



# **MINOOKA CCSD 201**

## **COVID Mitigation Plan**

### ***2021/2022 School Year***

Minooka CCSD 201 will closely monitor the impact on COVID-19 related health issues in our schools and surrounding areas and may change the mitigation factors in place to ensure the safety of students and staff.



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## Minooka's Commitment to Our Community

Minooka CCSD 201 is dedicated to ensuring that all instruction, either in-person or remote, will be relevant and meaningful. All students deserve to be challenged and engaged in learning each day, in a safe, supportive environment. This school year, regardless of which learning model your child selects, they will be taught content every day that aligns with Minooka CCSD 201's curriculum.

The following will be the same across all learning environments and schools:

- All students will have the same grading structures.
- All schools will take attendance.
- All classes will use similar, District approved learning materials, texts, and instructional technology.
- All students will get appropriate support and services through the general education program, special education, Individualized Educational Plans, 504 plans, Advanced Placement, Multi-Lingual Programming, and Multi-Tiered System of Supports.
- All students will have access to social-emotional support, as needed.
- All schools will focus on establishing effective relationships and community.

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## General Overview of Plan

All schools will reopen using social distancing guidelines where possible and with face masks/coverings mandate for all staff and students, regardless of vaccination status.

- Student and Staff safety is paramount. All IDPH/ISBE guidelines will be followed to ensure our facilities are safe and the students and staff are protected.
  - The district will monitor local and district COVID numbers to ensure staff and student safety.
- Remote instruction will be offered to students that are at increased risk of severe illness, have special health care needs, or live with someone who is at increased risk of severe illness.
  - Families choosing this option would be committing for an entire academic semester.
- School District Officials will continuously monitor the local health metrics to determine movement to the next or previous stage of instruction. With consideration of metrics & recommendations for ISBE, IDPH, and the CDC.

## Communication

### Methods of Communication

The primary method of mass communication of information to our families will be through the SchoolMessenger system, which can broadcast phone, email and SMS text messages to our families. Where appropriate, messages will be sent in both English and Spanish. Parents that need to change contact information after they have completed registration should contact their school office for assistance.

Parents, students and community members can also access much information on our website, [www.min201.org](http://www.min201.org), which is smartphone enabled. Our website will be updated often as more details are developed for our return to school and is the best avenue for the most current information.

We also have a smartphone app which can be found in most searches as “Minooka School District 201,” and we regularly share our information on social media platforms such as Facebook.

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## Operational Plans

### Maintaining Social Distancing

All schools and facilities are taking actions to ensure all campus spaces support health and safety. These actions include signage and floor markings to remind students of social-distancing practices. There may be some changes to foot-traffic flow through buildings and furniture placement in the classrooms. Students with disabilities and employees who work with them are expected to practice social distancing when possible.

Classroom seating will be configured with maximum allowable space in between students as possible.

- Where possible, desks will face the same direction and/or students will sit on only one side of tables, spaced apart, in assigned seats.
- Students will not share school supplies; students will use their own school supplies and keep belongings separate or in their backpacks during the day.
- Students are encouraged to bring a refillable water bottle from home to school. Bottles may be refilled throughout the day using a sink. School drinking fountains will be shut off.
- Hand sanitizer will be readily available in each classroom and students will be given time to thoroughly wash hands with soap and water several times throughout the day.
- All classrooms will have disinfectant spray sanitizer available for staff and students to disinfect high touch areas as needed throughout the day.

### Handwashing

The CDC recommends everyone wash their hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds. Schools will be incorporating handwashing breaks into the school day and reinforcing handwashing during key times throughout the school day. If your child has sensitivities to hand sanitizer, please communicate this with your child's teacher so they can provide your child other opportunities to clean their hands. Hand-Sanitizing Station/dispensers will be provided in each classroom and readily available throughout all buildings.

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## Face Masks

Face masks for unvaccinated individuals are the most effective measures to prevent transmission of COVID-19. Masks/face covering are required to be worn by all individuals (age two or older) while in Minooka 201 facilities, regardless of vaccination status. Masks must be worn at all times while on Minooka 201 transportation.

Minooka CCSD 201 will closely monitor the impact on COVID-19 related health issues in our schools and surrounding areas and may change the mitigation factors in place to ensure the safety of students and staff. Additional information on face coverings can be found on the [ISBE website](#).

