

The background features a large, light green silhouette of a tree. The branches of the tree are composed of numerous stylized human figures with their arms raised, creating a sense of growth and community. The figures are arranged in a way that they form the canopy of the tree, with some figures appearing as leaves and others as branches. The overall tone is positive and educational.

Return-to-Learn

2022-2023

Kane County Regional Office of Education

September 7, 2022

Kane County Regional Office of Education



The Kane County Regional Office of Education is committed to supporting our nine large unit districts in their efforts to provide in person instruction to their students in compliance with the advice of health experts from the CDC and IDPH.

We will continue to collaborate consistently with our local health department, public, and nonpublic school districts to support their needs as the pandemic continues.

The Kane ROE alternative programs including Regional Safe School Programs, Truancy, and Juvenile Justice Center will be supported by the ROE as well.

Screening/Sanitation/Hygiene Etiquette Recommendations

A large, light green graphic of a tree is centered in the background. The trunk and branches of the tree are composed of stylized human figures with their arms raised, suggesting a community or a group of people. The overall style is clean and modern.

- Handwashing stations, hand sanitizer, PPE will continue to be available free for students and staff.
- Cleaning and disinfection, and ventilation, protocols in place last year should continue.
- Screening for COVID-19 are suggested as a key strategy to identify cases.

Instructional Model Expectations

- We have supported our district leaders in preparing for in-person learning for full days every day as allowable by the Illinois State Board of Education.
- Students will attend school in person.
- The ROE will provide support to the districts and our families in a post Covid environment.

A large, light green background graphic of a tree. The trunk is a simple, wide base. The branches are composed of numerous stylized human figures with their arms raised, resembling leaves or a canopy. The figures are in various poses, some with arms raised high, others with arms slightly bent. The overall style is clean and modern.

New Guidance

IDPH and ISBE are expected to consistently release updated FAQs that may impact return to learn for our districts.

Illinois Adopts CDC Guidance for Schools

As school board members, parents, teachers and superintendents return to in-person learning in the fall, the ROE will continue to share the latest guidance through email and our professional school networks.

Both CDC (August 11, 2022) and IDPH guidance issued on August 19, 2022.

<https://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/school-guidance.html>

CDC Guidance

- Masks may be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 and older) and required in health care settings.
- Vaccination remains to be strongly encouraged in the prevention and mediation of Covid 19.

CDC Guidance



- Screening testing, ventilation, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick and getting tested, contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation, and cleaning and disinfection are also important layers of prevention to keep schools safe.
- Students, teachers, and staff should stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care.

CDC Guidance

- Guidance emphasizes implementing layered prevention strategies (e.g., using multiple prevention strategies together consistently) to protect people including students, teachers, staff, and other members of their households.

CDC Guidance

- COVID-19 prevention strategies remain critical to protect people, including students, teachers, and staff, who are not fully vaccinated, especially in areas of moderate-to-high community transmission levels.
- Localities should monitor community transmission, vaccination coverage, screening testing, and occurrence of outbreaks to guide decisions on the level of layered prevention strategies.

Instruction During Quarantine

Pursuant to the Illinois State Board of Education's May 2021 **Resolution:**

“Beginning with the 2021-22 school year, all schools must resume fully in-person learning for all student attendance days.”

The Kane ROE may provide instruction via Packets, iPads & Big Blue Button (LMS) for those students quarantined at the Juvenile Justice Center. Students in RSSP & ALOP will obtain instruction through their local school district. We will also provide support to the districts as they navigate through instructional challenges and learning gaps.

Layered Prevention Strategies

The Kane ROE acknowledges the guidance of IDPH and CDC in their recommendation for schools to follow a protocol of layered prevention strategies.

To support this, we will continue to offer and/or provide weekly meetings with the health department and the district superintendents. In addition, we will participate in monthly meetings with the health department and directors of school wellness. If additional meetings are required, we will participate.

Our alternative programs will have access to layered prevention strategies in their schools when necessary.

