

**UNION SCHOOL  
DISTRICT #81**  
1661 Cherry Hill Road  
Joliet, Illinois 60433  
Timothy Baldermann, Superintendent  
Phone: 815-726-5218  
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**Board of Education**  
President – Mr. Patrick Sweeney  
Vice President – Mr. Jose J. Gonzalez  
Secretary – Mrs. Tina Bakke  
Treasurer – Ms. Linda Brunner  
Mr. Christopher Gustafson  
Mrs. Shelly Sinclair  
Mrs. Carey Brock

July 23, 2020

Dear Union Families and Staff,

Keeping all students and staff safe has, and will always be, a top priority for us at Union School District 81. Please read the following and sign the attached sheet stating your understanding and acceptance of the District's policies and procedures that must be followed during this pandemic.

Additionally, the Illinois Federation of Teachers Association has put out the guidelines they'd like to see followed for the safe return to school for their members. Our teachers and staff do an amazing job for our students and deserve our support. The following are those guidelines and our response.

1. All educational institutions must be working with their unions now to negotiate safe and effective learning plans; parents and students should be partners in these community discussions.

**I surveyed the teachers asking them their preference regarding in-person or remote learning. They all believe in-person education is the best method of instruction. Additionally, I met with the teachers on July 14<sup>th</sup> to discuss our plans and answer any questions or concerns they might have. We are a collaborative district and these decisions are made with teacher input.**

2. A sustainable school day or course model that incorporates blended learning, which allows for appropriate social distancing and does not exceed 15 students in the same classroom at one time; or on campuses, a room that can adequately accommodate all individuals using CDC recommendations on social distancing.

**We have incorporated an outdoor education component to our school day. We do not exceed 15 students in a classroom setting, except kindergarten. We are providing additional support for kindergarten and have put in place additional safety measures for every classroom. These measures include masks, face shields, plexiglass desk guards, water bottles and hand sanitizer provided free for every student and staff member. Additionally, our meal service will be grab and go instead of self-served.**

3. The right of educators to determine the best mode of instruction.

**As previously stated, our teaching staff is involved in the decision making process and has the autonomy (with administration consultation) to make individual classroom decisions based on what's best for them and their students.**

4. A clear safety plan that includes enforcement and accountability of the required IDPH and CDC guidelines for schools and campuses.

**All Union student families have been provided with our guidelines and procedures and will be required to sign the attached sheet agreeing to have their students adhere to the guidelines set forth while at school and on the bus.**

5. Temperature checks and/or health screenings for all students, staff, and visitors prior to entry.

**The school will have temperature screening devices set up for every student, staff member and visitor to have their temperature checked upon arrival at the building.**

6. A required two-week quarantine when a student or staff tests positive for COVID-19 or has a high-risk exposure to COVID-19, with special paid sick leave provided by the employer.

**The District will be following CDC and IDPH standards and guidelines for COVID-19 related quarantine situations. The District will also be following State guidelines as it pertains to COVID-19 related sick leave for employees.**

7. Contact tracing notifications to students, families, and staff when a positive test occurs for a person who is known to have been in a school or campus building.

**The District will follow State guidelines, while respecting all HIPAA protocols, for reporting any positive test results for anyone that has been in the building.**

8. Coronavirus testing availability—especially for people in rural communities.

**The District will make sure testing is provided for any staff member that is symptomatic and will assist all members of our school family with testing locations and procedures.**

9. Comprehensive plans for ensuring a safe and clean physical environment in schools and on campuses, including the remediation of poor ventilation systems.

**The District has ordered an electrostatic sprayer and disinfectant for our building. Every area used will be disinfected daily as well as regular timely cleaning as needed. We will also have the highest rated MERV filters installed.**

10. Employer accommodations for high-risk students and employees.

**The District has gone beyond the recommended safety measures to keep students and staff safe. We have also discussed any concerns staff might have and will address them accordingly. Additionally, we will provide remote learning for students that have medical concerns (with a physician's note) or have an immediate member of their household that has a medical condition that would put them at greater risk if their student came home after having contracted COVID-19.**

I want to thank our Union School Board of Education for always looking out for the best interest of our staff and students. I also want to thank our teachers and staff for always wanting to do what's best for those they serve. Finally, I want to say thank you to our families and students. Your understanding and cooperation, especially during challenging times like this, make Union School the great place that it is.

Providing challenging educational opportunities in a safe and welcoming environment is what we strive for. Together, we're able to achieve that goal!

Sincerely,

  
Timothy Baldermann  
Superintendent

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July 23, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

By signing this form, you agree that you and your student(s) will abide by the following guidelines:

1. No student will be sent to school if they are feeling ill, especially if they have a fever or show symptoms that could be COVID-19 related.
2. You and your student(s) will follow and adhere to the Return to School Health Plan and Flow Chart that has been provided to you.
3. Your student(s) will agree to wear their school-issued mask in a proper fashion (over the mouth and nose) while on the bus and in school. Any violation of that could result in a bus suspension/revocation and/or disciplinary measures taken at school.
4. Your student will adhere to all procedures, especially those that pertain to maintain the health and safety of other students and staff.
5. You will notify the District immediately if your student(s) contract COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone that has contracted COVID-19.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student name