



COUNTRYSIDE DAY SCHOOL

Health and Safety Reopening Plan September 22, 2021

Countryside Day School's Mission:

The mission of Countryside Day School is to provide an education that assists students in developing the qualities of Respect, Responsibility, and Resourcefulness so they become great students and exceptional adults.

Dear Countryside Community,

We want to start by thanking you for all of your support, communications and efforts to work in partnership with Countryside's faculty, staff, and board of trustees as we navigated the challenges of on campus learning for an entire year. We are proud of what we all accomplished thus far and our determination to sustain our strong sense of community and shared mission.

As we look ahead to another year of this endeavor, we want to share with you the process by which we have created the following plan. Our board and administrative team have been guided primarily by CCDPH (Cook County Department of Public Health) IDPH (Illinois Department of Public Health), CDC (Center for Disease Control), and ISBE (Illinois State Board of Education) recommendations, consultation with our local public school district, and other independent schools . Some of the recommendations have changed with a new emphasis on maintaining on campus learning that we enthusiastically support. After carefully considering the information from the various sources, we then synthesized this information into a plan of action.

As we continue to plan, reassess, and respond to changing conditions in the greater community, we will edit and revise this document. You can expect continued communications about changes to on-campus learning.

We want to thank you again for your partnership in navigating this incredibly challenging time. You have done so with great fortitude and grace. Any comments or questions you have can be sent to Director of Operations, Jim Aspinall, at jim@country-sideday.org or wendy@country-sideday.org.

Sincerely,

Wendy Calise

Allison Shank

Head of School

Chair, Board of Trustees

On Campus and Distance Learning Considerations

Current Plans

Unless mandated by the State, or otherwise advised by health officials, Countryside Day School will open on September 7th for in-person, on campus learning for all students. CDS will be guided by CDC (Center for Disease Control), IDPH (Illinois Department of Public Health) and ISBE (Illinois State Board of Education) guidelines and protocols regarding Covid mitigation strategies.

Covid exposure, infections, and seasonal illness screening of all individuals will be guided by CDC and IDPH protocols. The Cook County Department of Public Health will guide decisions regarding the closure of a classroom, an office, or the school.

This Reopening Plan is based on the most recent information and is a work in progress. It will evolve and adapt as new information is considered.

Possible Causes for Complete or Classroom Facility Closure

Countryside will move to a school wide distance learning program if mandated by the state and may do so if recommended by the CDC, IDPH, or CCDPH.

A move to a distance-learning program may also occur at the class or program level and will depend on the particular circumstances of each case considered.

Parent Partnership

Families and staff are asked to follow all protocols for out of school activities determined by the Cook County Department of Public Health including, but not limited to wearing of masks, social distancing, gatherings, and quarantining. Parents are attesting that their students are illness/symptom/fever free and have not been exposed to someone with COVID-19 by sending their children to school. If a child is going to be absent for any reason, parents are required to notify school of the reason for the absence. Parents are expected to follow the illness policy regarding a return to school. These protocols are necessary for us to protect the health and safety of all of our community members. We are counting on your partnership.

On Campus and Distance Learning Considerations

Illness at School

If a student becomes ill while at school, the student will be isolated in an area specially designated for this purpose and parents will be called. Prompt pick up will be required. Details about returning to school are defined in the Safeguard section of this document.

Arrival and Dismissal

All Year Programs: Drop off will be through the vestibule from 7:30 until 8:20, when carpools begin. Parents will continue to pick up in the vestibule. **Masks are required for all people entering the school building regardless of vaccination status.**

Upper Elementary students in All Year Montessori will move to Jena Hall at 4:00 and occupy a designated space just for them in the Elementary Class for the remainder of the day in order to keep cohorts separate.

Toddler and PreK/K: Drop off is through carpools from 8:20 - 8:40. Pick up will be conducted as usual at 11:50 and 3:05. Children will be spaced out in the carpool room and the gymnasium to allow for separation of cohorts.

Lower Elementary: Drop off is between 8:00 - 8:20 through the office and 8:20 - 8:40 through carpools. Pick up at Jena Hall will begin at 3:25 and end at 3:35.

Upper Elementary: Drop off is between 8:00 - 8:40 at Middle School. Carpools at Middle School will begin at 3:25 and end at 3:35. Upper Elementary students in All Year Montessori will move to Jena Hall and occupy a designated space just for them in the Elementary Class for the remainder of the day in order to keep cohorts separate.

Middle School: Students can be picked up between 3:30 and 4:00 at Middle School. Students will advise parents of protocols at the start of the year. Parents will not enter the school building for pick up.

Distance and Hybrid Learning

Distance learning takes place when the entire class has to move into quarantine. Hybrid learning is when the class is in session but an individual student is in quarantine because s/he has COVID or someone who lives full time in the household has COVID. (Due to the different format of teaching at the Middle School Level, Hybrid Learning

learning will also be offered if a student is required to quarantine due to travel). The specifics of the Distance and Hybrid Learning Programs will have been determined and will be uploaded to the website soon.

