

Return to In-Person Instruction (fall 2020) FAQ

(Last updated: 7.9.20)

In this FAQ, we are attempting to answer 20 of the biggest and broadest initial questions. We know that you will have many more individual and building/grade specific questions that will be answered as we get closer to the start of the school year, either through an updated FAQ here, or by the building principal or classroom teacher. *The responses to the questions below will be amended if new requirements or guidance is received.

1. When will school reopen?
 - a. Schools are scheduled to welcome back students on Thursday, August 13, 2020.
 - b. Schools are eligible to reopen in Phase 4 of Governor Pritzker's 5 Phase Plan to Restore Illinois found [here](#).
2. What will school look like on August 13, 2020?
 - a. It is our intent to offer 100% in-person instruction all day every day.
 - b. Families can choose a modified remote learning option instead of in-person instruction.
3. What are the state requirements to return to in-person instruction?
 - a. During Phase 4, IDPH guidelines will:
 - Require use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including face coverings;
 - Prohibit more than 50 individuals from gathering in one space;
 - Require social distancing be observed, as much as possible;
 - Require that schools conduct symptom screenings and temperature checks or require that individuals self-certify that they are free of symptoms before entering school buildings; and
 - Require an increase in schoolwide cleaning and disinfection.
4. Will students be health screened everyday?
 - a. Yes. Students will be screened for a fever and COVID symptoms every day by school employees before gaining entry into the school building.
5. What if a student has a fever or COVID symptoms?
 - a. A student or staff member who has a temperature or is presenting symptoms of COVID-19 will be isolated in a special area and assessed. If the student has a fever, the parent will be contacted to pick up the student as soon as possible and encouraged to call their healthcare provider. Custodial staff will be informed to clean workspaces used by the symptomatic person. Siblings of the symptomatic student will also be assessed and will be sent home.
6. What happens if there is a positive COVID-19 case?
 - a. Administration will coordinate with local health officials to determine the course of action. This will allow local health officials to help the school determine appropriate next steps, including whether extended dismissal of additional/all students and staff is needed to stop or slow further spread of COVID-19. These decisions will be on a case by case basis.

- b. It may become necessary to have individual students, classrooms, buildings, or even the entire district transition to 100% Remote Learning on short notice.
- 7. What are the procedures for allowing a sick student or staff member to return?
 - a. Here is the latest [flow-chart](#) from the IDPH that will be followed.
- 8. When should a student be kept home from school?
 - a. Go through the following symptom checklist with your student every day before sending them to school. If your student has these symptoms, keep the student home and call your healthcare provider and the school attendance office. Here is a [printable checklist](#) to record your symptoms daily. Please place this checklist on your refrigerator or in a binder at home for easy access each morning.
 - b. If you have **one** of the following:
 - Fever/chills/body aches (fever defined as ≥ 100 degrees)
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

OR at least two of the following (with no other confirmed cause, like seasonal allergies):

- Nasal congestion
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Nausea/ vomiting
- Diarrhea

- 9. Will students be required to wear a mask?
 - a. Yes. Students will be required to wear a mask at all times.
- 10. Can students wear face shields instead of masks?
 - a. No.
- 11. Will students have to wear a face covering on the bus?
 - a. Yes.
 - b. Parents will be required to “self-certify” their child before they can get on the bus.
- 12. What cleaning procedures are in place?
 - a. Custodial and maintenance staff will frequently clean highly touched surfaces, like door handles and railings as much as possible. Classroom electronics, tables/desks, and other shared items will be cleaned by custodians, faculty and staff. Further guidelines may be issued before the start of school based upon building specific situations.
- 13. How will proper hand washing be maintained?
 - a. Additional hand washing time will be built into the daily schedule. Teachers and staff will monitor students to ensure proper handwashing techniques. When hand washing is not feasible, hand sanitizer will be available. Teachers will provide hand sanitizer before entering or exiting the classroom.
- 14. What about school meals?
 - a. Our cafeterias will offer meals each day, including a grab-and-go option for those who choose remote learning. Students will maintain a 6ft social distance while removing their mask to eat.

15. What about practices and school-related events?
 - a. IHSA announced an updated Phase 4 of their **Return to Play** plan today (7/9/20). Schools are allowed to have non-sport specific conditioning in groups of 50 or less. We began holding such conditioning, following the new IDPH guidance.
 - b. We do not yet know about fall athletic games or contests.
16. What is the status of the SAFE program?
 - a. When we return to in-person instruction on August 13, it is our intent to offer SAFE for our families, under the same requirements in place for in-person instruction.
17. The Illinois Department of Human Services has launched a support line called Call4Calm that is reachable via text. Individuals who want to speak with a mental health professional can text the word "TALK" or "HABLAR" (for Spanish speakers) to 552-020. Within 24 hours, that individual will receive a call from a mental health professional employed by a local community health center.
 - a. People can also text other terms, like "unemployment" or "food" or "shelter" to the same number to receive information on how to navigate and access supports and services. Call4Calm is free, and individuals who use it can remain anonymous.
18. What are the plans for Back to School night?
 - a. We are looking at two options:
 - i. A modified in-person option with specific dates and times families can visit their classroom to limit the number of people in our buildings and classrooms at one time.
 - ii. A virtual meeting, individually scheduled with the teacher to go over important information and answer questions.
19. What about visitors to buildings?
 - a. We are going to limit the number of non-education related people entering our buildings, especially beyond the walls of the offices. All visitors will be required to wear a mask.
20. What are the current health metrics for Henry County and the city of Geneseo?
 - a. Current Henry County statistics are good and should be considered when we speak about conditions and risk. As of 7/9/20:
 - i. Henry County Population: 48,913
 - ii. 95 confirmed cases (0.2%)
 - iii. After 17 days, positive tests transition to "symptoms resolved" (meaning they are no longer infectious), so there are 24 "active" households.
 - iv. 1 death (0.002%)
 - v. 1 currently in the hospital
 - b. There are currently 4 active households with a Geneseo address.