



Community Unit School District #2 • Robinson, Illinois 62454  
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## Robinson CUSD#2 Back to School Plan

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## Goal of the Plan

Robinson CUSD2 will provide in person instruction and educational experiences safely while minimizing disruptions to the learning process. When possible, Robinson CUSD2 will adapt prevention strategies to be more or less intensive depending on the level of community transmission in Crawford County.

## Guiding Documents and Resources

The following is a list of documents and resources used in the development and monitoring of the Robinson CUSD#2 Back to School Plan.

### Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

- *Covid Data Tracker*: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>
- *Requirement for Masking on Public Transportation Conveyances*: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/face-masks-public-transportation.html>
- *Guidance for Covid-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools*: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>
- school guidance; web page on community transmission

### Illinois State Board of Education

- *Coronavirus Updates and Resources Page*: <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/covid19.aspx>
- *ISBE/IDPH Frequently Asked Questions Regarding CDC Covid-19 Guidance*: <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/ISBE-School-FAQs-20210726.pdf>

### Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH)

- *County Level School Metrics*: <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/countyschool?county=Crawford>
- *County Covid-19 Statistics*: <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/statistics>

### Crawford County Health Department (CCHD)

- *Press Releases Regarding New Covid-19 Cases*: <http://www.cchd.net/press-releases.html>

## Developing the Plan

Robinson CUSD#2 utilized a committee of over 30 individuals to develop the back to school plan. Areas of expertise represented on the committee include education, healthcare, public health, mental health, facilities cleaning/maintenance, and food service. Committee members include a physician, a nurse

practitioner, registered nurses, teachers, administrators, school support staff, parents, and members of the Board of Education. The committee used the CDC K-12 school guidance document as an outline and addressed each of the nine prevention strategies identified by the CDC in the plan. Our plan also is designed to be flexible in order to respond as necessary to changing conditions locally.

The safety of students, staff, and community was the guiding principle in creating this plan. We acknowledge that there are conflicting views regarding some of the prevention strategies but safety remains the priority while maximizing students learning and engagement.

## Plan Flexibility

Our plan is designed to be flexible either toward more intensive prevention strategies or toward less intensive intervention strategies as determined by local conditions. This is addressed where applicable in the section for each prevention strategy. We fully expect that adjustments will be made throughout the school year with our hope being that conditions will warrant moving toward less intensive strategies and a more typical educational environment. The primary metric used for plan adjustment will be the Crawford County community transmission rate as defined by the CDC [Total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days]. The chart below is copied from the CDC. Any changes in prevention strategies resulting from rise or fall of the transmission rate will be announced on Friday for the following school week and posted on the district’s Covid-19 dashboard at [www.robinsonschools.com](http://www.robinsonschools.com).

**CDC Defined Community Transmission Levels**

	Low	Moderate	Substantial	High
Total NEW Cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days	0-9.99	10-49.99	50-99.99	Over 100

Our plan may be subject to change based upon any new mandates placed upon school districts by IDPH, ISBE, or by executive order of the governor. ***Please note that as of August 4, 2021, Executive Order 2021-18 is in effect and will stipulate some of our prevention strategies including mask policy.***

In addition, the school district continues to consult regularly with our partners at the Crawford County Health Department (CCHD) and Crawford Memorial Hospital (CMH). Robinson CUSD#2 greatly values the expertise of these two organizations and will give significant weight to any recommendations they make with regard to school operations during the pandemic.

## Prevention Strategies

The nine prevention strategies addressed in the Robinson CUSD#2 Back to School plan are taken directly from the CDC Guidance for Covid-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools and will be implemented by Robinson CUSD#2 as described.

## **Vaccination**

According to the CDC, *“achieving high levels of Covid-19 vaccination among eligible students as well as teachers, staff, and household members is one of the most critical strategies to help schools safely resume full operations.*

As a unit school district serving students ranging from 3 year-old preschool students to high school students who are over the age of 18, we are mindful of the fact that a large portion of our student population is not yet eligible for the Covid-19 vaccine. Our vaccination strategy will focus on two areas: Education and Access.

**Education:** Robinson CUSD#2 will provide information from CDC and IDPH regarding vaccination as an effective strategy to bring the Covid-19 pandemic to an end. The district will work with our healthcare partners to provide factual information and statistics to our families and to identify benefits to vaccination (e.g. asymptomatic fully vaccinated individuals are exempt from close contact quarantine) but will not pressure.