Due to the reduced 7 day quarantine for close contacts (in some cases) and our focus on in person learning, the Hybrid Learning Program will be modified from what was offered last year.

Students who have other illnesses or are on vacation are not eligible for Hybrid Learning.

Distance Learning will also not be offered for bad weather days or other school closures not related to COVID.

On Campus Learning Details By Program

Program	Toddler	PreK/K & AYM	Elementary	Middle School
Class Size	10 - 15	up to 30 & 30	Lower EI: 46 students – split in 2 groups, separate sides of elementary class; lunch, recess and phys ed in separate groups Upper EI: 1 group 25 (in Middle School Building)	10-15
Workspaces	Assigned individual work spaces distanced 3'	Assigned individual work spaces distanced 3'	Assigned individual work spaces distanced 3'	Socially distanced 3', no assigned seats
Materials	Students will wash hands before and after use of materials as feasible	Students will wash hands before and after use of materials as feasible	Students will wash hands before and after use of materials as feasible	Students will wash hands before and after use of materials as feasible
Lunch	6' social distancing as feasible	6' social distancing as feasible	6' social distancing as feasible	6' social distancing as feasible
Recess	Toddler Playgrounds	Rotated and zoned playground use	Rotated and zoned playground use	Rotated and zoned playground use

Physical Education	In playground or gym daily	In playground or gym daily	In playground or gym daily	Outdoor exercise and game time
Art	Taught by class-room teacher	Taught by class-room teacher	In class 2x per week taught by art teacher	TBD with student input at the start of the year. Students may take classes off campus again this year as amended bus transportation restrictions make this feasible.
Music	Taught by class-room teacher	Taught by class-room teacher	In class 2x per week taught by music teacher	TBD with student input at the start of the year. Students may take classes off campus again this year as bus transportation restrictions make this feasible.
Spanish	Immersion	In class daily	In class daily	In class 3x per week

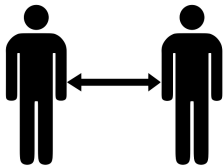
Note: After School Enrichment music programs are again available for the fall quarter with additional possible options in subsequent quarters.

Health and Safety Procedures

The plans and protocols in this document have been carefully considered to address and promote the safety, health and welfare of our entire school community. The community health guidelines and policies are subject to change as new information becomes available. Procedures to protect the health and safety of the Countryside community fall into two main categories:



Safeguard



Social Distance

Safeguard

Parents are attesting that their students are illness/symptom/fever free and that they have not been a close contact to a positive COVID case by sending them to school and by answering NO daily to all of the following:

Covid Symptom Checklist

- ☒ Do you have a fever (temperature equal to or greater than 100.4 without taking fever reducing medication)?
- ☒ Are you experiencing shortness of breath or difficulty breathing?
- ☒ Do you have a cough or sore throat?
- ☒ Have you lost your sense of smell or taste?
- ☒ Do you have a severe headache?
- ☒ Do you have a sore throat? Do you have muscle aches?
- ☒ Are you experiencing fatigue or body aches from an unknown cause?
- ☒ Have you experienced any GI symptoms such as vomiting, diarrhea or loss of appetite?
- ☒ Have you been asked to self-isolate or instructed to quarantine by a medical professional or local health department official?
- ☒ Have you been in close contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or been placed on quarantine for possible contact with COVID-19?

Safeguard

All staff/faculty and students are expected to follow the sick policy and stay home if they are exhibiting any signs of illness. If symptoms arise during the school day, the individual will be isolated and sent home promptly. If the ill household member is tested within 24 hours of first notification of symptoms, siblings do not need to be sent home unless there is a high suspicion that the ill person has COVID-19.(e.g., they are a known close contact, they have lost sense of taste and smell). Pending test results, siblings can remain in school.

*** If the student has symptoms of COVID-19** and it is subsequently determined by a medical provider that the individual likely does not have COVID-19 infection, the student can return to school if the following is met:

- Symptoms have improved
- No fever for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication (a fever is a temperature greater than 100.4F)

And

- Tests negative for COVID-19 during or after symptom onset

Or

- Symptoms have improved
- No fever for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication (a fever is a temperature greater than 100.4F)

And

- A note from an MD documenting no clinical suspicion of COVID-19 infection

*** If a student has been in close contact** with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 **while at school**, s/he can return to school if the following are met:

- Participate in the Test-to-Stay Option being done by Countryside

Or

- Must quarantine at home for 7 days (in most cases) from the date of close contact

- Symptoms have resolved

And

- receive a negative result from a PCR Covid test during days 6-7 of quarantine
- No distance learning is available for this option

*** If a student has been in close contact** with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 **outside the school or in their home**, s/he can return to school if the following are met:

- must quarantine at home for 7 days (in most cases) from the date of close contact
- Symptoms have resolved

And

- receive a negative result from a PCR Covid test during days 6-7 of quarantine

^Student is not eligible for Test-to-Stay option as the school must guarantee that students were properly masked during the exposure.