Vaccinations:

Parents asked (Not required) to share child's vaccination status

Vaccines strongly encouraged

Mask Requirements:

Pre-K to through age 12 -- Masks encouraged

Screening/Hygiene Etiquette:

Individuals can do self screening on their own

Regular hand washing and respiratory etiquette (cover coughs).

Building cleaning and ventilation.

Stay home when ill.

Monitor Data:

Vaccination rates in community, among staff, and students.

Community transmission rates.

Reported cases in schools.

Districts may continue to collaborate with other school districts and may seek guidance from legal counsel.

Vaccinations

“Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic.” – Centers for Disease Control guidance

- Parents asked (not required) to share child’s vaccination status which will help with contact tracing and hopefully avoid quarantine.
- Parents of unvaccinated students asked to allow student to participate in regular COVID testing, also to help avoid quarantine.
- Vaccines will continue to be strongly encouraged.

The Kane ROE was instrumental in ensuring that all district employees were given the opportunity to be vaccinated in February & March 2021. Opportunities are available throughout Kane County for those individuals 12 and up to be vaccinated for COVID19.

Per Governor Pritzker’s Executive Order from August 26, 2021 with an update on September 3, 2021, school staff are required to be fully vaccinated or succumb to weekly Covid 19 screening.

Masks

- Because our alternative schools are located with their home districts, our students will be expected to follow the site based protocols in compliance with IDPH guidelines.
- Students at the Juvenile Justice Center will be offered the option of wearing masks in compliance with IDPH and Kane County Court Services.
- Masks are recommended
- Staff in our schools may model the appropriate mask usage
- All passengers and drivers on buses may wear a mask
- Bus drivers are not required to wear a mask.

Data Monitoring

Districts and NonPublic Schools will be provided with the latest data available through IDPH and the Kane County Health Department.

Weekly meetings with the Superintendents and Kane County Health Department will continue as deemed appropriate based on local and statewide COVID19 data. Currently, we are meeting monthly via Zoom or in person.

The Kane County ROE will remain open for in person services but will continue to monitor our data to ensure the safety of our staff.

The coordinator of alternative programming will monitor the data for the programs throughout the county.

ROE Monitoring School District Decisions

PREVENTION STRATEGIES: Removing prevention strategies should be driven by data (if transmission is low across our communities, vaccination is high, and surveillance in schools finds no cases)

SELF CERTIFICATION: Parents/staff should monitor symptoms and remain home when sick, and report COVID symptoms to the school.

QUARANTINE: Quarantine will still be necessary if a student has COVID, or presents symptoms of COVID.

SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION: Occupancy on buses will not be limited

FOOD SERVICE: Food service may proceed without social distancing

Kane ROE Focus Areas

ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM MONITORING - The ROE will focus on ensuring that our alternative program students are receiving consistent instruction. The Community Intervention Specialist (NEW) through the Community Partnership Grant will provide supports as needed.

TRUANCY - Youth Outreach staff will make regular contact with youth on their caseload in accordance with the requirements of the TAOEP Grant.

EDUCATOR LICENSING - Licensure staff will continue to provide the highest quality service to our educators and school districts to expedite approvals as needed.

DISTRICT SUPPORT - All members of our staff will continue with school network groups either in formal meetings or informal discussions.

Kane ROE Focus Areas

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT – Online and In Person professional learning opportunities will be provided with many customized to the needs of the districts.

LOCATING STUDENTS: Throughout the pandemic, many students have dropped out of school, attempted homeschooling, or relocated. Our goal will be to reunite students with their school district.

MENTAL WELLNESS/SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING: The potential issues resulting from the pandemic for our students are cause for concerns and an area that we believe needs to be addressed with rigor.

TRANSPORTATION: The Kane ROE will work collaboratively with the school districts and school transportation companies to provide refresher and initial bus classes in a safe environment.

Closing

“The Kane ROE is committed to supporting our districts through this complex time. Our goal is to support the districts with the understanding that our local school boards are making the best decisions possible for their students”.

Patricia Dal Santo, Regional Superintendent of Schools

Kane County Regional Office of Education