

Argenta-Oreana CUSD #1  
2021-2022 Return To Learn Plan  
~~August 2021~~  
~~January 11, 2022~~  
February 14, 2022

The [Illinois State Board of Education](#) has announced - *“Beginning with the 2021-22 school year, all schools must resume fully in-person learning for all student attendance days, provided that, pursuant to [105 ILCS 5/10-30](#) and [105 ILCS 5/34-18.66](#), remote instruction be made available for students who have not received a COVID-19 vaccine or who are not eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine, only while they are under quarantine consistent with guidance or requirements from a local public health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health.”*

Argenta-Oreana CUSD #1 will be utilizing our traditional schedule at all buildings with full days of attendance, five days a week for the 2021-2022 school year. All students are expected to attend school in-person. Students who are absent from school due to COVID-19 illness or close contact quarantine will receive academic support from their teachers. Long term remote learning will only be provided to students who provide formal documentation from a medical professional indicating that they are medically unable to attend school in-person. Students who provide documentation and qualify for long term remote learning will be provided access to an online learning platform.

Localities should monitor community transmission, vaccination coverage, screening testing, and occurrence of outbreaks to guide decisions on the level of layered prevention strategies (e.g., physical distancing, screening testing). [Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#)

Argenta-Oreana CUSD #1 will work collaboratively with and utilize guidance from the [Macon County Health Department](#) and the [Illinois Department of Public Health](#) when making decisions regarding mitigations. Localities have been encouraged to monitor data relevant and applicable to them. AOCUSD #1 will regularly monitor the information available at [Macon County Detailed Metrics & School Metrics](#) through the IDPH website. Mitigations may be increased or decreased depending upon this data.

Effective February 10, 2022, A-O will pause the enforcement of the state mandates. During this pause, we will implement the following:

- Masks are recommended but not required in Argenta-Oreana schools.
- Due to federal laws, masking is still required when utilizing school transportation (A-O buses).
- Asymptomatic contacts will not be excluded; however, we will provide courtesy calls to let you know that your child was potentially exposed to a COVID-19 positive case at school. We will continue to provide testing for those who desire to be tested.
- We continue to ask that staff and students remain home when ill. This has always been the district policy and continues to be. Coming into the school when one is ill puts others at risk.
- Students/staff with symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home until symptoms improve.
- Student/staff who test positive for COVID-19 should remain isolated for 5 days after the onset of symptoms or 5 days after a positive test if no symptoms are present.

## **Vaccination**

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. [Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#)

## **School Bus**

Regardless of the mask policy at school, passengers and drivers **must** wear a mask on school buses, per the CDC Order. Refusal to follow the mask policy on the school bus may result in the loss of bus privileges. If CDC, IDPH, and ISBE guidance for masks on the school bus change, so may our mask policy.

## **Test to Stay (TTS) Protocol - Updated 1/11/2022**

ISBE and IDPH now allow a strategy for close contacts to remain in school following exposure to COVID-19 through a Test to Stay protocol.

Test to Stay may be used for both students and staff following any exposure occurring during the school day. Local health departments have the authority to assess high-risk exposures and recommend exclusion without the option of Test to Stay.

If at any time the student or staff person tests positive or becomes symptomatic, they should be immediately isolated and sent home, excluded from school, and the local health department notified.

## **Mitigation Strategies**

These COVID-19 prevention strategies remain critical to protect students, teachers, and staff who are not fully vaccinated, especially in areas of moderate to high community transmission levels.

- Promoting vaccination
- Consistent and correct mask use **is recommended**.
- Physical distancing
- Screening testing to promptly identify cases, clusters, and outbreaks
- Ventilation
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- Staying home when sick and getting tested
- Contact tracing, in combination with isolation and quarantine
- Cleaning and disinfection

Understanding that schools and communities can be differently situated, the updated guidance from the CDC stresses the importance of offering in-person learning, regardless of whether all of the prevention strategies can be implemented at a particular school. Schools should work with local public health officials to determine which prevention strategies are needed.

**NOTE: Please be aware that this plan could change at any time. At minimum, it will be reviewed quarterly.**