



IPS Health Guidelines for the September 2021/June 2022 School Year

These guidelines are subject to change based on recommendations from the New York City Department of Health(NYCDOH) and the Centers for Disease Control(CDC).

1. Health and Safety

Health/Temp checks at arrival for students and adults.

- Admin takes temperatures at arrival.
- Using no touch thermometers, student temps logged in Brightwheel.
- If the temperature is 99.5 or higher on no touch thermometer, use ear thermometer to confirm.
- **All employees have been vaccinated against COVID-19.**
- **All employees will wear facemasks.**
- **All students will wear facemasks except while eating, drinking and resting.**

Parent/caregiver and all employees fill out and submit a health questionnaire.

Symptoms of COVID in the student or employee, also others residing in the home.

- Has anyone been in contact with someone with COVID?
- Has anyone returned from travelling abroad in the past 14 days?
- Temp of child at arrival.

Hand sanitizing upon entering the building.

- Hand washing whenever possible, hand sanitizer used if no sink is available.

Keep students in static classroom groups/pods.

- Staggered arrival and dismissal.
- Scheduling when classes will walk through the hallways or use the bathrooms.

Limited parents/caregivers/visitors in the building.

- All visitors, parents or caregivers must have temp taken and fill out and submit a health questionnaire before entering the school.
- No large gatherings at school.
- **All adults will wear masks.**
- **All visitors, parents and caregivers must show proof of vaccination.**

Having ample resources of PPE supplies.

- Masks provided for staff, and for any visitor who does not have a mask.
- Nitrile gloves in all classrooms, bathrooms, common spaces.
- All employees and visitors must follow the social distancing guidelines.

Returning to school after being out due to illness.

- Both students and employees will be required to provide the school with a doctor's note saying they are cleared to return to school.
- For non-COVID illness, children must be fever and symptom free for 72 hours without fever reducing medication before returning to school.

Returning to IPS after traveling during school vacations.

If your child has traveled outside of the contiguous NYS area (NJ,CT,PA,MA,VT) within 10 days of returning to IPS, you must adhere to the following guidelines:

- They must test negative for COVID.
- This test must be taken on the 4th day they are back in NYC.
- The only test we will accept is the nasal swab PCR.
- Your child will not be able to come to school without documentation of this negative COVID test.

Definition and Protocol for Close Contact Case of COVID

Resources for COVID testing and quarantine

Consult your pediatrician!

A "close contact" is 10 minutes or longer within a 24 hour period, less than 6 feet away with or without a mask, from someone who is positive with COVID.

Should an IPS student live in the same home as someone with a positive COVID case, or come into contact with someone with COVID, the student is considered a "close contact".

A close contact must quarantine for 10 days from last exposure to a positive person.

Should the student test positive, depending on when the student was last at school, IPS reports this to the NYCDOH.

Everyone in that class and who has had close contact with the student becomes a close contact case and has to be quarantined for 10 days from last exposure. We will ask that all students who are close contacts present IPS with a negative COVID test before returning to school.

Depending on how widespread the close contacts are, the NYCDOH may close more than just the one classroom.

To illustrate:

Student A has a family member who they live with who has tested positive for COVID. If student A displays COVID symptoms, the child should be tested. With or without symptoms, student A does not return to school for 10 days and presents IPS with a negative COVID test. If student A is negative, they continue to quarantine and no other action is taken by IPS. If student A is positive, they continue to quarantine and all those who have come into close contact with them (10 minutes or longer at less than 6 feet) have to quarantine.

Here are resources for COVID testing:

[Sameday-testing.com](https://www.sameday-testing.com)

[Rapidtestcenter.us](https://www.rapidtestcenter.us)

[conciergecovidtest.nyc](https://www.conciergecovidtest.nyc)

[citymd.com](https://www.citymd.com)

[medriteurgentcare.com](https://www.medriteurgentcare.com)

[LabQ.com](https://www.labq.com)

Consult your pediatrician/family physician. You may have a resource closer to your home. You do not have to use one of these.

If your child has come into contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID, or your child has tested positive for COVID, please notify the school immediately.

Suspicion of or confirmed COVID cases at IPS:

- IPS is required to report COVID cases to the NYCDOH.
- The NYCDOH will decide the course of action the school will need to take.

