

NORTHWESTERN CUSD #2

Reopening Plan

2021-2022 School Year

Last Updated 10-28-21

## Foreword

To the students, staff, parents, and community members of Northwestern CUSD #2:

As we enjoy the summer, we must also consider what school will look like in the fall and how we can continue in-person learning. We have to create a meaningful learning environment and experience for our students. We also have to maintain a safe, learning environment as well as utilize a model that our professional staff can execute.

We will strive to maintain an in-person learning model. An in-person learning model will support your student's social-emotional health as well as provide the most academic support. However, we must realize the virus threat remains. We must take steps to keep our schools from becoming "hot spots" in our community. We must also anticipate that there may be outbreaks, which will require that we move from in-person to remote learning for some time or that quarantines of students and staff may happen.

This document represents what we are currently thinking about the 2021-2022 school year. It is a work-in-progress and based upon the latest guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control, the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois Governor, and our local health department.

I know masks are a major concern in our community. At this time, we will begin the year with masks **mandated** for all students and staff due to the Governor's recent Executive Order.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kevin E. Bowman  
Superintendent of Schools

# Public Health

## Overview

Northwestern CUSD #2 will continue to collaborate with the Macoupin County Public Health Department to ensure a safe and healthy learning environment for our students and staff. Any person entering Northwestern CUSD #2 property will be required to follow all public health regulations. Below is an explanation of the health regulations based upon current information:

## Key Updates

- Mask use is **mandated** indoors for everyone including students, teachers, and staff. Children under 2 years of age should not wear a mask.
- People do not need to wear masks when outdoors. However, particularly in areas of substantial high transmission, CDC **recommends** that people who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated.
- Buses – Regardless of the mask policy at school, passengers and drivers must wear a mask on school buses.
- The CDC/IDPH/ISBE recommend universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. . They also recognize local control during Phase 5 as stated: “Together with local public health officials, school administrators should consider multiple factors when they make decisions about implementing layered prevention strategies against Covid-19. Since schools typically serve their surrounding communities, decisions should be based on the school population, families, and students served, as well as their communities.” Further, as of August 4, 2021, Governor Pritzker has indicated he will Order all schools to institute an indoor mask mandate for all school staff, students, and individuals on school property. Based on the current conditions and the Governor’s Order, Northwestern CUSD #2 will begin the year with a mask mandated. **We will continue to monitor the health and well-being of our students and staff and adjust accordingly if needed. Everyone should be prepared to wear masks if our local metrics warrant that need.**

## Number of Student and Staff Requirements

- 3 feet between students when practical
- Quarantines for students in close contact with a positive case if symptomatic

## Building Traffic Guidelines and Symptom Screening

- Symptom screening process will take place upon entering the building and the classroom
- Symptoms include: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea
- Screenings will be logged each day by the homeroom or 1<sup>st</sup> hour teacher
- Each building will create a safe traffic flow with social distancing in mind
- Mask use is **mandated** indoors for everyone including students, teachers, and staff. Children under 2 years of age should not wear a mask.
- Visual cues such as floor markings will be used to help with movements inside the building
- Furniture, tables, and desks will be arranged to support social distancing as much as practicable

- Schools will control the flow of traffic into and out of the building to ensure maximum capacity plans are managed at each entry and exit point

### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Hygiene Measures**

- Mask use is **mandated** indoors for everyone including students, teachers, and staff. Children under 2 years of age should not wear a mask.
- Students and staff will be given frequent breaks outside with social distancing so that “breaks” from wearing a mask are available
- Classes will be held outside as often as possible with social distancing and time for a “mask free” learning environment
- Gloves are required for Food and Nutrition Service workers at all times and other staff when cleaning or sanitizing an item or surface. Staff will properly change gloves after cleaning and wash/sanitize hands
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including face coverings (back-ups to personal face coverings), hand sanitizer will be provided to schools throughout the school year
- Parents are encouraged to provide their student with a mask if possible (Facemasks should be cleaned each day or replaced at the end of the day)
- Additional PPE and accommodations will be provided if necessary in some instances
- Additional signage on how to stop the spread of Covid-19, properly wash hands, promote everyday protective measures including face coverings will be on display in buildings
- Consistent scheduled times and procedures will be established throughout the day for hand hygiene, promoting hand washing
- Any student who has had close contact with another student or any other person who is diagnosed with Covid-19 should follow all state and local guidance from the health department and should seek a COVID-19 test at a state or local government testing center, healthcare center, or other testing location. All other students should be on alert for symptoms of fever, cough, or shortness of breath, and taking temperatures if symptoms develop
- All staff and students will be required to stay home when experiencing Covid-19 symptoms. If they do have symptoms, they should wait to enter the premises until they have had no fever for at least 24 hours, other symptoms have improved, and at least 10 days have passed since their symptoms first appeared, and feeling well for at least 24 hours OR has a negative COVID-19 test. Follow all local health department guidance. The school nurse will follow the IDPH chart when advising the safe return for students.