**Access:** Robinson CUSD#2 will work with the Crawford County Health Department to provide access for eligible students to receive the Covid-19 vaccination at times and in locations that are easily accessible for families which may include vaccination clinics held in school facilities. In addition, Robinson CUSD#2 will assist in advertising the time and place of vaccination clinics occurring in the community.

## **Consistent and Correct Mask Use**

Robinson CUSD#2 will comply with any the general assembly, IDPH, ISBE, Local Board of Health or other entity or agency with authority to issue directives to public schools.

In the absence of an order from federal, state, or local authorities regarding masks, Robinson CUSD#2 has developed a plan in which the requirement of masks in our school buildings is dependent on the transmission rate (as defined by the CDC) within Crawford County. In times of low to moderate transmission, masks will be optional. During times of substantial and high transmission, masks will be required.

During times when universal masking is in place, modified quarantine guidelines are available [See Appendix A] with the final determination on quarantine length being made by the CCHD. In addition, during times of universal masking in the school setting, close contact quarantine will be based on 3 feet or less of distance between the positive individual and the close contact.

Robinson CUSD#2 will monitor the case numbers and community transmission rate daily based on information release by the Crawford County Health Department [<http://www.cchd.net/press-releases.html>]. The 7 day case count and community transmission level (based on the CDC definitions) will be updated daily on the Robinson CUSD#2 Covid-19 dashboard which can be accessed at <https://www.robinsonschools.com/>. While data will be

posted daily, any change in mitigation level will be announced on Friday to be in effect for the following school week.

During times when masking is required, masks must be worn so that they fit snugly over both the nose and mouth. As with any clothing or accessories worn at school, all face-coverings must be free from content advertising alcoholic beverages, drugs, violence, suggestive messages, or any content that interferes in the learning process or exhibits poor judgment. Families are encouraged to obtain at least 2 reusable masks/face coverings per child to allow for daily laundering. All schools will have extra masks available if needed.

***In the absence of an order to the contrary,*** the chart below describes whether masks will be optional or required for Robinson CUSD#2 based on the CDC-defined community transmission rate for Crawford County.

Location	Low and Moderate Transmission	Substantial & High Transmission
 <p>School Bus</p>	 <p>Masks are required for driver and passengers.</p>	 <p>Masks are required for driver and passengers.</p>
 <p>Indoors</p>	 <p>Masks are optional</p>	 <p>Masks are required for everyone inside the school building</p>

### Physical Distancing

Robinson CUSD#2 serves students ranging in age from 3 years to 18+ and utilizes a variety of educational environments, physical spaces, and instructional groupings to provide instruction. Our goal is to maintain a minimum of 3 feet of physical distancing whenever possible to reduce the possibility of transmission and eliminate the need for close contact quarantining. Teachers and staff are encouraged to seek guidance from building administration and school nurses for questions about a specific learning environment.

Robinson CUSD#2 schools will continue to utilize procedures for arrival, dismissal, and passing periods which reduce or eliminate instances when students must be within 3 feet of one another. Wherever possible, schedules and seating arrangements will be designed to allow cohorts of students to stay in the same spaces. Our schools will continue to use floor signs, wall signs, and other guides to control traffic patterns in building, limit capacities in bottleneck areas,

and encourage distancing of 3 feet or more where possible. Outdoor spaces will continue to be developed and utilized when appropriate for instruction, meals, or student gatherings.

### **Screening Testing**

At this time, Robinson CUSD#2 does not plan to offer Covid-19 screening tests within the school setting. Our community partners at the Crawford County Health Department and Crawford Memorial Hospital have the capacity to provide quick and easy access to testing for individuals and this will allow school health staff to focus on other aspects of promoting and maintaining a healthy school environment.

Robinson CUSD#2 will use the protocol provided by the Illinois Department of Public Health to assess and assist any students who are exhibiting symptoms while at school. An update to this guidance from the IDPH is anticipated soon and will be attached as an appendix to this plan.

