

Cerro Gordo CUSD #100

Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

July 26, 2021

Introduction

Cerro Gordo CUSD #100 will return to pre-COVID, full school attendance days and times. This plan has been developed in accordance with the ARP Act and the Illinois State Superintendent of Education declaration of July 9, 2021, is aligned with guidance provided by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and addresses adjustments needed in response to evolving COVID-19 pandemic circumstances. This plan will be made available to the public on the district's website.

School strategies in this plan may be revised based upon local conditions, levels of community transmission (i.e., low, moderate, substantial, or high), local vaccine coverage, use of available screening testing to detect cases in Cerro Gordo CUSD #100 students and staff, and consultation with local public health officials to determine the prevention strategies needed. School officials will communicate any changes in plans to staff members, students, and parents through the district's regular communication platforms.

Maintaining the Health and Safety of Students, Educators, and Other Staff

In accordance with the Illinois State Superintendent of Schools July 9, 2021 declaration, Cerro Gordo CUSD #100 will be open fully for in-person learning for all student attendance days for the 2021-22 school year. Remote instruction will only be made available for non-vaccinated or vaccine ineligible students who are under quarantine as directed by the local health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health. Absent an order from the Illinois State Board of Education and/or the Illinois Governor's Office, Cerro Gordo CUSD #100 will be in operation in accordance with the CDC's updated (July 9, 2021) *Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in Kindergarten (K)-12 Schools*, also adopted by the IDPH on July 9, 2021. These guidelines include the following:

1. Academics

- All students should be at school for in-person instruction unless they are quarantined or sick.
- Parents of students who need accommodations, modifications, or assistance related to COVID-19 safety protocols, disabilities, underlying medical conditions, or weakened immune systems should contact their student's building principal.
- Staff members who need accommodations, modifications, or assistance related to COVID-19 safety protocols, disabilities, underlying medical conditions, weakened immune systems, or a sincerely held religious belief or practice (covered by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964) should contact their school's principal to discuss the need(s). Staff members with weakened immune systems are advised to contact their healthcare professional about the need for continued personal protective measures after vaccination.

2. Lunches & Water Fountains

- The USDA will again provide free lunches to all students this school year.
- Water fountains and/or water bottles may be allowed at the discretion of the building principals.

3. Mask Use

- Governor Pritzker has mandated masks to be worn inside all schools by everyone

regardless of vaccination status.

- Mask use is required for all people on school buses.

4. Social Distancing

- Students and staff are subject to social distancing per IDPH guidance – to the greatest extent possible.

5. Hand Washing/Sanitizing and Respiratory Etiquette

- Good general hygiene will continue to be promoted and reinforced.

6. Cleaning, Disinfection and Ventilation

- School custodial staff provide appropriate daily cleaning to provide a clean and safe environment.
- The District uses EPA-approved air filters and cleaning supplies.

7. Contact Tracing in Combination with Isolation and Quarantine

- Students and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as influenza (flu) or COVID-19, should stay home and contact their healthcare provider for testing and care. ● Individuals in our school environments who show symptoms of COVID-19 are to immediately report to or be escorted to the school's office to be either sent home or be quarantined in the school's supervised safe area while awaiting pickup/evaluation. Students and staff are required to wear masks while in the safe area. Parents should ensure that ill students are picked up from school as soon as possible, but within no later than 45 minutes of being notified. Ill students will not be allowed to utilize the school bus to return home. ● Students and staff who are not fully vaccinated should quarantine after a recent exposure to someone with COVID-19. Fully vaccinated people who were in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 but do NOT have COVID-19 symptoms do not need to quarantine or be tested. Quarantine decisions will be made and communicated by the DeWitt/Piatt Bi-County County Health Department officials.
- Student absences related to a COVID-19 isolation or quarantine will be recorded as excused. To ensure continuity of services, school work missed during such an absence can be requested and made up in accordance with the school's policy (refer to student handbook); social, emotional, mental health, or other needs will be provided in accordance with a student's IEP or 504 Plan. Parents of students who have social, emotional, mental health, or other needs outside of an IEP or 504 Plan should contact their child's principal to discuss needs. Remote instruction will only be made available for non-vaccinated or vaccine ineligible students who are under quarantine as directed by the local health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health.
- Absent COVID-related leave days previously provided by Federal law, staff absences related to a COVID-19 isolation or quarantine will be recorded in accordance with the district's sick leave policy and related professional negotiations agreements. To ensure continuity of services, staff members should contact their principals to discuss support for social, emotional, mental health, or other needs.
- To the extent allowable by privacy laws and other applicable laws, the school nurse, in consultation with the superintendent, will continue to collaborate with the DeWitt/Piatt Bi-County Health Department officials to confidentially provide information about people diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19, including making notifications to staff and parents as soon as possible regarding those who were in close contact of someone in the school who tested positive for COVID-19.
- The superintendent's office will inform the school community of outbreaks while maintaining student and staff confidentiality rights.
- Students and staff suspected of having COVID-19 are to follow the current IDPH guidelines to

determine when they can return to school.

- Following quarantine, students and staff returning from illness related to COVID-19 are to call to check in with the school nurse.

8. Vaccination Information

- Those who want to get vaccinated against COVID-19 can visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to find out where they can get vaccinated in our area.

9. Visitors

- Nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations with people who are not fully vaccinated are discouraged from visiting schools.

10. Collaboration with Public Health Officials

- District officials will continue to collaborate and consult with the DeWitt/Piatt Bi-County Health Department officials throughout a pandemic on various logistics and decision-making including, but not limited to, quarantines, school health and safety protocols, screening testing, contact tracing, vaccine clinics, and emergency school closings.

11. Plan Review

- Through September 30, 2023, this plan will be reviewed no less frequently than every six months and revised as appropriate. Revisions will address the most recently updated safety recommendations by the CDC and made publicly available on the district's website.