



COVID-19 Update | November 2020



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October 30, 2020

Yorkville CUSD 115 Families,

Through the hard work and dedication of District 115 employees, parents, and students, the district has been able to successfully implement three models of learning (on-site, hybrid, and e-learning) for the past 11 weeks of school. This is a reason to celebrate.

We should all be proud of the efforts we put towards creating an educational system that enables students to develop critical connections with their teachers and classmates; caring environments that address social-emotional issues that can develop if one feels isolated; and a safe on-site environment in which wearing masks and maintaining physical distance is now a familiar and accepted part of the school day.

We could not have made this progress without your support, understanding, and cooperation. As the number of positive COVID-19 cases increases in Kendall County, know that if a change to all-virtual instruction needs to occur, our students will be better able to adapt and be successful in the remote environment.

The Kendall County Health Department has been carefully monitoring the pandemic metrics and are concerned about the increase in positive COVID-19 cases within our community. Although the schools have done an incredible job of minimizing the spread of the virus between students/employees (fewer than 1 percent of Y115 students/employees have tested positive), continued increases in the transmission of the virus in the community at large may ultimately result in the need to transition into full remote learning. The district will continue to work with the Kendall County Health Department to monitor the pandemic and implement the quarantine and contact tracing processes. Although we hope that our district can continue to provide families a choice of three learning models for the entire school year, we are also not naive to the fact that more positive cases in the community may not make that possible.

This is a reminder that we all must stay committed to continuing the COVID-19 mitigation and prevention strategies—both in our schools as well as throughout the community. Our collective behavior has a direct correlation to the ability of Yorkville CUSD 115 to continue on-site and hybrid instruction. Please limit your participation in large social gatherings, limit travel to only in-state destinations, and practice physical distancing, mask wearing, and handwashing to continue to provide a healthy and safe environment for all.

Thank you again for a fantastic first quarter of school and we look forward to continuing to serve the community's children for the remainder of the school year.

Sincerely,
Dr. Tim Shimp
Superintendent

Y115 Coronavirus Update

In an October 30 letter to Yorkville CUSD 115 families, Superintendent Dr. Tim Shimp provided an update on the COVID-19 virus in Y115 schools and the importance of all community members following mitigating strategies so schools can continue to offer on-site learning.

[Read More](#)

Learning Model Changes

In September, a communication was sent to all district parents to gather feedback regarding their students' learning experiences and to allow parents to place their child(ren) on a list for consideration of a learning model change. Of the respondents, more than 85 percent of families surveyed elected to continue with their current learning model. Of those who requested a change, the vast majority (>95%) asked that their children return to one of the two forms of in-person learning (on-site or hybrid).



The district was able to honor the requests of approximately 96 percent of students in early childhood through grade six, 86 percent of middle school students, and 100 percent of the high school requests. If the district was unable to accommodate a request due to space limitations, the parents were given the choice to select an alternative available learning model.

COVID-19 Definitions

CDC: Centers for Disease Control

IDPH Guidelines

IDPH: Illinois Department of Public Health

ISBE: Illinois State Board of Education

KCHD: Kendall County Health Department

ROE: Regional Office of Education (Yorkville CUSD 115 falls within the Grundy-Kendall ROE's jurisdiction)

Close Contact: An individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for longer than 15 minutes of the school day.

Quarantine: The requirement to restrict an infected/presumed infected individual from being on school grounds and isolate at home until it is determined by a licensed healthcare professional that the individual is no longer sick/contagious.



The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) frequently updates its guidelines in response to the pandemic.

[IDPH County & School Metrics](#)

[IDPH COVID-19 Exclusion Decision Tree](#)

[IDPH Releasing COVID-19 Cases & Contacts from Isolation & Quarantine](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) for Schools](#)

Questions & Answers

Who has the authority to restrict on-site learning at a school/district?

- Governor
- State Board of Education
- District Board of Education

The District 115 Board of Education granted the superintendent the authority to transition all students to e-learning if deemed necessary and after notification / discussion with the Board.

