

Neoga CUSD #3

Re-Opening Plan FY 22 & FY 23, FY 24 and Continuity of Services

FY 22 Board Approved - August 26, 2021, Reviewed February 16, 2022

FY 23 Board Approved - August 11, 2022, Reviewed February 9, 2023

FY 24 - Reviewed August 10, 2023

Executive Summary

Following the Covid-19 pandemic closure of all Illinois schools in the spring of 2020, Neoga CUSD #3 planned and implemented a safe return for the 2020-21 school year. This required strict adherence to required health and safety protocols, which created some barriers and limitations to teaching and learning. Subsequently, the U.S. Congress made emergency funds available to local schools to prevent, prepare for, and respond to Covid-19. Most recently, funds available through the American Rescue Plan require that school districts develop a *Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services*. As such, 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 for the 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24 school years.

This document was developed through meaningful consultation with students, parents, school and district administrators, teachers, school staff, food service staff, transportation service staff, labor association leaders, and county health department officials. It will be publicly available on the district's website and can be provided in an alternative format accessible to parents as requested.

School strategies in this document may be modified or removed based upon local conditions, levels of community transmission (i.e., low, moderate, substantial, or high), local vaccine coverage, use of screening testing to detect cases in K-12 schools, 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.

The remainder of this document is intended to provide an outline of our current plan for students and staff as we prioritize student and staff safety, social-emotional health of students, academic achievement, and the needs of our families and community for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years.

Respectfully,

Kevin Haarman

Superintendent

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

Neoga CUSD #3 schools will be open for full-day in-person learning for all student attendance days for the 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24 school years. Schools must continue to provide remote learning to any student who is under isolation or quarantine for COVID-19 based on the State Superintendent's Remote Learning Declaration. Absent an order from the Illinois State Board of Education and/or the Illinois Governor's Office, Neoga CUSD #3 schools will be in operation in accordance with the CDC's updated Operational Guidance for K-12 Schools, also adopted by the IDPH and most recently updated.

The updated [CDC guidance](#) recommends "strategies for everyday operations" to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, including the virus that causes Covid-19. The following strategies should be in place at all Community Levels:

- Promote staying up to date with all routine [vaccinations](#),
- Encourage students and staff to stay home when sick,
- Optimize ventilation,
- Reinforce proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette,
- Utilize proper cleaning and disinfection procedures.

With help from local health departments, we will consider local context when selecting strategies to prioritize for implementation. In doing so, we will balance risk of Covid-19 with educational, social, and mental health outcomes when deciding which prevention strategies to put in place.

- [Diagnostic and screening testing](#) to promptly identify cases, clusters, and outbreaks,
- [Test to Stay](#) Programs,
- [Ventilation](#) Improvements,
- [Case Investigation and Contact Tracing](#) to inform people who might have been in close contact with someone with Covid-19.
- Persons identified as [close contacts](#) (persons not up to date with Covid-19 vaccination who were within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more in a 24-hour period) should quarantine for five days consistent with [CDC guidance](#) and mask for 5 additional days, or 10 days if unable to mask. For those up to date with Covid-19 vaccination, masks should be worn for 10 days after exposure.

IDPH and ISBE continue to maintain additional guidance documents addressing Illinois-specific guidance for the following

1. [COVID-19 Interim Guidance For Schools Decision Tree for Evaluating Symptomatic Individuals from Pre-K-12 Schools](#)
2. [Interim Guidance on Testing for COVID-19 in Community Settings and Schools](#)

Plan Review - Through August 10, 2023, this plan will be reviewed no less frequently than every six months and revised as appropriate after seeking and considering public input.