### **Suspected/Confirmed Covid-19 – School Decision Tree**

- Symptomatic staff and students in the building will need to go to an established isolated area (not the health room, as this room must be kept available) until they can safely leave the building. The area will then be disinfected per IDPH and CDC guidelines.
- Coordination with the local health department regarding suspected and confirmed cases
  - Health department will assist Northwestern CUSD #2 leadership team to determine a course of action for their individual schools on a case-by-case basis
  - Health department has indicated this may include the dismissal of students and most staff for a short period
  - Note: The quarantine period is 10-14 days (this may be a single student, a staff member, a class, or even a school or the entire district)

## **Transmission Mitigation and Cleaning Procedures**

- We will consider increasing the circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and/or doors as long as it does not pose a safety or health risk to other students
- To the extent possible, students and staff should limit the sharing of all supplies, utensils, devices, toys, books, and learning aids
- Custodial services cleaning practices will be focused for cleaning for health, which includes an emphasis on disinfecting surfaces where bacteria or viruses are most likely to be transmitted with an approved EPA disinfectant
- Custodians will ensure timely and appropriate cleaning of each classroom is conducted each day
- Buses will also be disinfected and cleaned after each route

## **Academics**

### **Overview**

Northwestern CUSD #2 will strive to provide in-person learning as much as possible during the 2021-2022 school year. We believe this model best facilitates students' mastery of Illinois Learning Standards and Northwestern CUSD #2 Curriculum. Northwestern CUSD #2 is also prepared to offer a remote learning plan. However, all students must attend in person unless there is a medical need to utilize remote learning. This option is not preferred by the school as this is not the best educational option. The school would prefer that all students attend in person unless there is a medical need to utilize remote learning. There is a possibility that one or both of our schools will be forced to the remote learning option only at certain times this school year.

### **In-person Learning**

In-person learning will be the norm. Students benefit from in-person learning and safely returning to in-person instruction in the fall 2021 is a priority. Our regular school day will return.

### **Remote Learning (Please see Northwestern's Remote Learning Expectations)**

Remote learning will be used when necessary. Parents also have the option of remote learning for their child with a medical need. This option is not preferred by the school as this is not the best educational option. The school would prefer that all students attend in person unless there is a medical need to utilize remote learning. Any student who is on remote must have a doctor's excuse.

### **Special Education**

Northwestern CUSD #2 is committed to providing free and appropriate educational opportunities for students with disabilities, to the greatest extent possible in alignment with public health guidelines. Collaboration with families has always been an integral part of the special education process and is essential during this time. To address the unique needs of students with disabilities, special education providers will continue to work with

families to collaboratively identify the most essential services for each student that can be provided both directly and indirectly in remote and in-person learning environments.

## **Technology**

The district will strive to ensure that all students have access to a working device (Chromebook, iPad, laptop, desktop computer) either at home or supplied by the school. The school will strive to move toward a model of standardization to provide more support for students during remote learning. Also, Northwestern CUSD #2 is basically a 1:1 school meaning that we have enough technology to ensure that each student has a school device.

## **Student Services**

### **Athletics and Activities**

Northwestern CUSD #2 will continue to support and promote student participation in athletic and activity programs to the extent permitted in the fall. Northwestern CUSD #2 is a member of the Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA) and the Illinois High School Association. Adherence to both association's parameters for sports and activities programs will be followed.

### **Food and Nutrition Services**

Northwestern CUSD #2 will continue to provide meal service to students to the extent possible given on-site and remote learning environments. Remote and on-site learning will dictate the serving model that will be used. Health and safety standard protocols will be used by staff. Continued compliance with Federal requirements for meals served. Cleaning and disinfecting of schools will be aligned with CDC cleaning/disinfecting School Guidance. Any student who enrolls in remote learning, while in-person learning is in effect, must pick up meals at the student's school.