Face coverings should be replaced or washed after each use. According to CDC guidelines, cloth face coverings can be machine washed with regular laundry detergent at the warmest appropriate water setting. Cloth face coverings can also be hand washed by soaking for 5 minutes in solution of 5 tablespoons (1/3 cup) household bleach per gallon of room temperature water; rinse thoroughly with water. Machine dry at the highest heat setting or air dry in direct sunlight.

## Lunches

Students will be physically distanced as much as possible within the lunch rooms. Staff and students should refrain from direct physical contact.

## Lockers/Locker Rooms

Hallway and locker room lockers will not be utilized. Students will not be changing into Physical Education uniforms at this time. Students at the elementary schools will utilize cubbies on a rotating schedule to allow for social distancing.

## Custodial Services/Cleaning and Sanitizing

Minooka CCSD 201 has improved ventilation and added enhanced filtration systems throughout all learning spaces to reduce the concentration of potentially virus-containing droplets in the schools' indoor air environments. Enhanced, daily cleaning protocols have been implemented including the following:

- Cleaning and disinfecting student desks/chairs.
- Main touchpoints will be cleaned and disinfected (switches, handles, doors).

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- Bathroom touchpoints will be cleaned and disinfected on scheduled intervals throughout the school day.
- Additional disinfecting throughout the school day to the following
  - Push bars
  - Door handles
  - Soap/Sanitizer dispensers
  - Partition doors (inside and outside of doors)
  - Toilet seats
  - Flush handles- urinals & toilets
  - Hand dryer push buttons
  - All faucet handles in restrooms
  - All sink handles in classrooms, lounges, etc
  - Handrails
  - Main Office countertops
- Staff will use disinfecting sanitizer between students using common spaces.
- Students sanitize &/or wash hands throughout the school day.
- Disinfect back of chairs.
- Attempt to spend less time on carpet/floor to help eliminate germs (hard surface to disinfect).

### After School Cleaning Process

- Confirm proper dwell time is used for disinfectant on all areas discussed above
- Deeper clean/disinfect to chairs and desks
- Deeper clean/disinfect to all classroom countertops, lounge tables, lounge counter tops, sinks, toilets, urinals
- Deeper clean to all dispensers, partition walls, restroom doors, office doors, etc
- Detailed Cleaning (days with no student attendance)
- All touchpoints in the building will be cleaned and disinfected.
- Deep cleaning to restrooms throughout the facility
- Additional deep cleaning and disinfecting will be done in classrooms.
- Conduct a thorough cleaning of all surfaces discussed to remove any and all disinfectant residue off all surfaces.

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## Transportation

Minooka CCSD 201 strongly encourages all families that are able to drive their students to and from school. All students and staff must wear face masks while on buses. Social distancing will be maintained where possible while on the buses and students will have assigned seats. Students must undergo symptom and temperature self-certification prior to loading the bus from home.

Students who use bus transportation can expect clean and sanitized buses. All Minooka 201 buses will be cleaned and sanitized four times per day following each bus route. An EPA registered disinfectant will be used on all hard surfaces including the fronts and backs of seats and handrails. All buses will have hand sanitizer located at the front of the bus that students may utilize upon entering and exiting the bus. The first row of seats will be left vacant in order to provide appropriate social distance to the bus driver along with a space for any student that becomes symptomatic while riding the bus. Weather permitting, the roof vents and windows will be opened to maximize ventilation. All students and staff must wear face masks while on buses.

## Recess & Playgrounds

Buildings will begin holding recess as scheduled by building administrators.

## Athletic and Extracurricular Activities, Band, & Chorus

The athletics department is continuing to monitor all information per IESA, ISBE, IDPH, IHSA, and the CDC as there have been many updates over the past year. The district will continue to evaluate how athletics/extracurricular activities will proceed following Operational Health and Safety protocols as they are updated. Athletics/extracurricular

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activities will begin in 2021, as they have in the past with competitive tryouts. competing against other schools and participating in the IESA tournament(s). Each activity will follow current procedures similar to the expectation for the school day.

