

# Indian Valley Vocational Center

## 2021-2022 Health and Safety Plan

Based on guidance from  
ISBE, IDPH, CDC, DCHD

IVVC has prepared educational plans and operational protocols, based on guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), the Illinois Department of Health (IDPH), and Dekalb County Health Department.

This plan was formed through coordination, input and communication with personnel from our sending districts of Yorkville, Plano, Sandwich, Hinckley - Big Rock, Somonauk, Indian Creek, Leland, Earlville, Serena and Newark. Additionally, the Dekalb County Health Department, Dekalb County Regional Office of Education, IVVC Teacher Committee, Sandwich Police Department and Sandwich Fire Department were part of the collaboration. Guidance from the CDC, ISBE and IDPH were taken into consideration as the plan was developed. This plan is subject to change as guidelines and the pandemic evolves.

Students benefit from in-person learning, and safely returning to in-person instruction in the fall 2021 is a priority. Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Promoting vaccination can help schools safely return to in-person learning as well as extracurricular activities and sports.

IVVC is committed to the health and safety of our students, staff, and their families. While our plan specifies guidelines for our staff, students, and building to follow, safety is the responsibility of each individual. Each staff member must ensure their own health and safety by adhering to these guidelines and reporting any issues or safety concerns to their building to the Director or his designee.

### **Physical Distancing**

IVVC students and staff are encouraged to maintain physical distancing (3 feet separation) throughout the school day. Signage reminding staff and students to maintain physical distancing will be placed at all entrances, in classrooms and throughout other common areas. Physical distancing applies to all areas including the classrooms, labs, hallways, bathrooms, outside and the main office. Student mixing must be reduced to a minimum.

### **Face Coverings and P.P.E.**

IVVC does understand that physical distancing will not be possible for all circumstances, especially in lab and scenario settings. All individuals in school buildings (students and staff) will be required to properly wear a nose and mouth covering in all areas of the building, at all times unless they have trouble breathing or are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance. Face coverings must be worn at all times in school buildings even when physical distancing is maintained. A doctor's note is required for students and staff who are not able to wear a face cover for medical reasons. In this event, a face shield will be required.–This requirement is subject to change as IDPH/ISBE guidelines evolve.

### **Hand Hygiene**

Frequent hand washing and hand sanitizing is key to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Staff members must clean hands as often as possible with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol may be used. Staff must avoid touching their mouth, eyes, or nose as much as possible. Staff and students are encouraged to sanitize upon entering the classroom each time. Hand sanitizer is available at the entry point in every classroom and bathroom via wall mount dispenser.

### **Health Screenings**

Only students and staff who are healthy should report to school. Students and staff with any of the following symptoms of COVID-19 must remain home:

- Cough
- Congestion
- Fatigue
- Shortness of Breath
- New Loss of Taste or Smell
- Sore throat
- Headache
- Nausea or Vomiting
- Muscle or Body Aches
- Fever or chills

Any student who begins to exhibit a high fever associated with COVID-19 like symptoms must report to the health office located in the main office, following the building procedure. Students will remain in the quarantine area until a parent or guardian picks the student up, or alternative transportation home is arranged. IVVC will contact the student's home nurse and follow directions provided for when/how a student may return to school.

Unvaccinated students who have had contact with someone who is positive for COVID-19 must follow the IDPH guidelines for self-monitoring and self-quarantine as well as notify IVVC and their home school immediately.

Parents or guardians of symptomatic students may choose to utilize BinaxNow testing at IVVC. Upon parent consent, a symptomatic student may be tested in the health office.

### **Symptom Self-Certification**

Staff and students will certify at the beginning of the year that they will not come to work or school while experiencing COVID-like symptoms, which include:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

### **Illness and Diagnosis Monitoring**

IVVC will coordinate with Home Schools to develop a tracking procedure to maintain ongoing monitoring of individuals excluded from school because they have COVID-19-like symptoms, have been diagnosed with COVID-19, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 and are in quarantine. This process must ensure that all CDC and local health authority criteria for discontinuing home isolation or quarantine are met before a student or staff member returns to school. Tracking methods must include checking in with the school nurse at the home school upon return to school to verify resolution of symptoms and that any other criteria for discontinuation of quarantine have been met. Tracking must take place prior to a return to the classroom.

### **Visitor Plan**

Visitors must always wear an appropriate and approved face covering and report directly to the main office and enter through Door 1 for a wellness screening.

### **General Classroom Guidance**

Teachers must assign student seating and encourage students to remain in these seats to the greatest extent possible.

- Seating must be arranged 3 feet apart and must all be facing the same direction if feasible.
- Hand washing must be encouraged throughout the day
- Hand sanitizing should occur whenever anyone enters the classroom
- School supplies should not be shared between students or staff
- Classrooms will be cleaned multiple times daily
- Building staff must review their student arrival and departure procedures.

### **Hallways, Main Office, and Common Areas**

- Maintain three feet physical distancing when possible
- Required face coverings for staff and students
- Perform health screenings for visitors
- Display visible signage reminding everyone of physical distancing and face covering usage at entryways, hallways, classrooms, and common areas
- Clean high touch areas throughout the day

### **Restrooms**

- Maintain three feet physical distancing
- Require face coverings for staff and students
- Display clearly visible signage reminding everyone of physical distancing and face coverings
- Schedule/coordinate restroom and handwashing breaks when possible
- Clean high touch areas throughout the day
- Assign restrooms to classrooms

### **Shared Objects**

The CDC recommends that electronic devices or learning aids not be shared.

