



2021-2022  
Return-to-School Plan  
Families

Dear Centralia City Schools Families,

In the 2021-2022 school year, we plan to return to a learning environment that looks more like “school” as we once knew it. This document will help guide you and answer questions that you might have as you prepare for the upcoming year. It is the district’s commitment to making sure that students, teachers, staff, and administrators are safe, while also providing the best, most meaningful education possible. We are confident that Centralia City Schools #135 will continue to be a place where your child will learn and grow.

Throughout the district, a tremendous amount of time and effort has been put into developing plans to allow children to start the school year safely. This return-to-school plan takes into consideration guidelines from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), any information from the local health department, and the needs and best interests of the students, staff, and community. Finally, feedback from surveys of families and staff has been considered in the creation of these plans.

Please know that as we move forward, plans may still need to be adjusted or changed based on information that we receive from the Illinois State Board of Education. We will do our best to continue to make families aware of any changes that may need to be made. We appreciate your continued support and trust in us to educate your children.

Respectfully,

*Craig E. Clark*

Craig E. Clark, Superintendent  
Centralia City Schools #135

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**\*This plan was created using current guidance from ISBE, IDPH, CDC, and the local health department. If guidance for schools changes, these protocols will be updated.**

## Health

### General Hygiene Information:

#### How Germs Spread:

Washing hands can keep you healthy and prevent the spread of respiratory and diarrheal infections from one person to the next. Germs can spread from other people or surfaces when you:

- Touch your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Prepare or eat food and drinks with unwashed hands
- Touch a contaminated surface or objects
- Blow your nose, cough, or sneeze into hands and then touch other people's hands or common objects

#### Key Times to Wash Hands:

You can help yourself and your loved ones stay healthy by washing your hands often, especially during these key times when you are likely to get and spread germs:

- Before, during, and after preparing food
- Before eating food
- Before and after caring for someone at home who is sick with vomiting or diarrhea
- Before and after treating a cut or wound
- After using the toilet
- After changing diapers or cleaning up a child who has used the toilet
- After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After touching an animal, animal feed, or animal waste
- After handling pet food or pet treats
- After touching garbage

#### To prevent the spread of COVID-19 or any other virus, you should also clean hands:

1. After you have been in a public place and touched an item or surface that may be frequently touched by other people, such as door handles, tables, gas pumps, shopping carts, or electronic cashier registers/screens, etc.
2. Before touching your eyes, nose, or mouth because that's how germs enter our bodies.

#### Follow Five Steps to Wash Your Hands the Right Way:

Washing your hands is easy, and it's one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of germs. Clean hands can stop germs from spreading from one person to another and throughout an entire community—from your home and workplace to childcare facilities and hospitals.

#### Follow these five steps every time:

1. Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.

2. Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
3. Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the “Happy Birthday” song from beginning to end twice.
4. Rinse your hands well under clean, running water.
5. Dry your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

### **Use Hand Sanitizer When You Can't Use Soap and Water:**

You can use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available. Washing hands with soap and water is the best way to get rid of germs in most situations. If soap and water are not readily available, you can use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. You can tell if the sanitizer contains at least 60% alcohol by looking at the product label.

Sanitizers can quickly reduce the number of germs on hands in many situations. However,

- Sanitizers do not get rid of all types of germs.
- Hand sanitizers may not be as effective when hands are visibly dirty or greasy.
- Hand sanitizers might not remove harmful chemicals from hands like pesticides and heavy metals.

Caution! Swallowing alcohol-based hand sanitizers can cause alcohol poisoning if more than a couple of mouthfuls are swallowed.

### **How to use hand sanitizer:**

- Apply the gel product to the palm of one hand (read the label to learn the correct amount).
- Rub your hands together.
- Rub the gel over all the surfaces of your hands and fingers until your hands are dry. This should take around 20 seconds.

### **Face Coverings:**

The CDC/IDPH/ISBE recommends masks be worn by those who are unvaccinated. They also recognize local control during Phase 5 as stated:

“Together with local public health officials, school administrators should consider multiple factors when they make decisions about implementing layered prevention strategies against COVID19. Since schools typically serve their surrounding communities, decisions should be based on the school population, families, and students served, as well as their communities.”