- Individuals aged 2 years and older, regardless of vaccination status, must wear a mask and maintain physical distancing to the extent possible
- Masks are required by all individuals while on the bus
- Masks are required for all individuals during indoor athletics and activities
- The district will not tolerate the bullying of individuals for wearing or not wearing a mask

As we continue to plan for a return to school, we are communicating with the Minooka 201 administration about possible updates to any or all current practices. This information is subject to change per updates from Minooka 201, IESA, IDPH, CDC, and/or ISBE.

## Before and After-School Programs

Minooka CCSD 201 continues to partner with the Greater Joliet Area YMCA to provide before and after school care options for our families at our elementary buildings and Minooka Intermediate School. Interested families can access more information at the [Galowich Family YMCA Kid Care website](#).

## Visitors to the Buildings

In an effort to protect the health and safety of our community, only essential visitors will be allowed on school campuses to minimize the number of people on-site. All visitors entering the buildings during student contact hours must provide vaccination status or record of recent testing (within the last 48 hours). All efforts will be made to keep necessary visitors to a minimum, including the use of virtual or telephone meetings with families and guests. Parents meeting on-site with school staff must follow social-distancing guidelines and wear facemasks when appropriate.

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## Remote Learning Academic Supports

### Full Remote Learning Track

Remote instruction will only be offered to students that are at increased risk of severe illness, have special health care needs, or live with someone who is at increased risk of severe illness. Families choosing this option would be committing for an entire academic semester. Returning to in-person instruction would not be allowed prior unless a significant life event occurred or until the emergency declaration has been removed.

- Remote learning will be completely asynchronous through an online learning platform contracted through the District.
- Remote curriculum will closely resemble the major standards of the core curriculum of Minooka 201.
- Special education services will be determined based on student need through a meeting with the child's special education team.
- If a student's life situation changes and Remote Learning may be warranted, family should contact the building principal.
- Students are able to participate in extracurricular activities, with appropriate medical documentation.

### Learning While on Quarantine

While on Quarantine, students will be given a link to join virtual lessons and will be expected to complete any missed work from the classroom. Classroom teachers will utilize a virtual learning platform such as Google Classroom or Schoology to share assignments and lessons.

- Special education services will be determined based on student need through a meeting with the child's special education team.
- While on quarantine or isolation, students will not be able to participate in in-person extracurricular activities.

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## Health and Wellness

Student and Staff health and wellness is paramount and as such, children and staff are encouraged to remain at home if they are displaying any symptoms on the CDC COVID-19 Symptoms list.

### GUIDELINES FOR IDENTIFYING STUDENTS OR STAFF WITH COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

One or more of the following symptoms:

- Fever (100.4 F or higher without fever reducing medication)
- New onset of moderate to severe headache
- Shortness of breath
- New cough
- Sore throat
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- New loss of sense of taste or smell
- Fatigue from unknown cause
- Muscle or body aches from unknown cause

Exposure in the past 14 days:

- Close contact with an individual diagnosed (positive test) with COVID-19
  - Close contact: within 3 feet (masked) or 6 feet (unmasked) for a cumulative 15 minutes or more with or without a mask while the individual was infectious. The infectious period begins 2 days before the onset of symptoms or 2 days before the positive sample was obtained for an asymptomatic person.

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## Procedures if a student/staff member is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19

- A student or staff member will immediately report to the school nurse/isolation room.
- Parents will be contacted to pick up their child within an hour.
- If there is an immediate serious concern regarding the individual's health, 911 will be called.
- A staff member or parent will be recommended to contact their healthcare provider to see if testing is needed. Staff members are required to report test results to the school. Parents will be recommended to report test results to the school.
- All areas used by a person that is sick will be cleaned and disinfected before further use.
- All students who had contact with a student or staff member (15 minutes or longer within 3 feet (masked) or 6 feet (unmasked)) who is suspected of having COVID-19 or tests positive for COVID-19 will also be sent home to monitor for symptoms. See below for timelines.
- The school/district will report any case of confirmed COVID-19 to local health departments, staff, and school families.
- Unvaccinated household members of an individual with suspected COVID-19 symptoms must follow quarantine timelines unless the ill household member is tested within 24 hours of symptoms. If testing does not occur within 24 hours, unvaccinated household members must be excluded from school. Pending test results, household members can remain in school with consistent use of masks. Household members may not remain in school pending testing if there is a high suspicion the ill household member has COVID-19 (i.e. they are a known close contact, they have lost taste and smell).

