



Safe Return to School Plan – August 2021

COVID GUIDELINES TO START THE 21-22 SCHOOL YEAR

QPS Board Approved- 7.21.2021

As we prepare for the 21-22 School Year, our world may be much different than last year or previous years. We will have some families ready to move on from COVID restrictions. We will have some families still very concerned about the possible spread of the virus. In Quincy, we will look out for the safety of our students. We will take lessons learned from 181 days of in-person instruction in a pandemic in ten schools and lessons from remote options at all levels. We have built a plan that meets the needs of our community and our students. The plan is vetted through the Adams County Health Department, and we are recommending approval by the QPS Board of Education.

In-Person and Remote Learning

Quincy Public Schools will conduct predominantly in-person instruction for the 2021-22 School Year. You can refer to schedules, start times, end times, bell times on our QPS website. We will still social distance as best we can in classrooms and hallways, using three feet distance as our goal. We will use our greenspace and outdoor opportunities.

Learning Environment

Per guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education, school will resume to fully in-person learning for all student attendance days in grades PK-12. If a student is required to quarantine per guidance from the local health department or Illinois Department of Public Health, parents/guardians will work with their child's school on a plan for alternate instruction during the duration of the quarantine.

Quincy Senior High School and The Academy (formerly ACRSS and ABC) will offer an online academy for students in grades 9-12. Students that apply and meet the criteria to attend the online academy will be able to access Edgenuity and/or QSHS developed courses through Schoology. Students who attend the online academy will take tests and quizzes on campus in a safe environment.

Sickness/ Illness of Staff and Students

All students and staff with COVID symptoms as defined by the CDC and IDPH must stay home and not attend school.

Quarantining and Contact Tracing

The nurses will be following the (CDC/IDPH) or (health department) guidelines to determine when a student needs to quarantine. Unvaccinated students will be placed in quarantine if

they are in close contact to a positive COVID person. Those vaccinated will only quarantine if they show symptoms.

Masks and Safety Layers

In accordance with the most recent release of CDC, IDPH, and ISBE school guidance, layered mitigations will still be in place, such as physical distancing, masking in certain settings (public transportation – buses, large gatherings – assemblies), quarantining, testing of those with symptoms (with parental approval), and increased sanitizing, especially in common areas. If local conditions change, mitigations may be removed or added, as deemed necessary by the local health department or the School Board. Should an outbreak occur in a building, masking will likely be *required* until the local health department and School Board agree it is safe to remove that layer of mitigation once again as a requirement.

- Masks are not required outdoors.
- Masks are not required in *most* indoor settings for vaccinated individuals.
- Masks are *highly recommended* for indoor settings for unvaccinated individuals. Parents and their children should have conversations about what is best for them.

Lockers

Locker use at the Junior High will resume for the 2021-22 School Year. Lockers at the High School are optional. If you want a QSHS locker, guardians/parents must request a locker for students when completing registration in Skyward.

Starting the School Day and Lunch

The start of the school day will be like the 2020-21 School Year. We found fewer student management issues. K-8 Breakfast will be available and eaten in classrooms. High school will eat breakfast in the cafeteria. Students will be asked to move directly to their first class as they arrive.

Lunch will be served in the cafeterias. Elementary schools may use media centers to reduce student numbers in cafeterias. High school will have six lunch periods. Junior High will use the cafeteria, annex, and possibly some classrooms.

Busing

Busing will fully resume. Routes and pick-up times will be communicated. Bus capacity is still listed at 50 passengers. At this time masks are required on all public transportation including school buses.

Capacity at Events

Events will resume at full capacity in the fall of 2021. Most clubs, athletic events, and music events will be back on a traditional schedule. Schedules will be published by the athletic office and Music office.

Visitors

Quincy Public Schools will again welcome our volunteers, presenters, parents, and special guests back into our schools. We ask if you have symptoms, or you are a close contact of an individual positive with COVID or has symptoms, you do not come to the school.

Cleaning

Quincy Public Schools will continue to take special care with the cleaning of all student facilities. If a positive incident should occur, we will take extra cleaning precautions in those areas.

Field Trips

Field trips will be used for educational purposes on a limited basis.

Prepare for Change

Things will change. Last year, even though our overall plan stayed the same the entire year, we were constantly adjusting. We will do the same this year. We can always become less restrictive as conditions change. We will also prepare to be more restrictive if the virus spreads more in the Quincy and Adams County Area. We are watching the Delta Variant and discussing data with Jerrod Welch at the ACHD often. We will be responsive to our community. Last year, we felt we were preventing the spread by early identification of individuals with symptoms and our other control measures. We plan to continue to be a great community partner in the reduction of this virus. Changes may occur quickly, but they will always be in consultation with the Board of Education and Adams County Health Department.