For the upcoming school year, any vaccinated individual is not required to wear a mask. For all unvaccinated individuals, masks are recommended. We will continue to monitor the health and

well-being of our students and staff and adjust accordingly if needed. **If guidance for schools changes, this protocol may be updated.**

#### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):**

The district will ensure that staff and students have the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) required if necessary. **If guidance for schools changes, this protocol may be updated.**

#### **Screening Protocols:**

Students will not be screened at the schools or on buses. Parents will be asked to screen their own children each day according to a checklist that will be provided. If symptoms are present, parents/guardians will be asked **not** to send the child to school and will be asked to **contact the school nurse**. **If any guidance issued from ISBE or IDPH changes, this protocol will be adjusted accordingly.**

#### **Social-Emotional Well Being:**

The district provides counseling services for students who may have experienced trauma due to the loss of family members, isolation, suicidal ideations, food insecurity, loss of income, or loss of housing. Emotional support will be available for any student experiencing anxiety due to these situations as well as any others.

## **Facilities and Cleaning**

Proper cleaning and disinfecting is key in reducing the spread of germs and viruses. Routine, appropriate cleaning and disinfecting will occur in all buildings in order to maintain a safe, healthy environment for students and staff. **If guidance for schools changes, this protocol may be updated.**

## **Daily Structure**

#### **Transportation:**

Centralia City School District #135 is committed to providing safe transportation to all eligible children. In order to accomplish this goal, we have implemented multiple safety measures:

- At this time, all passengers (students and staff) will be required to wear masks in compliance with ISBE and IDPH guidelines. **If guidance for schools changes, this protocol may be updated.**
- Currently, students and staff will not be required to be screened before boarding the bus. Please see the section above on screening protocols. **If guidance for schools changes, this protocol will be adjusted accordingly.**
- All buses will continue to have seating charts for student management and to ensure that students are socially distanced to the extent possible.

We appreciate the cooperation of our families in ensuring that safety protocols are followed.

**Arrival/Dismissal Times and Procedures:**

Each school will share specific plans for arrival and departure of students.

**Attendance/Tuancy:**

Students are required to be in attendance when school is in session unless illness or other excused circumstances prevent them from participating. Please refer to the school handbook for attendance and truancy policies, as these still apply. There may be exceptions to the current policies regarding COVID-19 related absences. The school nurse and the appropriate building secretary and/or administrator will work with families when children are absent due to a documented COVID-19 related situation. Similarly, if the school sends a child home due to COVID-19 related symptoms or classroom exposure, these absences will not be held against the student.

**Meal Program:**

The district will continue to follow the required guidelines regarding meals served to students, and as always, there will be no charge for any student who wishes to eat breakfast or lunch. Common dining areas may once again be utilized. Building procedures will vary.

**Playground/PE Equipment:**

Students will be permitted to use playground equipment, sports equipment, etc. during recess and physical education classes.

**Water Fountains and Restrooms:**

Water fountains will be used for filling water bottles only. The district will provide a reusable water bottle to each student which may be taken home to wash, and it must be empty when it is brought back to use the next day. Students may also wish to bring an empty water bottle from home instead of the one provided.

Restroom breaks will be scheduled throughout the day as appropriate for the age/grade of the students. Restrooms will be cleaned and sanitized as appropriate.

**Storage of Student Belongings:**

Students will store items in desks, lockers, etc. This procedure will vary by building.

**Instruction****Teaching Structure:**

Centralia City Schools #135 is committed to providing a high quality education to all students. In order to achieve this, full day, in-person instruction will resume for the 2021-2022 school year. During the school day, instruction will occur according to the established, developmentally appropriate guidelines for each building. When necessary, social distancing will be maintained.

Remote learning will not be offered as an option except in rare cases for students who are not eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine **and** who are under a documented/confirmed, extended quarantine order by a local public health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health. For these rare exceptions where an extended remote period may be required, remote learning may be provided by the district through the use of an outside contracted service provider.

For classroom instruction, a return to best practices that are proven to be effective with students is encouraged. These practices include strategies such as student collaboration, project-based learning, morning meetings, and students working in pairs and small groups (this is not an exhaustive list). **If any guidance issued from ISBE or IDPH changes, this protocol will be adjusted accordingly.**

#### **Meeting Needs for IEP accommodations/504 :**

As always, Centralia City Schools #135 faculty and staff will meet accommodation needs of students with IEPs or 504 plans.

## **Technology**

### **Devices**

Centralia City Schools #135 is committed to ensuring that students have access to the appropriate technology. The district has a 1:1 program that allows every student to have access to a technology device (in most cases, a Chromebook). These devices will be utilized in accordance with developmentally appropriate building policies.

### **Instructional Platforms/Tools:**

From the experiences of the pandemic, we have learned that it is important to be prepared for the unexpected. For that reason, it is important that there be plans in place for an emergency, such as anytype of school closure (weather, etc.). Each building will share information with parents regarding communication methods, Google Classroom, etc.

### **District Technology User Policy:**

The district's policy regarding access to electronic networks is number 6:235 and is available on the Centralia City Schools #135 website. Contact the administration building if you are in need of a printed copy.



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