## Guidelines for Returning to School Following Exposure or Symptoms

Individuals who were symptomatic with no exposure to a positive case with a negative Antigen or PCR COVID-19 test (Home/over-the-counter COVID-19 tests are not acceptable) can return to school

- Following existing school illness management policies

Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 can return to school

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- 5 to 10 days after symptoms first appear or 5 to 10 days after positive test if asymptomatic
- Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications
- Vomit/Diarrhea free for 24 hours
- Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving

Unvaccinated members of the positive individual's household are required to quarantine for 5 days from last exposure, according to local health department requirements.

Contact tracing will be utilized within the schools as required per CDC and IDPH guidelines. Minooka CCSD 201 health and administrative staff will work with local health departments to follow quarantine and isolation guidelines. Close contacts are considered someone within 3 feet (masked) or 6 feet (unmasked) of a positive case.

Vaccinated individuals and those with documented COVID-19 infection within the past 90 days with no symptoms will not be required to quarantine when considered a close contact.

However, fully vaccinated individuals who have a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 should be tested on day 5 after exposure and must continue to comply with universal indoor masking requirements.

CDC guidance now states that unvaccinated individuals with positive SARS-CoV-2 antibody testing within three months prior to, or immediately after, an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and who have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure do not need to be quarantined.

Timelines for individuals who are unvaccinated, not fully vaccinated, or without a COVID diagnosis in the last 90 days that are Close Contacts:

- Quarantine for at least 14 calendar days from the last date of exposure if student/staff not masked at exposure. Date of exposure is considered Day 0.
- Quarantine for 5 calendar days from the last date of exposure if student/staff masked at exposure when
  - No symptoms are present
  - The individual can maintain physical distancing AND masking at all times (3 to 6 feet)
- 

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\*Quarantine requirements are determined by the Illinois Department of Health; as requirements are updated through IDPH, additional features will be added to Minooka 201's plan.

### **Test to Stay Methods:**

Once deemed close contact, a non-vaccinated individual can test twice during the 7 day period after known exposure, one of the tests must be completed on days 5-7. using the following methods to remain in the school environment. Test to Stay can be completed through SHIELD Testing or BinaxNOW testing through the District. Parents must complete an opt-in consent to allow their student to participate in Test to Stay.

- If an individual is deemed a close contact and not fully vaccinated AND already has completed the opt in process, the school will begin testing immediately and contact parents with the result.
  - SHIELD Testing: students may return to classroom while awaiting the results. If a positive result is received, the student will be removed from the learning environment and parents will be notified of the timeline of isolation.
  - BinaxNOW Testing: students may return to classroom after the 15 minute waiting period, if negative results are received. If positive, school will contact parent with the timeline of isolation.
- Test to Stay is not allowable for household members of a positive case, if the individual would have repeated exposure to the positive case.
- Test to Stay is not allowable for students exposed during athletics, if the individuals are not fully masked at the time of exposure

[Additional Details on Testing Options can be found here.](#)

### **Outbreak Testing:**

If an individual, regardless of vaccination status, has been exposed through an environment that is deemed an outbreak by the local health department, the individual may participate in Outbreak Testing as detailed below:

- Testing must occur twice weekly
- Testing must continue for two incubation periods (28 days from outbreak exposure with no new cases from outbreak environment).

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- Testing must be conducted by school or results must be shared with school.

### **Additional Notes for Close Contacts**

If students/staff are exposed to a confirmed case ONLY while outside, they are not considered a close contact whether masked or unmasked if exposure remains outside only.

Individuals with documentation of COVID-19 infection within the past 90 days (positive diagnostic test based on specimen collection date) are exempt from testing and quarantine as long as they remain asymptomatic

It is recommended that any close contact complete daily symptom monitoring through 14 calendar days after exposure and test on day 5 after exposure. If symptoms develop, the individual should immediately self-isolate.

### **Antibody Testing**

Unvaccinated individuals with positive SARS-CoV-2 antibody testing within three months prior to or immediately following exposure to a positive case and are asymptomatic are not required to quarantine.