### **Ventilation**

The Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems in our Robinson CUSD#2 school buildings are designed to bring fresh outside air into the classroom space. Air filters will be regularly replaced and when compatible with the HVAC system will be MERV-13 or higher. In common areas of our school buildings where larger groups may be gathered, the district will deploy stand-alone air purification filtration units as an additional layer of mitigation. During times of moderate outdoor temperature, windows may be opened to bring in fresh air provided that this does not interfere with the operation of the HVAC system. Outdoor learning activities and breaks are encouraged.

In addition, windows of school buses may be opened as far as the safety line when the outdoor temperature allows. During cooler weather, the heating system on the bus (if the bus is equipped) should be set to mix in fresh outdoor air.

### **Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette**

Robinson CUSD#2 will teach and reinforce proper handwashing with all students during the first days of school. Hands should be washed with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Proper handwashing will be reinforced with videos available on the school website and through signage placed throughout our school buildings. Students will also be taught proper respiratory etiquette (i.e. covering coughs and sneezes). Again, this will be reinforced through videos available on the school website and signage in the school buildings. In addition, hand sanitizer will continue to be available in classrooms and common areas throughout our facilities.

### **Staying Home When Sick and Getting Tested**

According to the CDC, *“students and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as influenza or Covid-19 should stay home and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care. Staying home when sick with Covid-19 is essential to keep Covid-19 infections out of schools and prevent spread to others.”* The most common symptoms of COVID-19 in children include fever or chills, cough, nasal congestion or runny nose, new loss of taste or smell, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, diarrhea or vomiting, stomachache, tiredness, headache, muscle or body aches, and poor appetite. We anticipate the release of an updated symptom screening and exclusion protocol from the Illinois Department of Public Health. When that document is released, it will be added to our plan as Appendix B and implemented by Robinson CUSD#2.

The paper symptom screening slips will not be required during the 2022-2023 school year and students will not be screened prior to boarding the school bus or entering the school building.

### **Contact Tracing in Combination with Isolation and Quarantine**

Robinson CUSD#2 staff will cooperate and communicate with Crawford County Health Department (CCHD) staff to identify any close contacts to individuals testing positive who have been in a school environment. CCHD has the ultimate authority to determine who will be quarantined and for how long. The Illinois Department of Public Health has offered some options to potentially shorten quarantine length [see Appendix A] but please note that these options are only available when “consistent and correct mask use” is in place. Again, the CCHD will make the final determination in each case.

Under the current rules, fully vaccinated students who are asymptomatic are not subject to close contact quarantine.

### **Cleaning and Disinfection**

According to the CDC, *“when no people with confirmed or suspected Covid-19 are known to have been in a space, cleaning once a day is usually enough to sufficiently remove virus that may be on surfaces and help maintain a healthy facility.”* Custodial staff will disinfect all spaces within the building following regular cleaning at least once each day. Custodial staff will also continue cleaning and disinfecting high touch/high traffic surfaces such as doorknobs and handrails whenever possible throughout the day. Disinfectant spray and wipes will still be made available to all teachers and staff for use when necessary. In addition, if a confirmed case or suspected case of Covid-19 occurs and that individual has occupied a space within the last 24 hours, that area will be immediately cleaned and disinfected. Robinson CUSD#2 will discontinue the routine disinfection of areas within the schools and on buses between every group of students. Bus

drivers will clean and disinfect buses once each day. Increased cleaning and disinfecting may be implemented during periods of high transmission in the community.

## Visitors

All visitors must fully comply with prevention strategies and all school policies in place, regardless of the level of community transmission.

	Low and Moderate Transmission	Substantial & High Transmission
 Visitor Policy	Normal visitor policy	During the school day when children are present, only direct service providers and essential visitors are allowed. No use of indoor school facilities by outside organizations

## Food Service and School Meals

Illinois School Districts have been given the flexibility to operate under the rules of the *Seamless Summer Option (SSO)* for the 2021-2022 school year. Together with our partner Opa Food Management, Robinson CUSD#2 will participate in this program as it will allow us to provide a free breakfast and lunch to any Robinson CUSD#2 student or any child within the district age 18 or younger. Note that for NMS and RHS, ala carte items are only free under this program if they are combined to create a reimbursable meal. Our food service staff will provide guidance to the students at these levels to help them take advantage of this benefit.

Schools will utilize alternative seating areas and cohort seating to maximize distancing during meals and minimize exposure to different groups.

