



Antioch CCSD 34 Families,

We hope this communication finds all of our stakeholders well. As we have returned from Spring Break and position ourselves to finish the year strong, we are eagerly preparing for the April 5th pivot to full-day in-person learning. We commit to continuing to serve all of our students - those attending in-person and those remaining fully remote - to the absolute best of our ability. This communication is aimed at highlighting many of the key components of our transition and providing additional links to more inclusive, transparent, and detailed information. If you have any questions heading into next week and beyond, please reach out. We are here to serve, and continue to be in this and will get to the other side of this, together.

Antioch CCSD 34 is very excited to begin offering in-person instruction full-days, five days a week beginning on Monday, April 5, 2021. Currently, we have many of our students back in our buildings for half-days, twice a week and this has gone extremely well. Throughout our hybrid period of learning, we have been adhering to and following the guidance set forth in our Antioch CCSD 34 Return to Onsite Learning Logistics and Operations Guidebook. This guidebook has been updated and is linked at the conclusion of this message. In making edits and preparing for increased in-person learning, we have been diligent in layering a variety of mitigation measures, as mandated and recommended by organizations such as the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Lake County Health Department (LCHD).

Our return to a more normal schedule has been driven by recently updated guidance for schools by the CDC, IDPH, and ISBE. Some of the major changes that have allowed us to move to full-day instruction are:

1. Social Distancing requirements changed from 6-ft to 3-ft in most situations. This has allowed us to fit more students into our classrooms. We will continue to abide by the 6-ft of social distancing during the lunch periods and in other classes and situations, as recommended in guidance.
 - a. **Important note: The definition of a 'Close Contact' has NOT changed. According to the [IDPH/ISBE Joint Guidance](#), "Close contacts necessitating quarantine if exposed to a confirmed case continue to be defined as having been within 6 feet of the confirmed case for a**

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**Hillcrest
Elementary
School**

433 E. Depot Street
Antioch, IL 60002
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**Oakland
Elementary
School**

818 E. Grass Lake Road
Lake Villa, IL 60046
847-838-8601

**W.C. Petty
Elementary
School**

850 Highview Drive
Antioch, IL 60002
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**Antioch Upper
Grade School**

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cumulative time period of 15 minutes over 24 hours and not fully vaccinated.” With students and vaccinated staff members potentially being within 6-ft of one another and as close as 3-ft, if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19, any identified or known close contacts will be subject to a mandatory quarantine by the Lake County Health Department. This could range from 10-14 days. Please note this possibility and know our school nurses will help families navigate through these situations if and when they occur.

2. Capacity limitations have been changed. Capacity is now determined by the number of students/staff that can safely occupy a space utilizing either 3-ft or 6-ft of social distancing, depending on the activity and situation. The 50 person limit remains for our school busses.
3. The use of appropriate personal protective equipment, including face covers, is required. **We recommend each student come to school with a minimum of two (2) facial coverings.**
4. Schools are no longer required to conduct temperature checks of all students entering the building. Daily, students and staff must pre-certify that they are symptom free and able to attend school. Students will do this using the booklet of daily tickets that has been or will be provided to each student. Staff will continue to use the electronic system.
5. Modifications have been made to the [School Exclusion Guidance and Decision Tree](#). Our nursing staff will help guide families and staff through this guidance, as needed.

Many of the mitigation efforts detailed in our original guidebook will be maintained as we work to mitigate risk and provide a healthy environment for students and staff. Below, you will find the key highlights/changes that have been made as we adjust to a full-day, five day a week schedule. Note: Some of these items will impact all students (in-person and remote), while others are informational for those in-person.

1. **Building/Class Schedules** - the students' school day will look different than in our hybrid model. All buildings will run a schedule that is very similar to what is implemented in a normal school year. **All buildings and/or teachers will send out additional information about specific building and class schedules,**

including school hours, by the end of the week.

