



Return to School: Reset, Redefine and Restart: Reopening Metrics in the Era of COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic is a public health crisis not seen for many generations. District 214 remains committed to safely bringing our students back into the building for in-person instruction. And as such, a District team has consulted with medical and public health professionals and reviewed available scientific research and data to develop a set of metrics that will allow students to slowly and steadily return to in-person instruction.

COVID-19 cases will continue to impact our school community and the following information will guide our reopening to in-person instruction, our mitigation strategies, and the decision-making process if it is necessary to move back to a more restrictive phase.

What follows is our recommended D214 metrics for returning to school.

Reopening Plan

We acknowledge that this could change based on revisions to public health guidance and/or an Executive Order from the Governor. The development of the D214 Metric Framework was grounded in the public health guidance from the Northern Illinois Public Health Consortium Return to School Metrics Workgroup, of which the Cook County Department of Public Health is a member. It was further supported by research from the Harvard Global Health Institute.

STAGES

District 214 is looking at the following four-stage process for reopening our schools:

Stage 1: Fully Remote with only off-site, in-person programming occurring

Students will participate via remote instruction with a limited number of students invited to participate via in-person instruction in an off-campus class or program such as Practical Architectural Construction.

Stage 2: Partially Remote with hybrid on-site programming for our Specialized Populations and Programs

Students will participate primarily via remote instruction, with a limited number of students in specialized populations (e.g. special education) and programs invited into the building. Those in the building would have either in-person instruction with their assigned teacher or case manager or be in a small learning pod, participating in remote instruction but remaining with the same group while in the building.

Stage 3: Partially Flexible In-Person/Remote Learning Plan

Students will participate via remote instruction or in-person instruction depending on the day or week. Students will be invited to rotate into the building and parents will continue to have the choice to send their students for in-person instruction or continue to participate via remote instruction. Classroom capacity restrictions will be in effect.

Stage 4: Fully Flexible In-Person/Remote Learning Plan

Students will participate via in-person instruction or remote instruction. Students will have the option for open campus. Parents will continue to have the ability to choose on a day-to-day basis.

METRICS

The following Weekly New Cases per 100,000 People in Cook County rate will determine the phase in which we will be in as a school district during a current week:

Stage 1: Greater than 175 weekly cases per 100,000 people

Stage 2: Between 70 – 174 weekly cases per 100,000 people

Stage 3: Between 7 – 69 weekly cases per 100,000 people

Stage 4: Less than 7 weekly cases per 100,000 people

Stage Number	Learning Plan Details	Weekly Cases per 100,00 People Rate
Stage 1	Fully Remote with only off-site, in-person programming occurring	Greater than 175
Stage 2	Partially Remote with hybrid on-site programming for our Specialized Populations and Programs	Between 70 – 174
Stage 3	Partially Flexible In-Person/Remote Learning Plan	Between 7 – 69
Stage 4	Fully Flexible In-Person/Remote Learning Plan	Less than 7

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Before moving from one phase to a less restrictive phase, a school will need to be in the previous phase for a minimum of 10 consecutive instructional days. The district will also analyze outbreak scenarios, defined as multiple epidemiologically-linked cases within a two week rolling window. Mitigation efforts may include shifting a building to a two week (14 calendar days) period of remote work.

Mitigation Efforts

The district will track the positivity rate of each building over the 14 day rolling period. The district will adopt the Restore Illinois 8% positivity rate metric during Stages 1 and 2. The limited number of people in the building during these two phases allows for social distancing and other preventative measures. In Stages 3 and 4, the district will utilize methodology established from the *Covid Act Now epidemiology model*. The model establishes a 3% positivity rate, which is considered a suppressed, low rate. This low rate has led to successful, sustained reopening of schools *across the world* including in South Korea, Norway, Germany and Denmark. Additionally, the district will monitor all cases and determine if an outbreak, as defined by the IDPH, necessitates a work from home order (for those that apply).



POSITIVE CASE PERCENTAGE PER DEPARTMENT

Over the course of a two week rolling window, if 8% of those staff in attendance in an instructional division test positive for COVID-19, that instructional division will work from home for the next 14 calendar days. Staff that have offices adjacent to that instructional division will have the opportunity to work from home for the next 14 days if they are able to complete their job responsibilities remotely.

POSITIVE CASE PERCENTAGE PER BUILDING (STAGES 1 & 2)

Over the course of a two week rolling window, if 8% of those staff in attendance in a school test positive for COVID-19, that school 's staff will have the opportunity to work from home for the next 14 calendar days if they are able to complete their job responsibilities remotely.

POSITIVE CASE PERCENTAGE PER BUILDING (STAGES 3 & 4)

Over the course of a two week rolling window, if 3% of the students and staff in attendance test positive for COVID-19, the school will automatically revert to Stage 1 (Fully Remote) for at least the next 14 calendar days.

OUTBREAK SCENARIOS

The district will also analyze outbreak scenarios, defined as multiple epidemiologically-linked cases within a two week rolling window. Mitigation efforts may include shifting a building to a two week (14 calendar days) period of remote work.

One Day, One Week, One Month at a Time

District 214 appreciates the understanding, flexibility and cooperation of our parents, students and staff as we continue to navigate these uncertain times and follow the latest public health guidance from local, state and federal officials. We know that our amazing teachers and staff can provide a high quality educational experience, remotely or in-person, that is rigorous, engaging and relevant for our students to prepare them for college, careers and life beyond high school.

Northern Illinois Return to School Metrics drafted by the Illinois Public Health Consortium Return to School Metrics Workgroup on August 14, 2020

Max Roser, Hannah Ritchie, Esteban Ortiz-Ospina and Joe Hasell (2020) - "Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19)". *Published online at OurWorldInData.org*. Retrieved from: '<https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus>' [Online Resource]

Covid Act Now epidemiology model, Max Henderson, Eric Carlson, Igor Kofman, Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins, Anna Blech, and many others. Updated: July 23, 2020

The Path to Zero and Schools: Achieving Pandemic Resilient Teaching and Learning Spaces by the Harvard Global Institute for Health