



Grass Lake School District #36

Office of the Superintendent
 Dr. William R. Newby, Superintendent
 26177 West Grass Lake Road, Antioch, Illinois 60002
 Telephone: 847.395.1550 · Email: wnewby@gl36.org


Parents,

Much has happened since I last wrote. Many surrounding districts have chosen to open in full remote learning, leaving only Grass Lake School District #36 and Millburn School District #24 as the only two area schools still planning to have In-Person learning.

We have received new guidance for reopening from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), and the Lake County Health Department (LCHD). In fact, the guidance has been given and then has been changed multiple times as they learn more about the spread of COVID-19. In fact, we have received recent guidance from the IDPH and LCHD that we feel may change the minds of some parents who have selected In-Person Learning. Therefore, we are providing that information so parents can decide if they want to move from In-Person Learning to Remote Learning.

On July 30th we received draft guidance from the IDPH and LCHD that all students and staff must be screened prior to entering school. This screening requires that anyone that has even one of these symptoms must be sent home and will not be able to return until they can confirm they do not have COVID-19. I have copied the IDPH draft document below:

COVID-19 EXCLUSION GUIDANCE-DRAFT



Decision Tree for Symptomatic Individuals in Pre-K, K-12 Schools and Child Care Programs

Send home or deny entry if **ANY** of the following symptoms are present: Fever (100.4°F/38°C or higher), fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, shortness of breath, cough, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, new loss of sense of taste or smell, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain.
 This is in addition to general infectious disease exclusion guidance.
 People who are ill should contact their health care provider for additional guidance and be tested.

Has the person been clinically evaluated by a healthcare provider?

| YES | | NO | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tested positive for COVID-19 (Preferred) | Clinical diagnosis of COVID-19 (not tested) | Alternate clinical diagnosis or laboratory confirmed condition (e.g., norovirus, strep throat.) | |
| Stay home at least 10 days from onset of symptoms and for 24 hours with no fever (without taking fever-reducing medications) and improvement of other symptoms – whichever is longer. | Stay home at least 10 days from onset of symptoms and 24 hours with no fever (without taking fever-reducing medications) and improvement of other symptoms – whichever is longer. | Follow provider directions/ recommended treatment & return to school guidance as per school policies and IDPH Communicable Diseases in Schools. https://dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/publications/commchartschool-032817.pdf Physician note is required. | |
| | | Continue monitoring of symptoms at home | |
| | | If any of the following symptoms are present: Fever (100.4°F/38°C or higher), fatigue, myalgia (body aches), headache, shortness of breath, cough, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, new loss of sense of taste or smell, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain. | Other symptoms not consistent with COVID-19 |
| | | Stay home at least 10 days from onset of symptoms and for 24 hours with no fever (without taking fever-reducing medications) and improvement of other symptoms – whichever is longer. Testing for COVID is recommended. | Return to school as per school policies and IDPH guidance for Communicable Diseases in Schools. https://dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/publications/commchartschool-032817.pdf |

★ Individuals who are close contacts to a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case should stay home for 14 days after their last exposure to the case.

7/17/2020 Interim Guidance, Subject to change.



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We asked LCHD if the District had discretion in evaluating these symptoms knowing that some children have allergies or other conditions that would explain a runny nose, shortness of breath (asthma). They indicated that unless we had documentation from a doctor that students have these conditions and that condition is what is causing the symptoms, we would be required to send the student home. Parents will be required to acquire a doctor's note providing medical confirmation that the student does not have COVID or that another existing medical condition is causing the symptom in order for students to return to school. We recognize that this means your student would have to be transitioned to remote learning for that day with the remote learning teacher who is different than their In-Person teacher. In addition, we recognize that parents will have to take off work to take their child to see the doctor and this may extend the time your student will be out of school. This cycle could repeat multiple times in the same week if a student has a runny nose one day, an upset stomach another day and a headache on another day.

As a result of these guidelines we wanted to make sure parents who have selected In-Person Instruction understand that their children will be screened in this manner daily and may be sent home multiple times if they have any one of the listed symptoms and will need to be seen by a doctor each time in order for the District to be in compliance with these guidelines and in order for the student to return to school.

Since this is such a significant change to In-Person Learning we wanted to make sure that everyone has a crystal-clear picture of what In-Person Learning will look like. If you feel like In-Person Learning is no longer the best choice for you please let me know by Monday, August 10, 2020 if you wish to change your choice to remote learning. Please email me your choice at wnewby@gl36.org.

I want to remind parents that it is highly likely that at some point in the school year we will need to go to full remote learning as the cold and flu season peaks, a local outbreak occurs, staffing cannot be maintained, or the governor moves us back to phase 3. Parents should have a plan ready to go in the event we do have to change to full remote learning.

We recognize how difficult these uncertain times are and we are doing our best to provide best practice solutions to the obstacles to In-Person education being placed in our path. We appreciate your participation and patience in devising these solutions. Thank you for working with us to find the best way to provide a high-quality education to your students in an unprecedented pandemic environment.

Finally, I will be hosting a parent meeting at 7PM tonight at the following link:

Superintendent/Parent Forum
Wed, Aug 5, 2020 7:00 PM - 7:30 PM (CDT)

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/452011285>

You can also dial in using your phone.

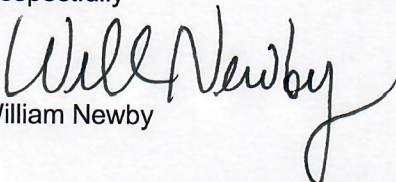
United States: [+1 \(646\) 749-3122](tel:+16467493122)

Access Code: 452-011-285

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Respectfully


William Newby