



UNIVERSITY LABORATORY SCHOOLS

Illinois State University

Safe Return of In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services 2022-2023 School Year

Introduction

Over the last several years, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted most aspects of lives, including how we operate our schools. This has resulted in closures, changes to instruction, and changes to health and safety protocols. The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has fully aligned with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding COVID-19 guidelines. Health and safety standards remain subject to change and are adopted as a part of the University's and Laboratory School's COVID-19 prevention and mitigation strategies as recommended by IDPH, CDC, as well as the McLean County Department of Health (MCDH), and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).

COVID-19 Protocols

If your student is experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19, please stay home. Testing is recommended for all persons with symptoms regardless of vaccination status.

- If your student tests positive, isolate at home for at least 5 calendar days. The first day of symptoms is day 0. They may return to school on day 6 if they have been 24 hours fever free without fever reducing medication, diarrhea, and vomit free for 24 hours and improvement of symptoms. Upon return students should mask through day 10.
- If your student is experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and your student has a negative covid test – please keep them home until symptoms have improved/resolved and they have been fever-free for 24 hours, and diarrhea and vomit free for 24 hours.
- If you know you are a close contact to someone that has tested positive, it is recommended to wear a mask for 10 days and test on day 5 of exposure or with any symptoms.

Please see the [IDPH Decision Tree](#) for an outline of the current ISBE standards for the 2022/2023 school year, including guidelines for students' return to school.

The Lab Schools have antigen tests (rapid over the counter tests) available for all symptomatic students as needed. Over the counter tests are available in the Main office at University High School and the nurses' office at Metcalf. No testing will be offered or performed by school staff on site. All tests need to be done at home and results communicated by the parent/guardian to the school via email or

telephone. Please contact the Lab School your student attends to report any illness related absence or positive cases.

Under current guidance from MCDH, the Laboratory Schools will not be contact tracing or identifying close contacts at school. MCDH will assist in investigating an outbreak situation and the schools will notify families as needed.

Mitigation & Prevention

The ISU Laboratory Schools have several recommended mitigation measures in place. These measures will help us maintain the health and safety of all students, educators, and other staff:

- Encouraging sick individuals to stay home and test
- Cleaning and disinfecting school environments
- Teaching and reminding students of proper hand and respiratory hygiene
- Promoting vaccinations and boosters
- Encouraging social/physical distancing
- Testing of symptomatic individuals (voluntary)
- Wearing a well-fitting mask (voluntary)

Mitigations maybe removed or reinstated based on building metrics, local metrics, data on new variants, changes in guidance from IDPH/ISBE, or other pertinent information. We will review this plan regularly, but no less frequently than every six months. And, as appropriate, we will revise this plan, taking into consideration the timing of significant changes to CDC guidance. Finally, we will seek and take public input into account in determining whether and what revisions are necessary.

At this time, the Lab Schools have not adopted any new policies regarding the prevention and mitigation strategies outlined above; currently, all mitigation measures are recommended. However, as we continue to review this plan every six months, policies could be developed.

Resources

- [IDPH & ISBE Joint Summary of CDC's Operational Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in Schools](#) (9.15.22)
- [Operational Guidance for K-12 Schools and Early Care and Educational Programs to Support Safe In-Person Learning](#) (10.5.22)

Continuity of Services

The Laboratory Schools will make every effort to ensure the continuity of services by addressing the following student needs throughout the year:

- Academic

- Social
- Emotional
- Mental

Specific details regarding the support for these needs are outlined below. In addition, support services are offered to our school staff. More information can be found by visiting <https://hr.illinoisstate.edu/benefits/eap/>.

Student Learning Support

Tier three support will be provided to students at both Metcalf and University High School. Tier three interventionists reach out to families to coordinate designated times to support student learning.

The U-Link Learning Center provides high school students an inclusive, inviting environment where they can seek academic support across all content areas. The Center uses mentors that are both peers from University High School as well as undergraduate students from Illinois State University. Mentors partner with students to provide academic, organizational, and social support.

Speech and language support will be provided and scheduled with the speech and language teacher.

Student Counseling Support

Counseling and support will be provided to students by our school psychologists and school counselors. Support is based on fostering positive self-esteem, including the development of each student's sense of security, identity, belonging, purpose, and personal competence.

The Student Assistance Program is designed to help students with their ability to function at school. Student Assistance advocates a "broad-brush" approach to identify, assess, and provide services for students whose school performance is impaired for any reason – substance abuse, emotional problems, learning difficulties, family issues, or social problems. Students, parents, faculty, or staff may make referrals.

Contact information for the school psychologists and school counselors can be found on the school websites.