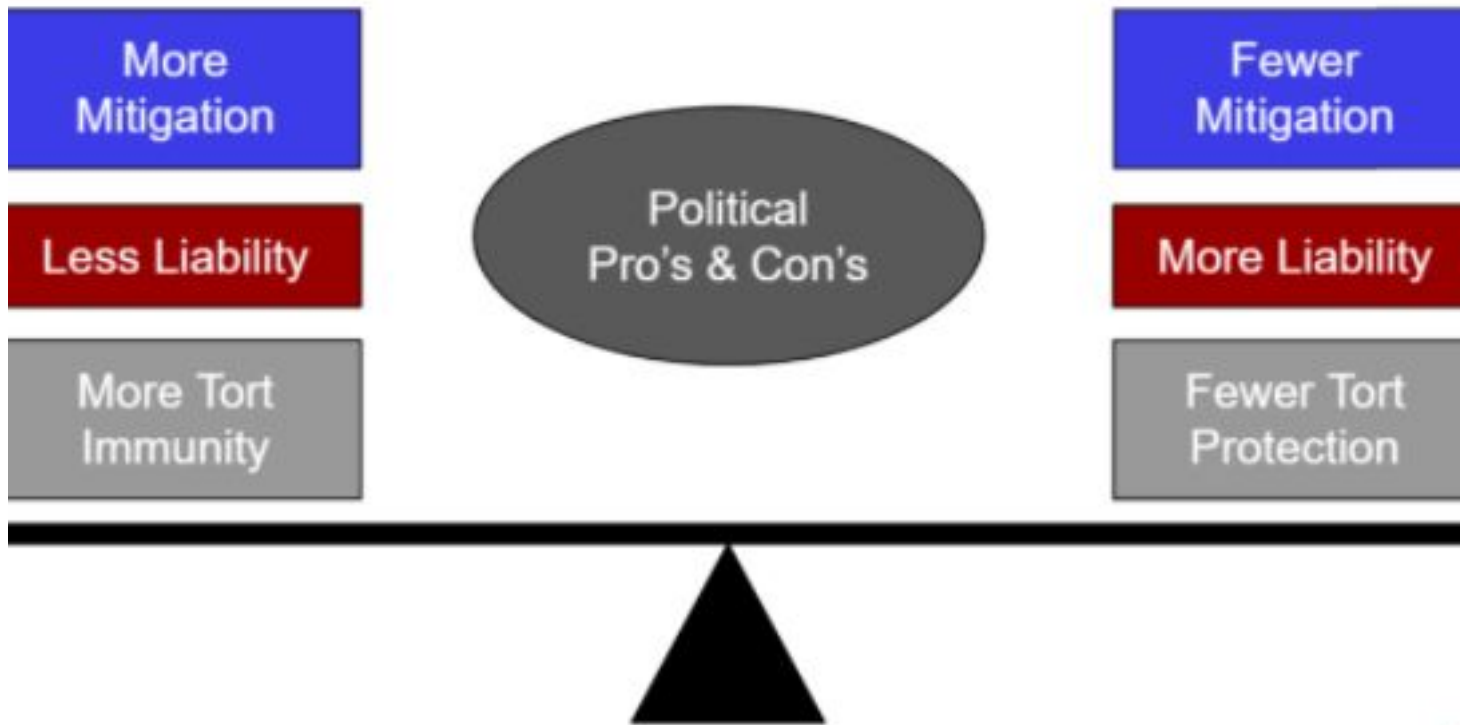
2021 Summer Programs

- Students attending session 1=144
- Students attending session 2=135
- Average number of students in a classroom=13
- Quarantine situations=1
- Positive COVID cases identified=0





So What Is the Most Current Information?



So What Is the Most Current Information?



- Guidance from legal counsel and our insurance provider

CLIC Guidance

Legal
Counsel
agrees

Masks should be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated:

- 2. Emphasizing layered prevention strategies (masks, distancing, testing) to protect students and staff that are not fully vaccinated;**
- 3. Monitoring community COVID-19 transmission and vaccination rates to guide local decisions on layered prevention strategies during the school year (i.e. strengthening or loosening of certain mitigation procedures);**
- 4. Monitoring CDC/IDPH guidance changes on prevention strategies as the school year progresses.**

It should also be noted that the CDC/IDPH guidance on masks would likely be considered a minimum standard of care in preventing the transmission of COVID in a school environment. School districts have the discretion to impose greater, stricter or additional prevention measures. However, it is recommended that school districts make a good faith attempt to follow the published CDC/IDPH guidance in order to avoid creating a different or heightened standard of care that could later undermine another school district's defense to potential COVID related litigation.



So What Is the Most Current Information?

- Guidance from legal counsel and our insurance provider.
- Focus on safety and wellbeing of all.
- Ensure our ability to implement mitigation strategies.
- Potential ISBE sanctions for disregarding guidance:
 - Accreditation.
 - State and Federal Funding Resources.

Our Reopening Goals



1. Get everyone back onsite full time except those who are medically exempt,
2. Keep all students and staff in school, and
3. Get back to as close to normal as we can as quickly as is safely possible.



2021-22 Opening Plans

- Full in-person learning with typical master schedules.
- Exceptions to in-person learning considered on case-by-case basis by administration (SBP 6:185):
 - Students with or living with family members who have medical conditions that place them at increased risk with in-person learning will have the option to submit documentation for consideration of a fully remote learning option.
 - Medical documentation from a current provider will be required for the student for this to be considered.

