



## **Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)**

**August 2022**

As we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, Dolton West School District 148 continues to be committed to keeping students and staff in-person safely. Schools are an integral part of the infrastructure of communities. When schools have strategies in place, the COVID-19 outbreaks are typically lower than – or similar to- community transition levels per the CDC. As a District, we must remain vigilant in keeping students, staff, and visitors safe in our buildings. District 148 will remain in alignment with Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), and Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH). Additionally, District 148 promotes health equity by ensuring all students, teachers, and staff have resources to support physical and mental health. Administrators should consider adaptations and alternatives to prevention strategies when serving people with disabilities, while maintaining efforts to protect to all children and staff from COVID-19.

The following highlights key areas recognized by CDC as prevention strategies to reduce transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in schools and highlights how District 148 complies with the latest guidance:

- CDC recommends all teachers, staff, and eligible students be vaccinated as soon as possible.
- Together with CCDPH and IDPH, schools consider multiple factors when making decisions about implementing layered prevention strategies against COVID-19. These factors include, but are not limited to:
  - Level of community transmission of COVID-19
  - COVID-19 vaccination coverage in the community and among students, teachers, and staff
  - Strain on health system capacity within the community
  - Accessibility of SARS-CoV-2 testing resources for students, teachers, and staff
  - Use of a SARS-CoV-2 screening testing program for students, teachers, and staff
  - COVID-19 outbreaks or increasing trends in the school or surrounding community
  - Age of children served and the associated social and behavioral factors that may affect risk of transmission and the feasibility of different protection strategies
- **Prevention Strategies in place in all District 148 buildings:**
  - Promoting vaccination
  - Consistent and correct mask use
  - SHIELD Illinois testing to promptly identify cases, clusters, and outbreaks
  - Ventilation
  - Handwashing and respiratory etiquette trainings by teachers and nursing staff
  - Staying home when sick and recommendation of getting tested
  - Ongoing cleaning and disinfecting

### **Promoting Vaccination**

- As identified by CDC, COVID-19 vaccination among all eligible students as well as teachers, staff, and their respective household members is the most critical strategy to help school safely resume full operations.
- District 148 will continue to promote vaccinations among teachers, staff, families, and eligible students by providing information about the COVID-19 vaccination, encouraging vaccine trust and confidence, and establish policies and practices that make getting vaccinated as easy and convenient as possible.

- [www.vaccines.gov](http://www.vaccines.gov) identifies locations for vaccinations in the community.
- Continue to collaborate with state or local public health authorities to serve as COVID-19 vaccination sites and offer vaccines before or after school for students, staff, and community.
- Publish vaccine clinics on social media.

**Mask Use**

- District 148 will use county/community metrics to determine mask usage:

<b>Red</b>	<b>Yellow</b>	<b>Green</b>
Masks Mandatory*	Masks optional, but highly recommended	Masks optional

\*Exceptions can be made for the following categories of people per CDC: A person who cannot wear a mask, or cannot safely wear a mask, because of a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Reasonable accommodation should be discussed; a person for who wearing a mask would create a risk to workplace health, safety, or job duty as determined by the relevant workplace safety guidelines or federal regulations.

**Screening Testing**

- Partnership with Shield Illinois will continue during the 2022-2023 school year. Students and unvaccinated staff will test weekly in K-8 schools unless an opt-out form is signed and on record.
- Unvaccinated staff members will be required to submit weekly test results per the Governor’s Executive Order.
- Consider implementing screening testing of participation up to 24 hours before sporting, competition, or extracurricular events. In District 148, all student athletes will adhere to weekly SHIELD testing regardless of vaccination status.
- CDC/IDPH guidelines will be followed for isolation procedures. The quarantine calculator will be available on [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

**Ventilation**

- District 148 upgraded their HVAC and air filtration systems to comply with recommendations to reduce the risk of the spread of COVID-19.
- Staff is encouraged to open doors and windows (taking into consideration any safety considerations), using child-safe fans to increase the effectiveness of open windows.

**Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette**

- Schools teach, reinforce, and monitor handwashing and respiratory etiquette.
- Hand washing is encouraged with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, and respiratory etiquette includes covering coughs and sneezes to keep from getting and spreading infectious illnesses.
- When handwashing is not possible, hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol is used for teachers, staff, and older students who can safely use hand sanitizer.

- Hand sanitizer is stored up, away, and out of sight of young children and is only used with adult supervision for children under 6 years of age.
- School nurses are available to staff who may need assistance with educating students on proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette.

### **Staying Home When Sick and Getting Tested**

- Students, staff, and families are educated on staying home and getting tested when there are symptoms of infectious illness.
- District 148 follows guidance provided by CDC, IDPH, and CCDPH with respect to isolation and return to school dates for both students and staff who may test positive for COVID.
  - Everyone infected with COVID-19 should stay home and isolate away from other people for at least 5 full days (day 0 is the first day of symptoms or the day of a positive viral test for asymptomatic persons. The procedure for District 148 is to count Day 0 as the day the sample was collected).
  - Well-fitting mask should be worn when around others at home and in public for an additional 5 days.
  - People who have symptoms can end isolation after 5 full days only if they are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and if other symptoms have improved. They should continue to wear a well-fitting mask around others at home and in public for 5 additional days.

### **Close Contacts**

- Staff/students who have been in close contact with household members who are positive for COVID no longer need to quarantine. However, they should wear a well-fitted mask while in school for 10 days. If symptoms develop, it is encouraged to test.
- In alignment with CDC, District 148 recommends anyone who is a close contact should be tested at least 5 days after having close contact with someone with COVID 19 unless they had confirmed COVID-19 in the last 90 days and subsequently recovered.

### **Cleaning and Disinfection**

- In compliance with CDC, District 148 cleans daily to remove potential virus that may be on surfaces.
- District 148 aligns cleaning products with those recommended for schools.

### **Visitors and Family Engagement Activities**

- The Superintendent of Schools will make decisions ongoing with respect to visitors and family engagement activities based on community data.
- In alignment with CDC, District 148 will limit nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving groups or organizations when there is moderate-to-high COVID-19 community transmission.
- Visitors who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as flu or COVID-19, should stay home and seek testing regardless of vaccination status.
- Visitors will follow masking requirements set forth by the Superintendent of Schools.

**Food Service and School Meals**

- The food service utilized by District 148 trains their staff on COVID-19 safety protocol.
- Promote hand washing before, after, and during shifts, before and after eating, after using the toilet, and after handling garbage, dirty dishes, or removing gloves.

**Recess and Physical Education**

- Schools will not require mask wearing when outdoors for outdoor play, recess, and physical education activities. Students can choose to wear masks when outside.

**Transportation**

- Masking is not mandatory, but it is highly encouraged.

**Vaccine Verification**

- District 148 is in compliance with relevant federal, state, tribal, local, or territorial laws and regulations regarding proof of COVID-19 vaccination.