* If we are notified of a positive case of COVID-19 within the school by a parent or staff member, we will notify the school community via email.



Vaccinations: are required for all faculty and staff, with the exception documented of medical exemptions. We strongly encourage all Middle School students to get vaccinated as well. This will allow for a great deal more freedom from mitigation strategies. Unvaccinated students may need to continue mitigation strategies. Documented medical exemptions will be accepted. Proof of vaccination required.



All adults who enter the school beyond lobbies and vestibules will be asked if they are illness/symptom free. Parents are attesting that their students are illness/symptom free and have not been exposed to someone with COVID-19 by sending their children to school.



All Countryside employees will wear a facemask while in shared spaces on campus. Children 2 years and older and staff must wear facemasks while inside and outside, unless a documented medical exclusion from a physician is submitted. The outdoor mask mandate is scheduled to expire on September 23rd, depending on school and community conditions. Single layer masks such as gaiters and bandanas are not acceptable. Masks must either be medical grade or at least two layers.



The school staff will teach and reinforce proper handwashing techniques and covering of coughs and sneezes among students and staff. The school will monitor absenteeism to identify any illness trends amongst the students and staff.



Signage regarding signs and symptoms of COVID-19, proper handwashing, respiratory etiquette, and social distancing have been placed around the school. Any individual exhibiting signs of illness during the day will be isolated and sent home.



Testing: Countryside is requiring a weekly test to be done at school using [SHIELD](#). The test will be at no cost to parents and all unvaccinated except for toddlers will be required to test.



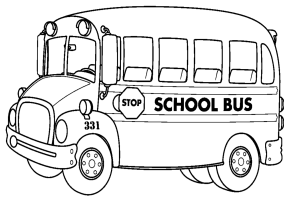
Quarantining: Countryside will use the new option offered by IDPH, Test-to-Stay option when possible. If a positive case in school is confirmed, testing in school of close contacts will be administered on days 1, 3, 5, and 7 at the school. Students can attend school during the testing period unless they receive a positive test result. Families can also choose to quarantine for 7 days instead of participating in the Test-to-Stay option.

Social Distance

All staff and students will practice feasible social distancing of 3'.



We will again be allowing parent volunteers and visits to the school. Classroom visits will be thirty minutes. Masks are required by the state regardless of vaccination status. Classroom visitors are not required to be vaccinated, but parent volunteers working with children will be required to and will need to bring proof of vaccination in order to work with children.



Trips into the community on the school bus will be permitted. All people on the bus must wear face masks and windows will be cracked to allow for increased ventilation. Social distancing will be practiced as feasible.



Interaction between student cohorts will be restricted as feasible. This means that students grouped together with their primary instruction teacher will not mix with other groups of students. This will minimize the number of students that any student is exposed to.



Zones will be defined for outdoor play and/or playground use and will be staggered to limit mixing of cohorts. Use of indoor gym will also be staggered to limit mixing of cohorts.



Students will be assigned “home table” work spaces, distanced 3’ - 6’ apart, that will be theirs exclusively. Moving around the classroom will be monitored to reduce interaction among students as much as is feasible. Middle School students will not have assigned seating.



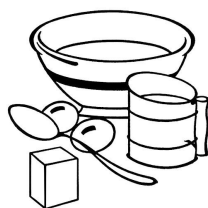
Travel: Weekly screening (our goal is to begin the first week of school) along with our masking and distancing will serve as our mitigation strategy for travel. We request that if you feel your travel or local plans have exposed your family to multiple people unmasked and socially distanced, that you get your child(ren) COVID test before they return to school. Please keep in mind as you commit to future travel plans, that this mitigation may change in the future to include testing and quarantine.



Parent gatherings will again be considered, as is feasible. All will be required to wear masks at indoor gatherings regardless of vaccination status except when eating or drinking.



Food Service: We will be reinstating a lunch program for families who wish to purchase lunch for the students if there is sufficient interest to meet minimum requirements. Middle School students will return to preparing Community lunch. Social distancing during mealtimes will still be practiced as feasible.



Breakfast for AYM students will continue to be prepared on site. Snacks will be prepared by PreK/K and elementary students with teacher oversight. Social distancing during mealtimes will still be practiced as feasible.



Water Bottles: All students should bring their own well-labeled water bottles that they will keep at their tables.

THIS PLAN IS BASED ON THE MOST RECENT INFORMATION.

CHANGES TO THIS DOCUMENT WILL OCCUR BASED ON CHANGING
RECOMMENDATIONS AND CHANGING CONDITIONS.