

**Aviston Elementary District #21
School Reopening FAQs**

1. What will determine whether my child(ren) will have in-person, remote or a combination of the modes of learning?

The return to school plan approved on July 15, 2020 was for the full, in-person start to school. A sudden change in the county-wide status to a heightened risk of COVID-19 transmission caused the district to postpone school for two weeks and begin with remote learning with the encouragement of the local health department.

On September 8, 2020 the district will reopen the building to in-person instruction and follow the July 15th approved plan. A building-specific metric is being developed with approval from the local health department to determine when partial or full remote learning should be implemented. This metric will be presented for Board of Education consideration on September 16, 2020. Currently, a plan is being developed for partial in-person learning to limit building capacities and a threshold for when the shift to full remote learning is needed. A weekly update is planned to inform parents of the health status of the school.

Should there be a need to consider an alternative to in-person instruction between September 8 and 16th, it will be at the directive of the local health officials and/or state-level orders from the Illinois Department of Health, Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Governor's Office. Similarly, state-level officials have the authority to change learning modes at any time, regardless of district-level plans.

Remote learning remains an available option to all families. Specifics for remote learning can be found in the district's reopening plan.

2. How will the two week delay and remote learning affect the school calendar?

Students will continue to receive the full year of instruction, which is 176 attendance days. The overall calendar has shifted two weeks to accommodate the change. The Clinton County schools are considering how to use minor holidays to move the last day of school to the earliest date possible and still fulfill the necessary attendance days. The establishment of a revised calendar will come at a later time.

3. If my child becomes ill at home, what do I do?

DO NOT SEND THEM TO SCHOOL. Call (228-7245) or email the school secretary (schoolsecretary@avistonk-8.org) to report the illness. If the illness is COVID-related

(positive test, quarantine due to close contact, monitoring symptoms, etc.) provide details so the school can track the expected date of return according to CDC guidelines.

Return to school guidance will be provided according to the “COVID-19 Exclusion Guidance” and “IDPH FAQ for Schools” found on the school website.

Students should be diagnostically tested if they are exhibiting COVID-like symptoms. Confirmed or probably cases must complete 10 calendar days of isolation from the date of first symptom onset **and** be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication **and** other symptoms have improved before returning to school.

4. What if my child becomes ill at school?

Students showing COVID-like symptoms will immediately be placed in the nurse’s station room, away from the general population of students and staff. They will be closely monitored by office staff as a parent/guardian is contacted to pick up the student.

Students will be sent home with COVID-like symptoms and should be diagnostically tested. They should remain home from school until they receive the test results.

It is required that siblings/household members be sent home as well and quarantined for 14 days.

5. What if my child has a known condition causing COVID-like symptoms, e.g., allergies, migraine, etc.? Can this be taken into consideration?

Every symptomatic person should be evaluated by their healthcare provider on a case-by-case basis and decisions to test for COVID-19 should be based on their personal health history.

6. If my family chooses remote learning, or if my child is temporarily unable to come to school because of illness, what options are available?

The school will work closely with parents and the students to determine if there is a need for an alternative to in-person instruction. Aviston District #21 will consider remote instruction for any student at the request of their parent/guardian. Parents should contact the main office if they would like more information about remote learning and what it entails.

Remote instruction will initially consist of receiving daily work from the classroom teacher through a remote learning liaison, such as a paraprofessional teacher’s aide. Remote instruction is currently planned as archived recordings of classroom instruction with the ability for students to review the instruction after teachers have posted links to the

videos. Instruction for remote learners may be delayed to allow teachers time to post content. Efforts will be made to include remote learners in occasional activities to interact with the in-person learners. Parents must be understanding that teaching in two modes and posting content poses a challenge for teachers and should exercise patience.

Students working in the remote format will continue to be subject to the district grading criteria similarly to students receiving in-person instruction. A Remote Learning Agreement will need to be signed and filed with the main office with the understanding that a commitment until the end of the 9-week grading period is required for remote learning.

Should a family need to have the remote learning option due to COVID-19 positivity, quarantine or self-isolation, the student may return to in-person learning immediately when released by a healthcare provider.

7. What happens if someone in the school (or specifically, a classroom) tests positive for COVID-19?

The school will send a notification home to families if a staff member or child tests positive for COVID-19. Due to confidentiality requirements, the person will not be specifically identified in the notification.

Students and staff in “close contact” with the positive case will be notified by the district and reported to the local health department for contact tracing efforts.

Close contact is defined as “anyone who was within 6 feet of a confirmed case of COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes throughout the course of a day”. This includes situations with or without face masks being used.

8. How will athletics be affected by the reopening plans?

Athletics are governed by the SIJHSAA rules and regulations, which determines the scope and availability of school athletics. If the school has in-person instruction available, it is the intention to continue to have team practices and sporting events.

It is imperative that the teams, coaches and fans follow IDPH and SIJHSAA guidelines to continue to have these events. Athletes and coaches must follow facemask guidelines and social distancing at all times. Fans are required to practice social distancing of 6-feet between household units and groups of 50 or more must be spaced 30-feet apart. Face masks are not required for spectators when outdoors.

9. What are the new bus procedures this year?

Each child riding the bus to school will need to have a parent/guardian complete a daily checklist sheet for symptoms and give it to the bus driver when boarding the bus. This includes students coming to school from daycare. Forms are not required on return routes at the end of the day. These forms are available in the school entryway and will be sent home with students as needed after the first in-person school day.

Masks must be worn by everyone on the bus, including the driver. A maximum limit of 50 people per bus is allowed and mid-route drop-offs to school will be necessary to remain within capacity limits.

10. What are the new morning drop-off procedures? .

The school building will open at 8 am. All drop offs will remain at the front of the school building. Students will need to go to the appropriate entrance to begin the health screening process. School staff will be available with clearly labeled carts to signify which grade levels should move through a specific station.

PK, K, 1: Enter through the main entrance.

2, 3, 4: Enter at the end of the primary wing (north side).

5, 6: Enter at cafeteria entrance.

7, 8: Enter at the end of junior high wing (north side).

If inclement weather occurs, we will move students as quickly as possible through the screening line, but an umbrella may be helpful.

11. What are the new afternoon pick-up procedures?

Pick up will remain the same as last year, except teachers and paraprofessionals will be timing the release of students to avoid large numbers in the cafeteria and other areas of the school as they wait to be released.

Parents may wait outside, but are encouraged to wear face masks and should, at a minimum, maintain a social distance of 6 feet from other individuals.

