



# Appendix H

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## UPDATE: Universal indoor masking required in schools

1 message

Illinois State Board of Education <hello@isbe.net>  
 Reply-To: covid19@isbe.net  
 To: jcarlson@senecahs.org

Wed, Aug 4, 2021 at 2:23 PM

Governor JB Pritzker will announce at 2:30 p.m. today an Executive Order that supports safe in-person learning and requires that masks be worn indoors by all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.

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Dear Superintendents:

Governor JB Pritzker will announce at 2:30 p.m. today an Executive Order that supports safe in-person learning and **requires** that masks be worn indoors by all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strengthened its guidance last week for universal indoor masking in schools, and Illinois will continue to follow the science, data, and public health experts to keep students in school and keep communities safe. We know that consistent and correct mask use is the simplest, most effective way to keep students safely in school, where they can learn and grow to their fullest potential.

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and ISBE will issue updated guidance to reflect this change. For more information, I encourage you to tune in for the Governor's [press conference](#).

All schools in the state of Illinois also now have access to free COVID-19 screening testing through the IDPH. IDPH will host two K-12 Testing Guidance webinars to provide additional clarification on new testing guidance and answer questions from districts on how to implement a screening testing program. Register below.

- 11 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 5: [Register](#)
- 1 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 11: [Register](#)

For our students, families, and educators who are eligible, vaccination remains the best protection against further spread. Vaccination is effective in preventing severe illness, hospitalization, and death and is effective against the Delta variant. As trusted leaders in your communities, I urge you to continue to promote and provide opportunities for your staff, families, and eligible students to receive the life-saving COVID-19 vaccine. A multitude of resources to help you share about vaccination opportunities are available at [www.isbe.net/covid19](http://www.isbe.net/covid19).

Sincerely,

Dr. Carmen I. Ayala  
 State Superintendent of Education  
 Illinois State Board of Education

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The Illinois State Board of Education is the State Education Agency for Illinois. Our mission is to provide each and every child with safe and healthy learning conditions, great educators, and equitable opportunities by practicing data-informed stewardship of resources and policy development, all done in partnership with educators, families, and stakeholders.

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