2021-22 Opening Plan



Quarantining as of 7/20/21:

- Provide access to learning classroom for students under mandatory quarantine by District or local health department:
 - “...remote instruction be made available for students who have not received a COVID-19 vaccine **or** who are not eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine, **only while they are under quarantine** consistent with guidance or requirements from a local public health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health”
- Fully vaccinated students and staff will NOT have to quarantine in close contact situations unless they become symptomatic.
- Unvaccinated students and staff who have maintained at least 3’ distancing AND wear masks will NOT have to quarantine in close contact situations unless they become symptomatic.



2021-22 Opening Plan

- Self certification and temperature checks no longer necessary:
 - When students/staff/visitors come onsite, it is with expectation that they are symptom free.
- Weekly screening for non-vaccinated staff and students (SHIELD), opt out option available.
- Illness testing for symptomatic staff and students available (Binex Now).
- Social distancing in all areas of at least 3' to the extent possible.
- OK to use lockers - hallway, P.E.
- OK to use locker rooms.
- OK to use drinking fountains.

2021-22 Opening Plan



- Food Service and Meals:
 - Cafeterias in use.
 - Maintain as much social distancing as possible (3' to extent possible).
- Transportation:
 - School buses return to normal capacity.
 - Universal masking as required by CDC.

2021-22 Opening Plan

Masking



- Begin school year with:
 - Anyone may mask, and that choice will be respected.
 - Masks optional for vaccinated individuals.
 - Unvaccinated individuals “should wear masks” (CDC language):
 - All Lotus students.
 - Stanton 5th graders.
 - Stanton unvaccinated 6th-8th graders.
 - Unvaccinated staff.
 - Wearing of masks on honor system for Stanton 6th-8th grade students and all staff.
 - Count on families to support and communicate this to children.
 - Schools will partner with families, as always, on family decisions.
 - Masks required for anyone on a bus.

Rationale for Masking Plan:

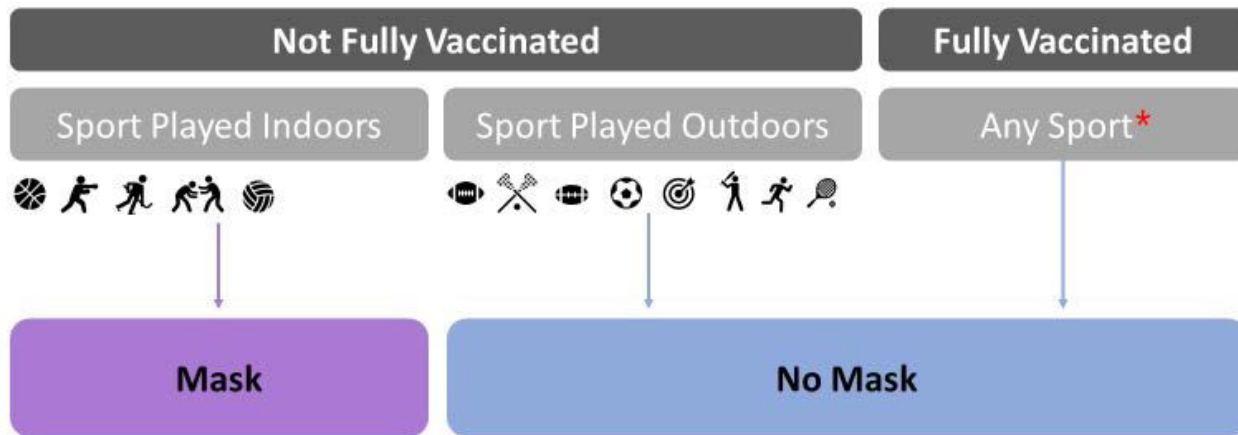
- ISBE guidance--If school administrators decide to remove any of the prevention strategies based on local conditions, remove them one at a time and monitor closely
- 99%+ of students and staff back onsite (appx. 64% of students in Spring 2021) with 15-25 per classroom.
- 3' social distancing not possible at all times.
- Lunch with masks off for all students in the cafeterias with 3' distancing in place to the extent possible.
- 6.5 hour school day with all of us back together (MUCH different than a trip to the store).





2021-22 Opening Plan

- Sports & Extra-Curriculars:
 - Covered under separate IESA/IHSA/IDPH sport specific guidelines.
 - Non-vaccinated - continue wearing masks indoors.
 - Vaccinated - no longer required to wear masks or physical distance (while participating and on sidelines).





2021-22 Opening Plan

- Continue to emphasize staying home when sick.
- Continue to limit nonessential visitors.
- Continue to limit activities at facilities.
- Keep in place cleaning, hand washing, sanitization, and ventilation strategies.
- Continue to encourage vaccinations, including providing another local event at Grant High School (dates coming soon!).
- Continue to partner with D124 and feeder districts, other Lake County school districts, and the Lake County Health Department.
- When changing policies and practices, do so gradually and slowly.
- Remain ready to pivot as/when needed.
- Communicate changes in advance with as much notice as possible.

2021-22 Opening Plan



Mitigation Hierarchy
Shared by LCHD





2021-22 Opening Plan

- Focus on teaching & learning.
- Consider phased change to mask requirement based on community transmission, vaccination coverage, level of screening, new guidance, and local outbreaks--**ongoing updates, formal update at September 21 BOE meeting.**



One team...all in.
We are 114.