

SIU^e East St. Louis Charter High School



Return to Learning Plan

July 28, 2021

Success is the Only Option!



SIUE East St. Louis Charter High School

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Dear CHS Parents and Guardians:

Greetings, and thank you for your amazing support and flexibility during these unprecedented times. I want to keep you updated on the status of our school. In May 2021, ISBE (Illinois State Board of Education) passed a resolution stating that all Illinois students would return to in-person learning beginning August 2021. With that mandate in place, CHS will be transitioning to full in-person learning status beginning August 16, 2021. CHS is following the recently released CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) recommendations on the COVID-19 school guide to the greatest extent possible. Students benefit from in-person learning, and safely returning to in-person instruction in fall 2021 is a priority. Based on recent CDC and IDPH (Illinois Department of Public Health) guidances, vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Promoting vaccination can help schools safely return to in-person learning as well as extracurricular activities and sports. In addition, masks should be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 and older) regardless of vaccination status.

Consistent with the most updated July 26, 2021 CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools, CHS has reviewed local conditions and has determined that **face masks will be mandatory for all persons**. Face masks must be properly worn in all areas of the building and may NOT be hooded. This mask mandate will remain in effect until further notice. In addition, you will find a CHS COVID-19 Prevention and Mitigation Compact, information on mitigation/prevention strategies, and updated remote learning guidance.

Again, our number one priority is the well-being of our students, families, and staff. Please feel free to contact me at vwashin@siue.edu if you have questions or need further information. Thank you in advance for your support of our new updated policies. We are looking forward to an amazing school year.

With CHS Pride,

Gina Jeffries

Dr. Gina Jeffries
Director

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, as a premier Metropolitan University, will be recognized nationally for the excellence of its programs and development of professional and community leaders.



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CHS COVID-19 Prevention and Mitigation Compact

- A. Consistent with July 9, 2021, CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools, adopted by IDPH (Illinois Department of Public Health) on July 9, 2021, CHS has reviewed local conditions and has determined that **face masks will be mandatory for all persons**. Face masks must be properly worn in all areas of the building and may NOT be hooded. This mask mandate will remain in effect until further notice
- B. Each day, a Self-Certification must be on file with the school nurse indicating that your scholar is free from COVID-19 symptoms. Students will have their temperature checked upon entry. Guests and visitors are NOT allowed in the CHS area. If you are picking your scholar up, you must wait at the CHS security checkpoint.
- C. By signing this Compact, you are acknowledging that you understand that if your scholar exhibits any COVID-19 symptoms while they are at school, he or she will be placed in an isolated area, will need to be picked up from school as soon as possible, and will be required to provide proof of a negative diagnostic COVID-19 test collected within the last 48-hours or an alternative diagnosis from a doctor before returning to school.
- D. All CHS scholars are encouraged to be vaccinated and may check with East Side Health District for more information on the vaccination.
- E. Scholars who are absent from school due to COVID-19 illness or other illnesses will be given make-up work according to the student handbook. It is the responsibility of the scholar to ensure their homework is made up. Students who need additional support with make-up work may contact the main office 618-482-8370.

“By signing below, I assert that I have read this document in its entirety and fully understand its contents. I further certify and represent that I have filled it out to the best of my knowledge and that by signing below I am committing to adhering to the rules, requirements, and expectations of conducting a symptoms check of my scholar each day and truthfully reporting my scholar’s condition to the appropriate school personnel in the time and manner required.”

Scholar’s Signature _____

Date _____

Parent’s Signature _____

Date _____

CHS Mask Use and Social Distance:

- Mask use is mandated for all individuals regardless of vaccination status.
- Guests are limited and students needing to be picked up early must do so at the security check-in.
- Physical distancing will be maintained to the extent possible within school and classroom structures so that it does not exclude students from full-day in-person learning
- Maximal physical distancing will be maintained as much as possible when moving through food service lines and while eating indoors.

Contact Tracing in Combination with Isolation and Quarantine:

- CHS students and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness should stay home and contact their healthcare provider for testing and care.
- Individuals in our school environments who show symptoms of COVID-19 are to immediately report to or be escorted to the nurse's office to be either sent home or be quarantined in the school's supervised safe area while awaiting pickup/evaluation.
- Students and staff are required to wear masks while in the safe area. Parents should ensure that ill students are picked up from school promptly.
- CHS students and staff who are not fully vaccinated and did not wear a mask properly will be subject to quarantine after close contact with someone with COVID-19. Close contact does NOT include situations in which both students were properly wearing masks, regardless of whether the child is vaccinated or not.
- Fully vaccinated people who were in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 but does NOT have COVID-19 symptoms will not need to quarantine or be tested.
- CHS student absences related to COVID-19 isolation or quarantine will be recorded as excused. To ensure continuity of services, school work missed during such an absence can be requested and made up following the school's policy (refer to the student handbook); social, emotional, mental health, or other needs will be provided per a student's IEP or 504 Plan.
- CHS guardians of students who have social, emotional, mental health, or other needs outside of an IEP or 504 Plan should contact CHS administration.
- Alternate instruction will only be made available for non-vaccinated or vaccine-ineligible students who are under quarantine as directed by the local health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health.
- To the extent allowable by privacy laws and other applicable laws, school health care professionals will continue to collaborate with St. Clair County Health Department and East Side Health District officials to confidentially provide information about people diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19, including making notifications to staff and parents as soon as possible regarding those who were in close contact of someone in the school who tested positive for COVID-19.
- The CHS administration will inform the school community of outbreaks while maintaining student and staff confidentiality rights.
- CHS students and staff suspected of having COVID-19, whether they were tested or not, are to follow the IDPH guidelines to determine when they can return to school.
- Screening Testing—CHS is exploring screening options.

Remote Learning Plan

CHS is returning to a regular school calendar with full days. A remote learning option is NOT available for this school year unless you meet the qualifications listed below.

- Remote learning will ONLY be offered to students while they are under mandatory quarantine from a [local public health department](#) and CHS students who are not eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.
- During remote learning, CHS students will be provided assignments and/or activities from their teachers.
- CHS students' daily attendance will be recorded through the completion of their work. The work is based upon teacher discretion. Attendance will be recorded accordingly.
- CHS will ensure appropriate learning opportunities for all students including the unique needs of CHS students in special populations including, but not limited to, students eligible for special education under Article 14 and 504 Plans, students experiencing homelessness, or other vulnerable student populations that will be addressed on a case by case basis.