## Transportation

Robinson CUSD#2 will provide bus transportation for eligible students with a return to our normal after-school dismissal and busing schedule. Our school buses are currently allowed to operate at full capacity. In accordance with a federal rule issued on January 29, 2021, all drivers and passengers must wear masks aboard the bus, regardless of whether the current mitigation level requires masks in other school environments (see *Consistent and Correct Mask Use* section of the plan above). Robinson CUSD#2 buses will continue to utilize assigned seating and where possible seat siblings or members of the same

household together. To avoid student contact with different groups as much as possible, students will be limited to one primary and one alternate bus stop. All buses will be cleaned and disinfected at least once per day or immediately if a person with known or suspected Covid-19 has been aboard the bus within the last 24 hours (see *Cleaning and Disinfection*).

## Daily Schedule

Robinson CUSD#2 will remain on our normal arrival, dismissal, and busing schedule in place prior to the 2020-2021 school year. The attendance times for each building are:

Washington: 8:10-2:35

Nuttall: 8:05-3:00

Lincoln: 8:20-2:45

RHS: 8:00-2:55

## Remote Learning

A resolution passed by the Illinois State Board of Education on May 19, 2021, we are preparing for in-person learning for full days, each student attendance day. “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 are not eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine and are under a quarantine order* by a local public health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health.”

## Plan Review

Our committee will continue to evaluate new data and make revisions to this plan if necessary to insure the safety of our students, staff, and community. At minimum the plan will be reviewed every 6 months and will continue to provide opportunities for input from the public.

## Appendix A – IDPH/ISBE FAQ Document on Quarantine

*The following is cut and pasted directly from the joint IDPH/ISBE guidance document*

[<https://www.isbe.net/Documents/ISBE-IDPH-School-FAQs-20210809.pdf>]. Please note that Options 2, 3, and 4 all reference “classrooms where masking is strictly adhered to.”

### What options are available for unvaccinated students to return to school from quarantine after an exposure?

The local health department will make the final determination on who is to be quarantined and for how long. They also may determine that a close contact is not a candidate for modified quarantine due to a high-risk exposure (e.g., sustained close contact without masking).

- **Option 1:**<sup>1</sup> Quarantine at home for 14 calendar days. Date of last exposure is considered day 0.
- **Option 2:**<sup>2</sup> Quarantine for 10 calendar days after the close contact’s last exposure to the COVID-19 case. Date of last exposure is considered day 0. The individual may end quarantine after day 10 if no symptoms of COVID-19 developed during daily monitoring.
  - SARS-CoV-2 PCR testing is recommended and may be required by the local health department.
  - The individual can maintain physical distancing and masking at all times when returning to school; for classrooms where masking is strictly adhered to as required, physical distance of 3 to 6 feet is acceptable for return.
- **Option 3:**<sup>3</sup> Quarantine period is for seven calendar days after the last exposure if:
  - No symptoms developed during daily monitoring AND the individual has a negative SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic test (PCR) that was collected within 48 hours of exposure day 7 (starting on day 6 or after).
    - The individual is responsible for obtaining a copy of the negative results for documentation purposes.
  - The individual can maintain physical distancing and masking at all times when returning to school; for classrooms where masking is strictly adhered to as required, physical distance of 3 to 6 feet is acceptable for return.
- **Option 4:** Test to Stay Strategy, as has been documented by CDC,<sup>4</sup> if schools test close contacts, as defined above, on days one, three, five, and seven from date of exposure by a PCR or rapid antigen or molecular emergency use authorization (EUA)-approved test, close contacts are permitted to remain in the classroom as long as the results are negative. (See [IDPH’s Interim Guidance on Testing for COVID-19 in Community Settings and Schools](#) for specific details on testing in schools.)
  - Test to Stay is only applicable when both the COVID-19-confirmed case and close contact were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting masks, regardless of vaccination status (universal masking), as required by [Executive Order 2021-18](#).
  - Test to Stay may be used for any indoor exposure, with the exception of household exposures, for both students and staff who are not fully vaccinated.
  - Students or staff who are not fully vaccinated and engaged in Test to Stay after an exposure may participate in extracurricular activities. Local health departments have the authority to order a classroom-only Test-to-Stay protocol after assessing the risk of an individual situation.
  - However, if the close contact is identified five days or more from the date of

exposure, adjust testing accordingly, ideally on days five and seven after the last exposure.