### **Transportation**

The transportation department supports students by providing safe and timely transport services for eligible riders. The district will continue to transport all students. We will rely on parents to ensure their students do not get on a bus with symptoms or a temperature.

- Passengers and drivers must wear a mask on school buses.
- Seating charts
- Sanitization will be completed daily or between use on all school vehicles

### **District School Day (8:10 a.m. to 2:55 p.m. @ elementary) (8:10 a.m. to 3:06 p.m. @ JH/HS)**

The school day will be a normal start time at 8:10 a.m. Students may arrive as early as 7:45 a.m.

## **Northwestern Elementary Day-to-Day Information**

Students are encouraged to arrive no earlier than 7:45 a.m. if they are not riding the bus. All students will go to their classrooms upon arrival. Weather permitting, our teachers will go outside with their students for classes as often as possible. Music classes will go outside as often as possible as weather permits. School will dismiss at 3:06 p.m. until further notice.

## **Northwestern Jr/Sr. HS Specifics**

Students are encouraged to arrive no earlier than 7:45 a.m. if they are not riding the bus. All students will go to their assigned area (cafeteria, gym, classroom) upon arrival to school.

### **Northwestern CUSD #2 ARP ESSER III Funds Plan**

The Northwestern CUSD #2 ARP ESSER III Funds Plan will follow the Northwestern CUSD #2 Reopening Plan for the 2021-2022 School Year.

ARP-ESSER III Funds and the Northwestern CUSD #2 Reopening Plan for the 2021-2022 School Year will be used to implement prevention and mitigation strategies to the extent practicable, in line with the most recent CDC guidance, in order to continuously and safely operate schools for in-person learning.

The use of funds under section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act (totaling not less than 20 percent of the LEA's total allocation of ARP ESSER funds) to address the academic impact of lost instructional time through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive after school programs, or extended school year programs. At this time the district plans to extend the school day from the 1:45 p.m. dismissal time of the 2020-2021 school year to the 3:00 p.m. dismissal time. Funding for teacher salaries to ensure smaller class sizes, and the maintaining of more staff to provide smaller class sizes to improve learning and maintain a safe classroom.

The district will ensure that all interventions it implements will address academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students particularly those students from low-income families, students of color, English learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children and youth in foster care, and migratory students.

The district will engage in meaningful consultation with stakeholders. The district will provide the public the opportunity to provide input in the development of the district plan for the use of ARP ESSER funds and take such input into account.

The district will use ARP-ESSER to identify, re-engage, and support students most likely to have experienced the impact of lost instructional time on student learning. The district will use ARP-ESSER funds to allocate funding to schools and for districtwide activities based on student need. The district will implement an equitable and inclusive return to in-person instruction that includes but is not limited to, establishing policies and practices that avoid the use of exclusionary discipline measures and creating a positive and supportive learning environment for all students.

Funding Available (\$899,184 ) (20% of \$830,732 must be used for learning loss = \$166,146)

Learning Loss (State level reservation) - \$48,894

Summer Enrichment (State level reservation) - \$9779

After School (State level reservation) - \$9779

ARP ESSER III Funds will be used to implement prevention and mitigation strategies in order to operate schools for in-person learning by HVAC addition to Northwestern Jr./Sr. High School gymnasium and Northwestern Elementary School library.

ARP ESSER III Funds will be used to support all students and families that have experienced impacts on student learning by waiving registration fees for all students.

ARP ESSER III Funds will be used to impact learning loss through extending the school day and through maintaining staff to impact learning loss and keep students safer in smaller class sizes and will cover certain staff salaries for the duration of the grant.

ARP ESSER III Funds will be used to impact learning loss through the addition and upgrading of curriculum in all subject areas in the district.

ARP ESSER III Funds will be used to implement prevention and mitigation strategies in order to operate schools for in-person learning by paying for personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies for students, staff, and facilities.

ARP ESSER III Funds will be used for cafeteria tables to implement prevention and mitigation strategies in order to operate schools and the cafeteria safely.

ARP ESSER III Funds will be used for summer school at both the elementary and high school, for after school activities like tutoring, and for addressing the learning loss.

ARP ESSER III Funds will be used to provide a \$500 covid bonus for all staff members due to going above and beyond the job description to help out during the Covid crisis.

ARP ESSER III Funds will be used to provide a mental health counselor in the Northwestern School District for one additional day per week.

ARP ESSER III Funds will be used to update technology in the school district by adding an additional 50 Macbook Airs over a two-year period.