

# Athens CUSD #213 Return to Learn

## Summary

Athens CUSD #213 will prioritize the health, safety, and welfare of our school community in order to open schools for the 2020-21 school year. We will respond accordingly as conditions change throughout the year. All efforts shall be made, to the greatest extent possible, to adhere to the Illinois Department of Public Health, Illinois State Board of Education and Sangamon/Menard County Health Department guidelines to avoid cancelations or mandated closures. Health guidelines and the overall safety of our school community will guide decisions to establish a safe and effective learning environment for students, staff, and families as we navigate the ever-evolving COVID-19 pandemic.

### Return to School In-person Instruction Option

Students will attend school five days a week. Daily early dismissals will occur for additional cleaning and teacher remote learning time. Cantrall Elementary will dismiss at 1:50 p.m., Cantrall Intermediate will dismiss at 2:00 p.m., Athens Junior High and High School will dismiss at 2:15 p.m.

- At Cantrall Elementary and Cantrall Intermediate, students will remain with the same cohort of approximately 20 students during the day minimizing student interaction. Student desks will be approximately six feet apart. Students will remain with their cohort during lunch, recess, and PE, as well. Locker use at CIS will be limited.
- At Athens Junior High, students will remain with the same cohort for the majority of the day. Student desks will be approximately four to six feet apart. There will be minimal intermingling of students during lunch and PE. During those times, students will be distanced by six feet. Locker use will be limited.
- At Athens High School, students will follow their normal schedule. Student desks will be approximately four to six feet apart. During lunch and PE, students will be distanced by six feet. Locker use will be limited.

### Return to School Remote Learning Option

A remote learning option will be available for students/parents who are uncomfortable with in-person instruction and/or guidelines. Remote Learning may be selected at the final registration date of August 6<sup>th</sup>. If remote learning is chosen, that student will be required to remain in remote learning until the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. However, students may opt into the Remote Learning Option at any time. Remote Learning will include full instructional and assignment workloads. Student attendance and participation will be required. Traditional grading policies will be followed.

### Face Coverings

Face coverings will be required for all students, staff and visitors inside the school buildings at all times. When social distancing, face coverings are not required to be worn outside. Weather permitting, outside space will be utilized for PE and recess. Individuals who are unable to wear face coverings for medical reasons must provide a note from a physician. For the safety of students and staff, any

individual who chooses not to/or refuses to wear a face covering will be encouraged and/or required to choose the Remote Learning Option.

### Symptom Certification

In order for students to enter a bus or building in a safe and timely manner, parents will be asked to self-certify that their child is COVID-19 symptom free, including having a temperature under 100.0F. A ticket system will be provided for students to present to bus drivers prior to entering a bus or school staff members prior to entering a building. For any student who does not have a ticket, staff will symptom check prior to entering the building. Parent assistance with self-certification is critical in order for students to enter buses and buildings in a safe, orderly and timely manner.

<b>K-12 School Exclusion Chart (Illinois)</b> Source: ISBE, IDPH as of 7-23-20  <b>Students and staff with runny nose, congestion and body aches, will be evaluated by a School Nurse and a medical history will be taken to determine if exclusion is warranted</b>	<b>Period of Exclusion</b>
<b>A. <u>Student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Minimum 14 days of exclusion after onset of symptom(s); if no symptom(s), period of exclusions starts with positive test</i></li> <li>• <i>Period of exclusion will be extended until at least 72 hours after fever breaks (without fever-reducing medication) AND exhibiting no symptoms</i></li> </ul>	14 calendar days (minimum)
<b>B. <u>Student or staff member exhibits one (or more) symptom(s) of COVID-19:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, fatigue, muscle and body aches, headaches, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, nausea, persistent vomiting, or diarrhea, conjunctivitis</i></li> <li>• <i>Period of exclusion starts on the date of onset of symptom(s); this is determined in the sole discretion of school personnel</i></li> <li>• <i>If symptom(s) persist past the initial 14-day exclusion period. IDPH or local health officials must be consulted regarding return (return to school will likely not be recommended if symptoms persist in the absence of a negative test)</i></li> <li>• <i>Student/staff member may present medical documentation or explanation of other illness or condition (e.g. allergies, fibromyalgia, pregnancy, etc.) that maybe causing symptom(s) that would allow return to school/work</i></li> <li>• <i>OPTIONAL: If a student/staff member is tested (okay to require documentation): Positive for COVID-19 see above Negative for COVID-19 may return after resolved symptoms</i></li> </ul>	14 calendar days (minimum)
<b>C. <u>Student or staff member has a temperature higher than 100.0F with no other COVID-19 symptoms:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>At least 72 hours must elapse from resolution of the fever without fever reducing medication before the student/staff member can return to school</i></li> <li>• <i>If any other COVID-19 symptoms are present, see (B)</i></li> </ul>	72 hours
<b>D. <u>Student or staff member had close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The “window” for the close contact is within the last 14 days</i></li> <li>• <i>“Close contact” means that the student/staff member was within 6 feet of a person who tested positive for COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes</i></li> <li>• <i>Period of exclusion starts on the date of the most recent close contact</i></li> <li>• <i>The close contact can happen at school, home, in the community, etc.</i></li> </ul>	14 calendar days
<b>E. <u>Student or staff member had a close contact with someone who is exhibiting one or more COVID-19 symptom(s):</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The “window” for the close contact is within the last 14 days</i></li> <li>• <i>“Close contact” means that the student/staff member was within 6 feet of a symptomatic person for more than 15 minutes</i></li> <li>• <i>Period of exclusion starts on the date of the most recent close contact</i></li> <li>• <i>The close contact can happen at school, home, in the community, etc.</i></li> </ul>	14 calendar days
<b>F. <u>Student or staff member has returned from a location with sustained widespread transmission designated as Travel Warning Level 3</u></b>	14 calendar days