[CDC When You Can be Around Others after You Had or Likely Had COVID-19](#)  
[CDC Quarantine Scenarios If You Might Be Sick](#)

## **Guidelines For Closure of Schools (Based on IDPH Guidelines)**

For any positive COVID-19 case at a school in Minooka CCSD 201 Schools, district and school leadership teams will work with local officials from the Department of Health and Center for Disease Control in determining a course of action on a case-by-case basis. It is recommended from the Illinois Department of Public Health that all students and staff sent home with COVID-like symptoms should be diagnostically tested. Students and staff should remain home from school until they receive the test results.

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Important Definitions: This information was collected from the Illinois State Board of Education and Illinois Department of Public Health:

Quarantine - This is used to separate people who are in close contact of someone with a contagious disease, such as COVID-19, from others for a period of time (14 calendar days for COVID-19) to see if they become sick.

Isolation - The act of remaining at home or a place where a person was told to isolate and avoid contact with other people until their isolation period is over. Isolation is recommended for those who are sick with symptoms of COVID-19 and have tested positive or are waiting on results of a test.

Close Contact - This is defined as being within 3 feet (if both are masked) or 6 feet (if masks are not used) of someone who tested positive for COVID-19 for 15 minutes.

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## Student Services and Support

### Students with Special Needs (IEP/504)

Students with special needs will continue to have access to their services through either in person instruction or remote instruction.

Evaluations for special education services can be completed in person. Special Education teams at each building will contact families to set up evaluations that are to be completed. Contact building administration if you have specific questions about special education services.

### Multi-Lingual Programming

Students qualifying for English Language support will continue to receive support through either in person instruction or remote learning. Specific information on these services can be obtained by contacting building administration.

### Multi-Tiered System of Supports

Students will have access to tiered instruction through either in person instruction or remote instruction. A focus will be to provide interventions within the child's environment through differentiated instruction and individualized interventions.

### Social-Emotional Supports

Social-Emotional Learning and Social-Emotional Supports will be available to students through either in person instruction or remote instruction. Additional information Social-Emotional Supports can be obtained from building social workers and counselors.

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## Resources

[ISBE COVID Guidance for Schools](#)

**Check back for additional information on the topics below!**

Minooka 201 PLACE Remote Learning Training:

<https://www.min201.org/departments/curriculum/summer-professional-development>

Self Certification Checklist

Signs for Buildings: CDC Print Resources

### **Social Stories:**

COVID Related Social Stories for School:

<https://www.autismlittlelearners.com/2020/07/covid-19-related-stories-for-schools.html>

COVID Related Social Stories:

<https://www.autismlittlelearners.com/search/label/COVID-19?m=1>

Welcome Videos of the Schools

- [Minooka Primary Center Welcome Video](#)
- [Aux Sable Elementary School Welcome Video](#)
- [Jones Elementary School Welcome Video](#)
- [Minooka Elementary School Welcome Video](#)
- [Walnut Trails Kindergarten Meet & Greet Video](#)
- [Walnut Trails 1st-4th Meet & Greet Video](#)
- [Minooka Intermediate Virtual Find Your Way Day](#)
- [Minooka Junior High \(MJHS\) Virtual Find Your Way Day](#)
- [Emerging Bilingual Dept. Welcome Video \(Eng/Span\)](#)

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## **Self Certification Checklist**

### **Yearly Self Certification**

**I certify that I will not send my child to school if any of the following are true:**

- My child is experiencing one or more of the following symptoms:
  - Fever (100 F or higher without fever reducing medication)
  - New onset of moderate to severe headache
  - Shortness of breath
  - New cough
  - Sore throat
  - Vomiting
  - Diarrhea
  - New loss of sense of taste or smell
  - Fatigue from unknown cause
  - Muscle or body aches from unknown cause

**I certify that I will not send my child to school if the following is true**

- My unvaccinated child is considered a close contact to a COVID-19 positive individual within the last 14 days.
  - Close contacts are considered someone within 3 feet (masked) or 6 feet (unmasked) of a positive case.
  - Vaccinated individuals and those with documented COVID-19 infection within the past 90 days with no symptoms will not be required to quarantine when considered a close contact.

\*Note: If our child is experiencing any of the listed symptoms, please call the school to report your child's absence including specific symptoms or COVID-19 exposure. Please contact the school nurse for return-to-school guidance. If your child's symptoms worsen, contact your healthcare provider.

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