

# ITASCA SCHOOL DISTRICT 10

ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER  
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Dear Itasca 10 Families,

As a reminder, on June 23rd, the Illinois State Board of Education released the following minimum public health requirements that all schools must meet as they create local reopening plans in Phase 4. The guidance advises the following: *In-person instruction is highly encouraged.* Itasca 10 has offered the choice for parents of both Remote Learning and In-Person instruction. Although many districts have chosen to offer a Remote only design we have made several changes to support Illinois Department of Public Health and Illinois State Board of Education guidance, such as lowering class size to optimize social distancing for our students.

For in-person instruction, the following state rules apply:

- The use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including face masks, is required
- More than 50 individuals gathering in one space is prohibited
- Social distancing must be observed, as much as possible
- Schools must conduct symptom screenings and temperature checks, or have individuals self-certify that they are free of symptoms before entering school buildings

This year as Board Policy, you are required to self-certify your child free of symptoms before entering school. We will be implementing a new process to assure this is followed. We are pleased our TeacherEase platform provides a simple, yet important tool to help self-certify. Daily you will login into TeacherEase and respond to seven questions. The questions establish if any of the following circumstances or symptoms are present:

Does your child have a temperature of 100.4 °F or higher? Is your child currently taking fever-reducing medicines, such as those that contain aspirin, ibuprofen or acetaminophen, in order to reduce the fever? Has your child had close contact (less than 6 feet for longer than 15 minutes) with or cared for someone with COVID-19 in the past 14 days? Has your child returned from traveling outside the United States or from a cruise ship or river boat within the past 14 days? Has your child been directed to self-quarantine by a healthcare provider? Has your child been directed to self-quarantine by the County or State Department of Public Health? Is your child experiencing any of the following symptoms? Chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.

Step-by-step directions for the TeacherEase Health Certification Survey are at the end of this letter. If the answer is **Yes** to one or more questions **you must keep your child home.**

Additionally, we will want you to follow up with the school daily as long as your student is out to review their medical symptoms and determine when they may return.

In the past, we may have accepted a student with minor cold symptoms or a runny nose. That can not happen this year. We will need to review their symptoms before they return and depending on the situation, a dated medical clearance by your child's doctor may be required for return to school. The first step in assuring that in-person instruction is safe for all students and staff is to prevent exposure if any of the adverse conditions exist. *Your commitment to prevent exposure to the school community should be no less than your expectation of safety for your own child.* In order for in-person instruction to work we all need to honor that any student with a **yes** response to the health questions will remain home.

In addition, on the first day of school your student will receive a Green Healthy to Learn Pass with a clip. This should be worn daily thereafter and visible on a backpack, chromebook or coat. This pass is not in lieu of completing TeacherEase self-certification daily but a visible tool and reminder that it was completed. Any student not wearing the Green Healthy to Learn Pass to school will receive additional school certification.

Students may not ride the bus or be dropped off at school if they have not completed TeacherEase self-certification. Staff will be checking all students and they will be pulled immediately for school testing if self-certification is not completed. Before they are released to class we will call you to discuss their eligibility to ride the bus and subsequently enter school that day.

In general you may reduce your risk of contracting COVID-19 by taking simple steps:

- Cover your coughs and sneezes
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Wear a face mask
- Practice social distancing
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Stay home when you are sick
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick

I appreciate your help. These systems are new for all of us and we are doing the best to implement them in a way that is efficient and safe for all. Consistently will be required to protect the safety of your child and their classmates.

Sincerely,

Craig Benes  
Superintendent