- When testing in the outlined cadence is not possible due to weekends and holidays, students and staff who are not fully vaccinated should be tested at the earliest possible opportunity.
- At the conclusion of the Test to Stay modified quarantine period, the school should notify the local health department that the individual has successfully completed testing and remained negative.
- Local health departments have the authority to assess high-risk exposures and order a traditional quarantine without the option for Test to Stay.
- If at any time the student tests positive or becomes symptomatic, they should be immediately isolated and sent home, and the local health department notified.

**Regardless of when an individual ends quarantine, daily symptom monitoring should continue through calendar day 14 after the exposure.** Individuals should continue to adhere to recommended mitigation strategies, including proper and consistent mask use, physical distancing, hand hygiene, cough hygiene, environmental cleaning and disinfection, avoiding crowds and sick people, and ensuring adequate indoor ventilation. **If any symptoms develop during or after ending quarantine, the individual should immediately self-isolate** and contact their local health department or healthcare provider to report their symptoms. The health department can provide guidance on how to safely quarantine and isolate within the household.

## Appendix B – Return to School Guidelines for Parents (22-23 update)

### Return to School - Guidelines for Parents

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Individuals with COVID-19 can experience a wide range of signs and symptoms that may vary from very mild to severe. Symptoms may appear **2-14 days after exposure to the virus.**

Students experiencing any COVID-19 symptom (listed below) during the school day must be excluded from school.

Your child has exhibited or complained of the following symptom(s):

- |                                          |                                                |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| _____ Fever (100.0 or greater) or chills | _____ Cough                                    |
| _____ Headache                           | _____ Sore Throat                              |
| _____ Vomiting                           | _____ Difficulty breathing/shortness of breath |
| _____ Diarrhea                           | _____ Muscle or body aches                     |
| _____ Fatigue                            |                                                |
| _____ New loss of taste/smell            |                                                |

According to CDC Guidance:

Your child will need to stay home for:

- At least 24 hours after fever, vomiting, and diarrhea has resolved (without fever-reducing medication)
- All other symptoms have improved
- It has been at least 5 days since the onset of symptoms

Students may return in fewer than 5 days after meeting one of these conditions:

- With verified medical documentation of alternate diagnosis as a reason for symptoms OR
- With documentation of negative COVID-19 test (home tests accepted)

Pictures of home tests can be emailed to the school nurse including name, date of birth, and date and time of test in Sharpie on the test.

## Appendix C - Robinson CUSD2 Covid Health Policies (Updated for 22-23)

Students/staff that display **one or more** of the following symptoms will be evaluated by the school nurse and sent home from school:

- Fever 100.0 or higher- **must be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school**
- Moderate/Severe headache
- Shortness of breath
- New cough
- Sore throat
- Vomiting- **must be 24 hours with no vomiting before returning to school**
- Diarrhea- **must be 24 hours with no diarrhea before returning to school**
- New loss of sense of taste or smell
- Fatigue of an unknown cause
- Muscle or body aches from an unknown cause

Students/staff that stay home or are sent home for any of these symptoms will need a **negative COVID test (home tests accepted), doctors note with an alternative diagnosis, or will need to remain out of school for 5 days before they can return.**

Students/staff that have a family member with a pending test or symptoms can remain at school as long as they are asymptomatic.

Positive COVID tests should be reported to the school nurse. Pictures of home tests can be emailed to the school nurse including name, date of birth, and date and time of test in Sharpie on the test. Positive cases should isolate at home for 5 days from onset of symptoms (or test date if asymptomatic) and can return to school if no fever and symptoms are improving with a mask after 5 days. If unable to mask, fever still present, or worsening symptoms, positive cases should remain home for the full 10 days.

If a student/staff member tests positive, siblings and family members can return to school as long as they are vaccinated and asymptomatic, or if unvaccinated and asymptomatic they may participate in test to stay.

Individuals who have had COVID-19 with a confirmed test within the past 3 months (90 days) who are now symptomatic do not need to be tested for COVID-19 and should be assessed for other illnesses.

**\*\*\*We will not be contact tracing for positive cases within the school unless required to do so by the health department at a later date.\*\*\***