Return to School Plan
2021-2022



Chester-East Lincoln CCSD #61

Laura Irwin, Superintendent

2021-2022 COVID-19 RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

COVID-19 and Returning to School

At CEL, we pride ourselves on providing a safe environment where children are engaged in both academic and social experiences that result in growth, confidence, and the ability to be lifelong problem solvers. It is our belief that the best place for students to learn is in a classroom with a certified staff member and other children in order to gain the skills needed to be a successful, high functioning member of society.

Throughout the trying times of the COVID-19 pandemic, CEL remains committed to making decisions that are in the best interest of our students and staff members. The following plan lays out how CEL will meet guidelines set by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) as well as taking into consideration the needs of our students, staff, and parents.

Mask requirements for the 2021-2022 school year:

- *Masks are recommended but not required for students, staff, and visitors. Students, staff, and visitors that choose to wear a mask, may bring one from home or the district will provide them as needed.*
- *Masks are recommended if (a) closer than 3 feet for more than 15 minutes; or (b) indoors in a room with more than 50 persons.*

SECTION 2: HEALTH AND WELLNESS

DISTRICT HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS

- Training for employees and students that promote behaviors that reduce the spread of the virus.
- Promotion of mitigation practices such as staying home when sick.
- Practicing hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette (including hand washing with soap and water regularly).
- Posted signs throughout buildings promoting safe practices.
- Regular cleaning and disinfecting throughout the building.
- Proper ventilation and increased air circulation (opening doors and windows where possible).
- Limiting the sharing of objects and supplies when possible.
- Rearranging seating in classrooms to allow for social distancing to the extent possible. Students will have assigned seats and will face the same direction.
- Food consumption in smaller, controlled settings to avoid large groups.
- Outdoor physical education when possible.
- Limiting of non-essential visitors and volunteers.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in every classroom, and everyone will be encouraged to sanitize when entering or exiting the classroom.
- Limiting large group gatherings.
- Students with disabilities may be eligible for accommodations with respect to health and safety policies as they relate to the disability on a case by case basis.

SELF-CERTIFICATION

We are requiring that parents and staff members take a daily temperature reading and check for COVID-19 symptoms each morning your child will be present in our building. Students with a fever or any of the symptoms below should stay home and seek medical advice. By sending your child to school, you are certifying the following:

- That your child does not have a fever over 100.4 degrees.
- That your child does not have any of the following conditions related to COVID-19 that cannot otherwise be explained:
  - -Severe nausea or vomiting
  - -Unexplained abdominal pain
  - -Diarrhea
  - -Difficulty breathing
  - -Sore throat
  - -Body aches/chills
  - -Uncontrollable cough
  - -Onset of a severe headache
  - -New loss of taste or smell
  - -Unexplained runny nose/congestion

MASKS

- *Masks are recommended but not required for all students, staff, and visitors. Students, staff, and visitors that choose to wear a mask, may bring one from home or the district will provide them as needed.*
- *Masks are recommended if (a) closer than 3 feet for more than 15 minutes; or (b) indoors in a room with more than 50 persons.*

ILLNESS

Parents need to notify the school anytime their child is sick. For everyone's protection, if your child is sick, please practice common sense and stay at home. A list of common symptoms are listed above.

CONFIRMED CASE

If someone in your household or your student tests positive for COVID-19 (or you think they may have it), you may return to school after you have been:

- *Fever free for 24 hours* ***and***
- *Respiratory symptoms have improved* ***and***
- *5 days from the onset of symptoms or as directed by a doctor.*

If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 at CEL, the district will send a note home notifying anyone that has been in contact with the individual that has tested positive. The district will disinfect and sanitize.

Anyone that has been in close contact with a positive COVID-19 patient should quarantine (as directed by a doctor or the Logan County Health Department) from the last date they had close contact with the individual that tested positive for COVID-19.

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

We recognize the importance of providing social and emotional support for our students as they return to school this year. Our social worker, school psychologist, and staff members are ready to assist students as needed. Additional professional development will be provided throughout the school year.

VACCINATION DOCUMENTATION:

If parents wish to provide proof your child(ren) is vaccinated, students will not be required to quarantine if determined to be in close contact with a positive individual. Without proper documentation, students will be treated as if they are unvaccinated.

QUARANTINE LOCATION:

Per ISBE guidelines, a separate location will be established for any student who becomes ill or exhibits signs and symptoms of illness during the school day. Parents will be required to pick up their child if they become ill.

SECTION 2: INSTRUCTION

REMOTE LEARNING

Full-time remote learning is not an option for the 2021-2022 school year. This Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) adopted a resolution supporting full-time in-person learning for this school year.

If a student is quarantined, CEL will work with parents and caregivers to provide the best educational situation for each student. This will be done on a case by case basis.

PE

- PE will be held outside (weather permitting) or in the gym.
- Currently students will not change for PE. We will reassess at a later date.