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Ensuring Student & Employee Safety

Symptoms Defined

The Illinois Department of Public Health has made adjustments to the symptoms that are required as part of the health questionnaire, and which determine if an individual is allowed to be on a school campus. The list as of October 27, 2020 is as follows:

- Fever of 100.4 F, or higher
- New onset of moderate to severe headache
- Shortness of breath
- New cough
- Sore throat
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Abdominal pain from unknown cause
- New congestion/runny nose
- New loss of sense of taste or smell
- Nausea
- Fatigue from unknown cause
- Muscle or body aches

If a family member shows symptoms of COVID-19, can my child still attend school on-site?

Siblings and household members are required to quarantine when an individual in the household is symptomatic.

* * *

3) When does travel require a student to quarantine?

Any travel outside of the United States requires a 14-day quarantine upon return. At this time, travel within the United States does not require a Y115 student/employee to quarantine.

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4) If an individual tests positive for COVID-19, does the entire class need to quarantine?

Not necessarily. Only those individuals who were determined through contact tracing to be within 6 feet of the infected person for longer than 15 minutes of the school day need to quarantine. A school administrator will personally notify any individual who needs to quarantine due to exposure.

* * *

5) Why doesn't the

In the past, the teacher or nurse would have the discretion to assess the student to determine next steps such as a trip to the restroom, a drink of water, or to rest. Such discretion is no longer an option and the student must be sent home and cannot return until he/she:

- quarantines for 10-days and is fever free for 24 hours (without fever reducing medications),
- has a negative COVID-19 test result (not a rapid test), or
- has a note to return from a licensed medical professional stating the symptoms are not related to COVID-19.

While it seems like quite a bit for a student who states that he/she has a headache or a stomachache, these procedures are required by the IDPH for the safety of the school community. District 115 is able to provide on-site learning due to procedures such as this.

District Process

When an individual complains of **one symptom during the school day**

- Individual is sent home immediately and required to quarantine for 10 calendar days or until released by a licensed healthcare provider
- Class is relocated to a different room/space until the classroom can be cleaned
- Cleaning of the exposed space is performed
- Communication is sent to the parents/guardians of students who were in the classroom that was relocated

An individual presents with **two or more symptoms during the school day (this is considered a presumed case of COVID-19)**

- Individual is sent home immediately and required to quarantine for 10 calendar days or until released by a licensed healthcare provider
- Class is relocated to a different room/space for 24 hours
- Cleaning of the exposed space is performed
- Communication is sent to the parents/guardians of students who were in the classroom or on the bus with the student who is presumed to have COVID-19

An individual receives a **positive COVID-19 test result**

- Contact tracing completed by the district to identify any "close contacts"

school/district tell me who in my child's classroom tested positive for the virus?

Yorkville 115 is required by law to keep the identity of the individual(s) who have tested positive confidential.

- Kendall County Health Department is notified of the positive individual and of any "close contacts" identified within the school district
- Kendall County Health Department personnel continue the contact tracing process within the community
- Those determined to have had "close contact" with the individual are directed quarantine for 14 calendar days from the last date of exposure
- Communication of the positive case is sent to the parents/guardians of students in the classroom and school bus route, and building employees

KCHD Updates



At the local level, the district works in conjunction with the Kendall County Health Department to monitor COVID-19 cases and metrics and to provide contact tracing for individuals in the schools who test positive for the coronavirus.

[KCHD Guidance to Support Local School Administration](#)

Mitigating Measures



As we near the holiday season please be mindful of your family's travel and exposure. Please limit your participation in large social gatherings, limit travel to only in-state destinations and be aware of the travel of other guests, and practice physical distancing, mask wearing, and handwashing to continue to provide a healthy and safe environment for all.

COVID-19 Tests



There are three types of COVID-19 tests:

- rapid molecular (rapid PCR)
- antigen
- RT-PCR

In a school setting, either the RT-PCR test or the rapid PCR accompanied with a doctor's release is required for a

Kendall County Schools



Besides Yorkville CUSD 115, the following public school districts are located primarily or fully within Kendall County: Lisbon Grade School 90, Newark CHSD 18, Newark CCSD 66, Oswego CUSD 308, and Plano CUSD 88. Use the links below to see the complete school listings within the

negative result to be accepted. The RT-PCR test is a non-rapid test that will generally take from 2-5 days to receive results, but has a much lower incident of false negative results than the rapid PCR test.

[Testing Sites](#)

Grundy/Kendall Regional Office of Education:

Kendall: <http://roe24.org/schools/kendall-county-schools/>

Grundy: <http://roe24.org/schools/grundy-county-schools/>

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