Electronics, including, but not limited to, chromebooks, iPads, touchscreens, keyboards, remote controls, should be cleaned before and after use. Items that must be shared or communally used should be cleaned after each use and individuals must perform hand hygiene between use. Do not send students to borrow any items from other classrooms.

### **Preparing for When a Student or Staff Member Becomes Sick**

Families and staff should report positive cases to the school where the individual attends school or works, to initiate contact tracing. Attendance personnel should request

specific symptom reporting when absences are reported, along with COVID-19 diagnoses and COVID-19 exposure. Information will be documented and shared with appropriate personnel and the local health department. In accordance with state and federal guidance, school community members who are sick should not return to school until they have met the criteria to return.

### **Safety Education for Students**

Students will be receiving education and guidance for proper physical distancing, proper use of PPE, and proper hand hygiene during the first two (2) weeks of school.

### **Transportation**

Transportation to and from IVVC will be provided by home districts. Any other transportation of students will be coordinated by IVVC with the home district. Individual student transportation will be handled on a district by district basis. Student parking areas will be designated.

### **Facilities**

Sanitation, hygiene, and PPE supplies will be ordered and stockpiled for employee access. Maintenance staff will be trained on the return to school guidelines, where applicable. These procedures will include extra sanitation efforts using certified EPA products in both low/high contact areas including:

- Countertops
- Desktops
- Door handles
- Bottle fillers
- Handrails
- Light switches
- Lab areas
- Restroom fixtures

The Building custodian and any other cleaning personnel will conduct daily cleaning and disinfection. An EPA approved cleaner will be used for disinfection along with our standard cleaning protocols. All frequently touched surfaces (e.g., door handles/knobs, desktops/tabletops, countertops, light switches, pencil sharpeners, computer keyboards, hands-on learning items, phones, toys, cubbies/coat and backpack areas, sinks and faucets) will be cleaned on a regular basis. Restrooms, hallways, labs, and high touch common areas will be cleaned throughout the day. Items such as cloth toys or other cloth material items that cannot be disinfected must not be used. Cleaning schedules will be created and implemented for all facilities and equipment.

## **Health Office**

All school health offices will:

- Allow for three feet of distance between students, separation area for sick students, sink for hygiene, appropriate lighting, and proper ventilation
- Limit the number of individuals allowed in at one time.
- Provide a supervised quarantine space for students/staff who are experiencing COVID-19-like symptoms and may be awaiting evaluation and/or pickup. Students must never be left alone and must be supervised at all times while maintaining necessary precautions within the quarantine space.
- Disinfect a space after it is occupied by a student and deep clean daily.
- Per CDC guidance, close off areas used by a sick person; do not use these areas until after cleaning and disinfecting.
- Supply the administrator/designee working with individuals with illness symptoms with appropriate PPE. Appropriate PPE should be used in conjunction with appropriate hand hygiene and standard precautions.
- Implement strategies to reduce unnecessary visits from students, staff, and visitors; reduce health office congestion; reduce exposure to infection, and allow for separation.
- Perform daily cleaning of high-touch surfaces in the health office with a disinfectant noted to kill the coronavirus.

## **Recommendations for Families**

- The CDC recommends everyone 12 years of age and older get vaccinated for COVID-19.
- Please make sure all emergency contact information is up to date.
- All students should stay home if they are sick, with any illness symptoms.
- The CDC recommends everyone 6 months of age and older get vaccinated every flu season with rare exceptions. Flu symptoms overlap with coronavirus symptoms. Please vaccinate your children for influenza this fall.
- When reporting illness absences, be sure to report if your child is
  - ○ Is a close contact of someone with a positive COVID 19 test
  - ○ Has signs of coronavirus
  - ○ Has been diagnosed with coronavirus
  - ○ Has been diagnosed with influenza (respiratory flu).
- For students with asthma, no nebulizer treatments will be given at school during the pandemic. Asthma action plans should reflect the use of asthma inhalers and spacers.

## **Communication**

Throughout the 2021-22 school year, IVVC will utilize the following communication methods to keep stakeholders up to date on changes regarding all protocols:

IVVC Website [www.ivvc.net](http://www.ivvc.net)

Social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)

Eblast through Teacherease\*

Individual Program communication

\*All parents/guardians who wish to receive communication should make sure email addresses and phone numbers are up to date in Teacherease.

## **ESSER III Use of Funds Plan**

The Indian Valley Vocational Center (IVVC) is eligible to receive state and federal funding as a part of the American Rescue Plan, also referred to as ESSER III funds. IVVC intends to use the ESSER III funds in the following ways:

1. First, monies will be allocated to learning loss recovery. Stipends and supplies will be provided for teachers to focus five additional days during summer break to enhance lost learning.
2. Second, monies will be used to provide extended school programming to our students through student competitions within SkillsUSA. Extended school programming is meant to target students needing opportunities to remediate and perfect their skills within given areas of study.
3. Additional chromebooks will be purchased to reduce sharing among students and mitigate the transfer of the COVID-19 virus.
4. Carpet will be removed from classrooms in order to enhance the effectiveness of sanitation and reduce potential virus spread as recommended by the CDC.
5. Enhanced air quality measures will be taken to improve air quality in designated areas of the facility.