



# Newark Community High School

## District No. 18

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413 CHICAGO RD., NEWARK, IL 60541  
PHONE (815) 695-5164  
FAX (815) 695-5752  
*Dr. Edward A. Boswell, Superintendent*  
*James Still, Principal*

July 12, 2021

Hello Newark Families,

We want to keep you all in the loop with the new CDC /IDPH / ISBE announcement about updated COVID-19 School Prevention Guidance. The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is fully adopting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in Kindergarten (K)-12 Schools.

“Our goal is to protect the health of students, teachers, and staff so that in-person learning can resume as safely as possible,” said IDPH Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike. “The CDC is right: vaccination is the best preventive strategy. As school board members, parents, teachers and superintendents plan for a return to in-person learning in the fall, we strongly encourage those who are not vaccinated to continue to mask. IDPH is proud to fully adopt school guidance issued by CDC, which is based on the latest scientific information about COVID-19.”

The updated school guidance now aligns with guidance for fully vaccinated people, which allows activities to resume for fully vaccinated people without wearing a mask except where required by federal, state, and local rules and regulations.

### **Major elements of the updated guidance include:**

- Masks should be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated.
- CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms, combined with indoor mask wearing by people who are not fully vaccinated, to reduce transmission risk. When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, such as when schools cannot fully re-open while maintaining these distances, it is especially important to layer multiple other prevention strategies, such as indoor masking.
- Screening testing, ventilation, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick and getting tested, contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation, and cleaning and disinfection are also important layers of prevention to keep schools safe.
- Many schools serve children under the age of 12 who are not eligible for vaccination at this time. Therefore, this guidance emphasizes implementing layered prevention strategies (masking, distancing, testing) to protect people who are not fully vaccinated.

NCHS in collaboration with the Kendall County Health Department will continue to carefully monitor community transmission of COVID-19, vaccination coverage, screening testing, and outbreaks to guide decisions about on the level of layered prevention strategies being implemented at our school.

*“Success is achieved by cooperation in teaching and learning.”*

Dr. Boswell and I are finalizing a plan to safely open our school for 5 days a week face to face instruction this August. We will share this plan with the school board and the SIP team and our community in the coming days. We are making every effort to provide a safe place for our students, staff and guests.

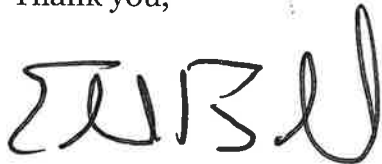
For anyone that is interested, the Kendall County Health Department (811 W John St in Yorkville) is offering K-12 Back to School Immunizations by appointment only on the following dates:

- July 12 from 9-11am
- July 19 from 9-11am
- August 2 from 9-11am and 1-3pm
- August 16 from 9-11am and 1-3pm
- August 23 from 9-11am and 1-3pm
- September 13 from 9-11 am
- September 27 from 1-3 pm

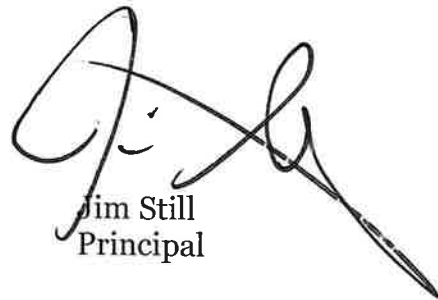
The attached pdf has all of the specifics from the Kendall County Health Department.

Getting this information from the CDC / IDPH / ISBE is certainly a step in the right direction and we will work diligently to follow this guidance.

Thank you,



Dr. Edward Boswell  
Superintendent



Jim Still  
Principal