

# River Bend Community Unit School District #2

Where Everybody is Somebody



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DATE: August 6, 2021  
TO: River Bend CUSD 2 Board Members  
FROM: Darryl Hogue, Superintendent  
RE: River Bend CUSD 2 Return to Learn 2021-2022 Plan

- **The following document is in draft form for consideration and planning.**

## RIVER BEND CUSD 2 2021-2022 Return to Learn Plan

The State of Illinois, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) have approved the usage of the CDC guidelines for schools. These guidelines emphasize the value of in-person instruction for Pre-K-12<sup>th</sup> grade. According to ISBE, "Schools should work with local public health officials to determine the prevention strategies needed in their area by monitoring levels of community transmission (i.e., low, moderate, substantial, or high) and local vaccine coverage, and use of screening testing to detect cases in K-12 schools." Our metrics could determine more or less mitigation strategies throughout the school year based on our local conditions at hand. The following table is a list of guiding principles for our district returning to school this fall. **If conditions change, updates will be provided.**

| Categories  | River Bend CUSD 2 Plan  |
|---|---|
| School Day/Hours                                  | School Days – 5 days <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Elementary – 8:10 a.m. – 3:12 p.m.</li><li>• Junior High – 8:10 a.m. – 3:12 p.m.</li><li>• High School – 8:05 a.m. – 3:05 p.m.</li></ul>   |
| Mask Use Under Gov. Pritzker's Order              | <b>Gov. Pritzker's Executive Order dated August 4, 2021 required all P-12 schools to require masking irregardless of vaccination status. When the mask requirement executive order changes, River Bend will once again follow the CDC guidance.</b>   |
| Mask Use Once Governor Pritzker's Order is Lifted | River Bend School District's goal is to protect the health of all students and staff. In alignment with recommendations from the CDC, "Mask use is recommended (not required) for people who are not fully vaccinated including students, teachers, and staff. Children under 2 years of age should not wear a mask." Individuals who are fully vaccinated may resume activities without wearing a mask except where required by federal, state, and local rules and regulations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>At this point, masking will be required on all school busses.</b></li><li>• <b>Mask usage may be necessary for some specific school activities that do not allow for social distancing.</b></li><li>• <b>If Covid 19 spread increases locally, the District may need to adjust this practice and increase the need or requirement to wear masks.</b></li></ul> |

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| <b>Mask Requirement Decision Matrix (after Gov. Pritzker's order is lifted)</b> | Category  | <b>Low</b>   | <b>Medium</b>  | <b>High</b>   |  |
|   | Percent of positive COVID-19 students   | <b>5% or less</b>  | <b>5% - 7.99%</b>  | <b>8% and above</b>   |  |
|   | Masking   | <b>Recommended</b>   | <b>Required for all</b>  | <b>Required for all</b>   |  |
|   | Other Preventative Strategies   | <b>Social Distancing<br/>COVID-19 Testing<br/>Vaccinations</b>   | <b>Social Distancing<br/>COVID-19 Testing<br/>Vaccinations</b>   | <b>Social Distancing<br/>COVID-19 Testing<br/>Vaccinations</b>  |  |
| <b>Quarantine &amp; Contact Tracing</b>   | Fully vaccinated persons do not have to quarantine. Our district will continue to collaborate with our local health departments, to the extent allowable by privacy laws, about students and staff diagnosed or within close contact (6 feet/15 minutes) of a positive case. Students and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as influenza (flu) or COVID-19, should stay home and contact their healthcare provider for testing and care. Contact tracing is subject to change based on the most current guidance from IDPH and our local health department. Quarantined students will be provided with curriculum, materials and instructions to continue learning while in quarantine. |  |  |   |  |
| <b>Quarantine Options</b>   | Quarantine Options  | Option 1   | Option 2   | Option 3  | Option 4<br>*Masks must be required for all  |
|   | Length  | 14 days  | 10 days  | 7 days  | No Quarantine  |
|   | Requirement upon return to school<br>*Date of exposure is considered day zero.<br>*WCHD gives input on ALL quarantines  | No Symptoms  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No Symptoms</li> <li>WCHD may require a negative test (non-rapid)</li> <li>Maintain at least 3 ft of social distancing</li> <li>Masking required</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No Symptoms</li> <li>Negative, non-rapid test on at least day 6</li> <li>Maintain 3 ft of social distance</li> <li>Masking required</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Close contacts rapid tested on days 1, 3, 5, &amp; 7</li> <li>As long as tests are negative, student allowed to stay in school and participate in sports</li> </ul> |
|   | Preventing Quarantines  | Quarantines can be avoided <b>IF</b> : (1) positive case and close contact both wearing well-fitting masks AND 3 feet apart, (2) close contact is vaccinated, and/or (3) close contact is over 6ft away. |  |   |  |
| <b>Physical Distancing</b>  | To the extent possible within school and classroom structures, the district will work towards the goal of at least three feet of distancing.  |  |  |   |  |

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| <b>Close Contact Definition</b>   | For teachers, staff and adults in the indoor K-12 classroom setting, CDC defines a close contact as an individual not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.<br>According to the new CDC close contact definition, classroom students who were within 3 to 6 feet of the infected student are not treated as close contacts as long as both the infected student and exposed student were engaged in consistent and correct use of a well-fitting mask and other K-12 school prevention strategies (such as universal and correct mask use, physical distancing, increased ventilation) were in place in the K12 setting. In other words, only classroom contacts within 3 feet require quarantine as long as both the case and the contact were consistently masked. If they were not consistently masked, then close contacts are classroom students who were within 6 feet of the infected student for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. |
| <b>Handwashing</b>  | Staff will continue to monitor and reinforce frequent handwashing and promote the usage of hand sanitizer.   |
| <b>Facility &amp; Transportation Cleaning, Disinfection &amp; Ventilation</b> | School custodial staff and transportation staff will continue to clean surfaces daily. To further reduce the risk of spreading infection staff will disinfect spaces occupied by someone who tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 24 hours. When possible, staff will have activities, classes, or lunches outdoors when circumstances allow. When it does not pose a safety risk, transportation staff will keep vehicle windows open at least a few inches to improve air circulation.   |
| <b>Symptom Checking</b>   | Families will be asked to monitor symptoms at home if students experience: <b>Fever, headache, sore throat, chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, loss of taste or smell, congestion, runny nose or diarrhea</b> do not send your child to school.<br>Contact the school nurse who will advise.   |
| <b>Local Data Recording</b>   | The building principals and staff will once again closely monitor positive cases, exposure to positive cases and students with symptoms. This data will help determine the appropriate level of mitigation strategies for the District.  |
| <b>Limited use of school facilities by public</b>                             | River Bend facilities will be open to public use as long as positive Covid case numbers remain low. The District may need to limit the use of its facilities based on local Covid data.  |
| <b>Extracurricular activities</b>   | At this time, IHSA will be conducting a full sports season for the fall. In accordance with the governor's order, all indoor activities require masks. This requires all participants, coaches, and spectators to wear masks indoors. Outdoor mask use is recommended at this time. Depending on the direction we receive from the IHSA, we may have pivots in our health plan for the high school. Protocols for our middle school sports programs will be directed primarily by a combination of IHSA/IESA guidelines and guidelines agreed to by our athletic conference.   |

This plan will be frequently reviewed and analyzed based on our local metrics. In collaboration with our local health department, the district may determine more or less mitigation strategies based on the current conditions. The River Bend Board of Education provides the superintendent and administration the authority to modify this plan in the event that IDPH, ISBE or the Whiteside County Health Department determine the current mitigation strategies are no longer appropriate.