Confidentiality:

All cases of COVID and suspicion of cases of COVID will be kept in confidence.

2. Teaching and Learning

In the classrooms:

- IPS will continue to follow the play-based learning curriculum that IPS has been committed to.
- No soft or plush toys will be used.
- Children will have individual boxes for their materials so that they are not shared.
- Toys/materials will be cleaned in between each use.
- Students will wash or sanitize hands in between each activity.
- Teachers will use developmentally appropriate methods to adhere to social distancing practices, mask wearing, and hand hygiene.
- All classrooms, offices and common rooms have HEPA air purifiers.
- Frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the day.
- Electrostatic sprayers are used for overnight sanitizing of classrooms and common spaces.

Social/emotional component:

- Work with Soho Parenting Center to offer workshops for parents on anxiety.
- Make resources available to faculty and staff for personal counseling.
- Monitor children's social emotional development and reach out to families/provide accommodations if a child is struggling.

Children with special needs:

- Continue to work closely with families for whom we feel evaluations/support services are needed.
- Refer to both private providers and NYC Department of Education and NYC Committee on Preschool Special Education(CPSE).
- Follow the guidelines for allowing Special Education Itinerant Teachers (SEIT) into school.
- Any SEITs/providers in building will abide by IPS's policies for health and safety.

Nutrition:

- Snacks will be served individually to each child.
- All full day children bring their own lunch.
- Teachers will assist in setting up their eating space using social distancing requirements.
- Teachers will follow the required guidelines for food handling.
- Teachers will ensure that allergy protocols are followed (no nuts/seeds).

Digital equity and access:

- Communicate with families to assist with technology devices if needed.
- Teachers will be prepared to start zoom learning at any time.
- IPS will only go to Zoom Connections should school be closed for an indefinite time period.

Communications:

- Add all guidelines into the Family Handbook addendum.
- Continue on-going/as needed updated communications with families and employees.
- Alert Now system in place for emergency communications.
- Families should be given the Zoom plan at the start of the school year, with reminders mid-year and when possibility of closings arise.

3. Facilities

There will be a designated/isolated sick room.

- A rest mat, easily cleaned toys will be provided to keep a child happy.
- Located near a bathroom.
- A staff member will remain with the sick child in the room until the parent/caregiver arrives.
- A staff member will wear a mask and gloves while in the room.
- The same space will be used if an adult needs to be isolated.
- Custodial/cleaning staff will properly sanitize the sick room.

All entry/exit from the building will be from one designated door.

- For the 76th St. location, the elevator will not be used with children due to small space.
- Specialty classes will take place in the classroom or remotely.
- If common areas are used, they will be sanitized between classes.

Technology:

- Parents/Caregivers will continue to use the Brightwheel app to sign in/out, but will sign in/out from their own devices.
- Teachers will sanitize classroom iPad with alcohol swabs after using.

Admissions:

- Parent tours during the school day will be done remotely.
- Individual in person tours will be conducted after school hours, if parents are fully vaccinated.
- Applicant parents will submit a three minute video of their child in-lieu of an in person play session.
- All other admissions activities/events will be done via Zoom.

Staffing/human resources:

- The school has staffed appropriately for the number of students and social guideline requirements.
- All administrative staff will adhere to social distancing guidelines in their work areas.
- COVID-19 vaccination documentation will be collected and kept on file in the HR office.
- **Mandatory COVID-19 vaccination policy for all employees has been adopted by the IPS Board of Directors.**

School closing considerations and notifications:

- Should the school need to close on short notice, the Alert Now system will be used to notify families.
- If there is a suspected or confirmed case of COVID, only that classroom will be closed for the designated time specified by the NYCDOH.
- IPS will follow the guidelines for notifying the NYCDOH and provide the information needed for tracking and tracing.
- School will remain closed in compliance with the NYCDOE, NYCDOH and NYS mandates.

- Should IPS need to close for an unlimited amount of time, as per a mandate from the NYCDOH or the NYSDOH, the school will go to Zoom Connections.
- Should a designated classroom or classrooms need to close to quarantine, those classes will not go to Zoom Connections. These missed school days will be made up in June 2022.

Revised 8/26/2021