2. **Specials Class/Band/Orchestra** - These classes will be offered onsite and remote with modifications made to reduce the sharing of materials, as much as possible. Additional, specialized PPE will be provided to students in our band programs and distancing will be maximized in situations where there is the potential for increased aerosols (wind instrument playing, singing, etc.). Information about before/after school band/orchestra at the elementary level will be provided by our teaching staff.
3. **Transportation** - With the return to full-day school, new pickup/drop off times have been created and will be pushed out by the end of the week. There will continue to be a 50 person capacity on busses – meaning, depending on the size of the route, students may be assigned a seat next to another student whom they may not be related to or living with. (Note: this is a change from what we are doing in our hybrid model where only siblings and students from the same household are seated together). We will keep seating charts for contact tracing purposes. Families are welcome to transport their own students to and from school. Please contact your child’s school office if you would like to change their transportation.
4. **Lunch/Recess** - Bagged, grab-n-go lunch will be offered at our elementary and middle schools. During lunch, masks will be off for eating so students will maintain a 6-ft distance at all times. During recess, students will be masked. Students will be permitted a mask break during recess by asking a supervisor to ensure they are 6-ft away during that unmasked time. Students will be allowed to go outside for recess and utilize our playgrounds. Students will practice good hand hygiene before and after eating, as well as, before and after playground usage. Playground use and access will be monitored and the number of students using each piece of equipment will be limited. Please make sure that each student onsite brings a personal, reusable water bottle with them each day.
5. **Focus on Hand Hygiene throughout the school day** - Students will be expected to sanitize their hands before they enter a new space and once they leave that space. This will ensure that all students are continually sanitizing their hands throughout the day. Students cannot share hand sanitizer brought from home.

6. **Masks** - All students/staff are expected to wear a mask while onsite with the exception of when they are eating or drinking, unless a note is received from a physician stating otherwise due to a medical condition (in situations of a mask exemption, the District has other PPE and mitigation measures that will be utilized in consultation with the family and staff). **The face mask should have two or more layers to stop the spread of COVID-19 and should be worn over the nose and mouth, be secured under the chin, and should fit snugly against the sides of the face without gaps. The CDC does not recommend use of single-layer athletic face masks (e.g., gaiters/neck warmers) as a substitute for multi-layered cloth face masks. Additional studies indicate that gaiters can be worn as face coverings when they contain two layers of fabric or a single layer can be folded to make two layers, according to updated CDC guidance.** Masks, along with good hand hygiene, have been proven to be the most effective mitigation methods. Official guidance on mask usage can be found here: <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/updated-public-health-guidance-for-schools.pdf>).

Notes:

- With the exemption of when students are sick or quarantined, those opting for in-person learning are expected to be in attendance daily. Attendance issues and concerns will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.
- As we make the move to full-day instruction, before and after school care through Champions will be provided at each of our elementary buildings. Champions will not be able to provide full day care to any families that choose to remain in a remote setting.

We are very grateful for the incredible work that has gone into preparing our schools, classrooms, learning spaces, and ourselves for this important transition. We commit to monitoring the layered mitigations in place and making adjustments as necessary. In the end, our goal is to best serve and meet the needs of our learners attending in-person and those remaining fully remote. We are in this together and believe that together, we will have a successful transition and push toward the end of the year.

We will continue to monitor guidance and metrics. If adjustments need to be made to our model, it will be done in conjunction with our advising agencies and communicated clearly and timely. Once new schedules are implemented on April 5th, we will not plan to change schedules; however, if necessary or mandated, the full-day schedule could be used in implementing a hybrid or virtual rotation for students.

This has been a long journey and we want to thank you all for the grace, patience, and partnership you have offered. Every student, whether attending in-person or remotely, every staff member, and all of our families mean a great deal to us. The collective health, safety, and wellness of our learning community remains top-of-mind and at the forefront. With that said, given guidance and the many mitigations we have put into place, we are eager for April 5, 2021. We are profoundly grateful for all who have gotten us here and will help us ensure its success.

Additional Information:

- [Antioch CCSD 34 Return to Onsite Learning Logistics and Operations Guidebook](#)
- [April Pivot - In-Person and Remote Learning Plan - Board of Education Presentation](#) - March 16, 2021
- [March 26, 2021 Thought Exchange FAQ](#)
- [Daily COVID Dashboard for Antioch CCSD 34](#)
- [IDPH Decision Tree](#)

Again, if you have any questions, please reach out to a building leader.

Grateful,

Dr. Bradford Hubbard
Superintendent