ART & MUSIC PROGRAM

Art: Art will be provided weekly and a schedule will be provided.

Music: Chorus and Band will be provided for 5th-8th grades. 4th grade students will have the option to participate in band lessons as well.

Elementary students will have music instruction in their classrooms.

FIELD TRIPS/ASSEMBLIES

Field trips and assemblies will be approved on a case by case basis for the 2021-2022 school year.

SECTION 3: OPERATIONS

SCHOOL DAY

In-person instruction for students will begin on August 18, 2021. Dismissal will be at 1:30 for the first week of school (August 18-20). Beginning August 23rd, school will dismiss at 3:00 p.m. Certified staff members will work their contractual hours from the building from 7:55-3:30.

SHOES

For the health and safety of our teachers and staff, please do not buy shoes that lace up if your student cannot tie their shoes.

TRANSPORTATION

We are asking parents to provide transportation to and from school if possible. To the extent possible, students living in the same household will sit together on the bus.

ARRIVING TO SCHOOL

In order to accommodate the social distance guidelines, we have developed a system with timelines in order to make the arrival to school as safe as possible. Students will be dismissed to classrooms starting at 8:05 a.m.

Students are expected to remain socially distant to the best of their ability, and follow any guidelines explained to them depending on the arrival routine they follow.

- ***DROP OFF***
    - *While waiting in the car line to drop off your child(ren), please have them prepared to quickly exit the vehicle (backpack ready).*
    - *We have 2 drop off times to accommodate parents. Students should not be dropped off prior to their times listed below and should wait in the car until dismissed by a staff member. Parents will not be able to walk their students in the building or to their classrooms.*
        - *7:50 a.m. - Students that have parents that need to travel to work may arrive. Students are to stay in the vehicle until they are directed to enter the building by a staff member. Once they enter the building, there will be a designated area to wait. We ask that students in the same household stand together in the area they are assigned to.*
        - *8:05 a.m. - Students with parents that have more flexibility may arrive. Students are to stay in their vehicle until directed to enter the building. These students will go directly to his/her classroom.*

- ***WALKERS***
    - *8:10 a.m. - Students that walk to school are allowed to enter the building and go directly to his/her classroom.*

- ***BUS RIDERS***
    - *8:05 a.m. - Students will begin dismissing from the bus. One bus will unload at a time. Students will go directly to his/her classroom.*
    - *Students will have assigned seats and will be sitting with those children living in the same household.*

DISMISSING FROM SCHOOL

- ***STUDENTS RIDING THE BUS***
    - *2:55 p.m. - Buses will start loading (one bus at a time).*
    - *Students will remain in the classrooms until their bus number is announced. Busses will be loaded one at a time and will be lined up outside the primary door.*
- ***STUDENTS WALKING HOME***
    - *2:55 p.m. - Students that walk home will exit out the gym door.*
- ***STUDENTS BEING PICKED UP***
    - *Students will be assigned a door that they will be dismissed from.*
        - *Front door*
        - *Primary/Bus door - Parents assigned to this door will wait for the buses to depart and then will pull into the bus lane. Students may then exit the door.*

FOOD SERVICES

Breakfast will be served in classrooms. No bar lunches will be served. Lunch will be served in smaller controlled settings. Students must eat in their assigned seat and stay facing forward to the extent possible. Students may bring a sack lunch from home. Students that bring a sack lunch from home may buy milk for $0.35 or bring a drink from home (water or 100% juice only). No soda or other sugary drinks.

VISITORS

Although we love to have visitors, we will be strictly limiting visitors in our building. Parents will be allowed into the foyer and will communicate with the school staff through the window. If a child needs to leave school early, the parent will wait in the foyer, and a staff member will sign the student out.

WATER FOUNTAINS

Water fountains will be closed with the exception of the water filling stations. CEL only has THREE water filling stations. Therefore, students are strongly encouraged to bring a ***clear*** *water bottle to school each day filled with water from home.*

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS AT SCHOOL

Birthdays can be celebrated with store bought treats and snacks but must follow the healthy snack policy in our handbook.

OPEN HOUSE/BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

An in-person open house is being planned for all students on August 17th. We are requesting that families' with the last name starting with A-L plan to attend 5:00-5:30; and M-Z plan to attend 5:30-6:00. All doors will be open and we ask that parents come at their assigned time if possible in an attempt to limit the number of visitors in the classrooms at one time. Masks will be required for all individuals entering the building.

CLASS LISTS

Class lists will be posted at Back to School Night. Students will not be allowed to change their homeroom teachers.

SECTION 4: DISTRICT COMMUNICATION

COMMUNICATION

Communication will occur through:

- *School Messenger App*
- *Skylert Messages (email and/or text messages)*
- *CEL Website (www.cel61.com)*
- *CEL Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/cel61)*