

Parents/Guardians: What to Expect



A Guide to Fall 2020

The Cove School provides highly individualized education and life strategies for children with learning disabilities.

Where miracles happen every day.

A Day in the Life of a Cove Student

Learning at School

Given the health and safety challenges associated with reopening school during a global pandemic, students, staff, and families must be prepared for school to look and feel different. Although these changes may feel difficult at first, we believe they are necessary to support the safety of our students and staff. Cove's academic and clinical teams will work to ensure all students are properly supported.

When students attend school in-person, this is what they can expect their day to look like:



1

Getting Ready for School

Families will complete the required self-certification protocol at home. Students will bring their **clean cloth face covering** with them.



2

Transportation to Cove

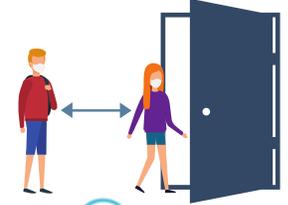
Students will **wear cloth face coverings** while on school transportation. Students sit by themselves on buses or cabs and are spaced to ensure proper social distancing.



3

Arrival at School

Drop-off is between 8:00-8:30 a.m. and may be staggered. **Temperature checks will be done at transportation** and then students will **enter through assigned doors** closest to their unit while maintaining proper **social distancing**. Upon entering the building, students will **wash or sanitize their hands**.



4

Entering the Classroom

Students will follow traffic flow patterns in the hallways, maintain **social distancing**, and **go straight to their homerooms**. Students sit in assigned desks, eat meals in their rooms, and **stay within their pod for the duration of the school day**.



5

Following Classroom Procedures

Upon entering the classroom, students will go directly to their **assigned desk and seat**. Students will ask permission to leave that area.

Students and teachers will wear a mask at all times and student-teacher close contact will be limited. Students will have their own supplies to eliminate cross contamination.



6

Taking Bathroom/Lunch Breaks

Students will need to **ask staff for permission to use the facilities**, they will be escorted by staff, remain socially distanced while waiting, and wash hands thoroughly after use. Bathrooms will be cleaned frequently during the day.

Students will **eat lunch in their classroom**. They will wash their hands before and after lunch and may remove their face coverings during this time.



7

Accessing Content

Students remain in their pods throughout the day. **English and Math will be delivered live with synchronous remote access**. Specials/elective teachers may join their class remotely or provide classrooms with pre-recorded instruction.



8

Receiving Student Services

Clinicians and specialists, among other related service providers, **will continue to provide student services**. Services may be provided **in-person with social distancing or remotely**. Staff will have appropriate PPE depending on their job duties.



9

Movement and P.E.

Morning movement will be held in the classroom and students will have the opportunity to access their locker or use bathroom facilities with staff permission.

Movement and Physical Education will be held outside, weather permitting. **Pods will also have designated outdoor zones**. In the case of inclement weather, students will participate in the classroom.

Students will wash/sanitize hands upon returning to class.



10

School Dismissal

When school ends at 2:00 p.m. for EL/JH and 2:30 p.m. for HS, students will wait in their homeroom until called for transportation. They will then proceed immediately to transportation while maintaining social distancing and following hallway traffic flow procedures.

A Day in the Life of a Cove Student

Building Protocol and Classroom Expectations



Building Protocol

- Before entering the building, self-certification is required and temperature checks will be administered. All individuals entering the building must wear a face covering.
- Elementary and Junior High students will enter through the Main Office door. High School students will enter through the High School door. Students and staff will maintain social distancing as they enter the school building and proceed directly to their homeroom.
- Bathrooms will be cleaned frequently throughout the day. Students will ask for staff permission to use the designated facility, remain socially distanced while waiting and wash hands thoroughly after use.
- Lockers can be accessed with staff permission and will be cleaned before and after use by a staff member.
- In the hallways, students will be expected to maintain social distance and follow traffic directions posted on floors. Congregating in the hallway is prohibited.
- When Pods utilize outdoor spaces, students will be expected to stay in their designated zones and practice proper social distancing.



Classroom Protocol

- Once in the classroom, students will proceed immediately to their assigned desk and chair. They will remain seated/standing in their desk area and must ask for permission from a staff member to move from that designated area.
- Students must ask permission to leave the room to visit their locker or restroom. Students leaving the classroom will be escorted by a staff member.
- Students will eat lunch in the classroom. Students may remove their face coverings during this time, but only after washing their hands thoroughly. When students are finished eating, they will wash their hands and put face coverings back on.
- Each student will have their own water bottle and they will follow classroom procedures for refilling and cleaning.
- Materials will not be shared to eliminate cross-contamination. Instead, students will have designated materials assigned for their individual use stored in a container at their desk.

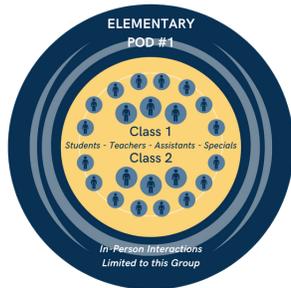
PODS: AN OVERVIEW



What is a Pod?

Students will be assigned to Pods, small groups comprised of a limited amount of students and staff. The Pod model limits exposure and reduces potential viral transmission, allows us to conduct rapid contact tracing and potentially reduces the need to disrupt learning for the school community if a case of COVID-19 is identified.

Reducing Exposure, Reducing Risk



An example of how the pod model in Cove's Elementary Unit reduces potential exposure by minimizing in-person interaction.

- Cove is made up of 165 students and 112 staff members - a total of 277 individuals that a student would normally be exposed to by moving through classrooms and sharing common spaces.
- The Pod model reduces your child's exposure to roughly 15-20 students and 6-8 staff members while also maximizing clinical services and staff expertise.
- **By implementing pods, individual exposure to other students and staff is decreased by over 90%**



An Opportunity for Community

Pod assignments will be determined by students' academic and clinical teams and carefully considered as we plan for the new school year. We are encouraged by the opportunity for 'pod communities' that will emerge out of this model and look forward to cultivating space and time for responsible gathering, volunteering as needs arise, and growing together as Cove's Community.



What Happens if a Student or Staff Member is Displaying Symptoms of COVID-19?

- If a student or employee begins showing symptoms of COVID-19, they will be isolated immediately, removed from the building, and referred for testing.
- All information will be communicated to local Health Department for tracking purposes.
- The student/employee must remain at home for 14 day quarantine or until both:
 - A negative COVID-19 test result and corresponding positive test for flu is provided and
 - The individual is fever-free for at least 72 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication
 - Note - In the absence of testing or negative test results, the student or employee will be quarantined for a period of 14 days from the start of their symptoms.
- Families will be notified of a possible exposure event.
- Classroom or area of possible contamination will be closed for 24 hours, then cleaned in accordance with IDPH and local Health department guidelines.
- The Pod will be temporarily reassigned to another area during this 48 hour period.
- Anyone having had close contact with the student/staff member "MAY" be sent home to quarantine for a period of 10 days.
 - Please note that "close contact" is defined as being within 6 feet of the infected student or employee for a minimum of fifteen minutes without a mask.
- Those who did not have close contact may return to school/work so long as they remain symptom-free.

SHOWING
SYMPTOMS?
STAY HOME

RESTORE ILLINOIS: PHASE 4



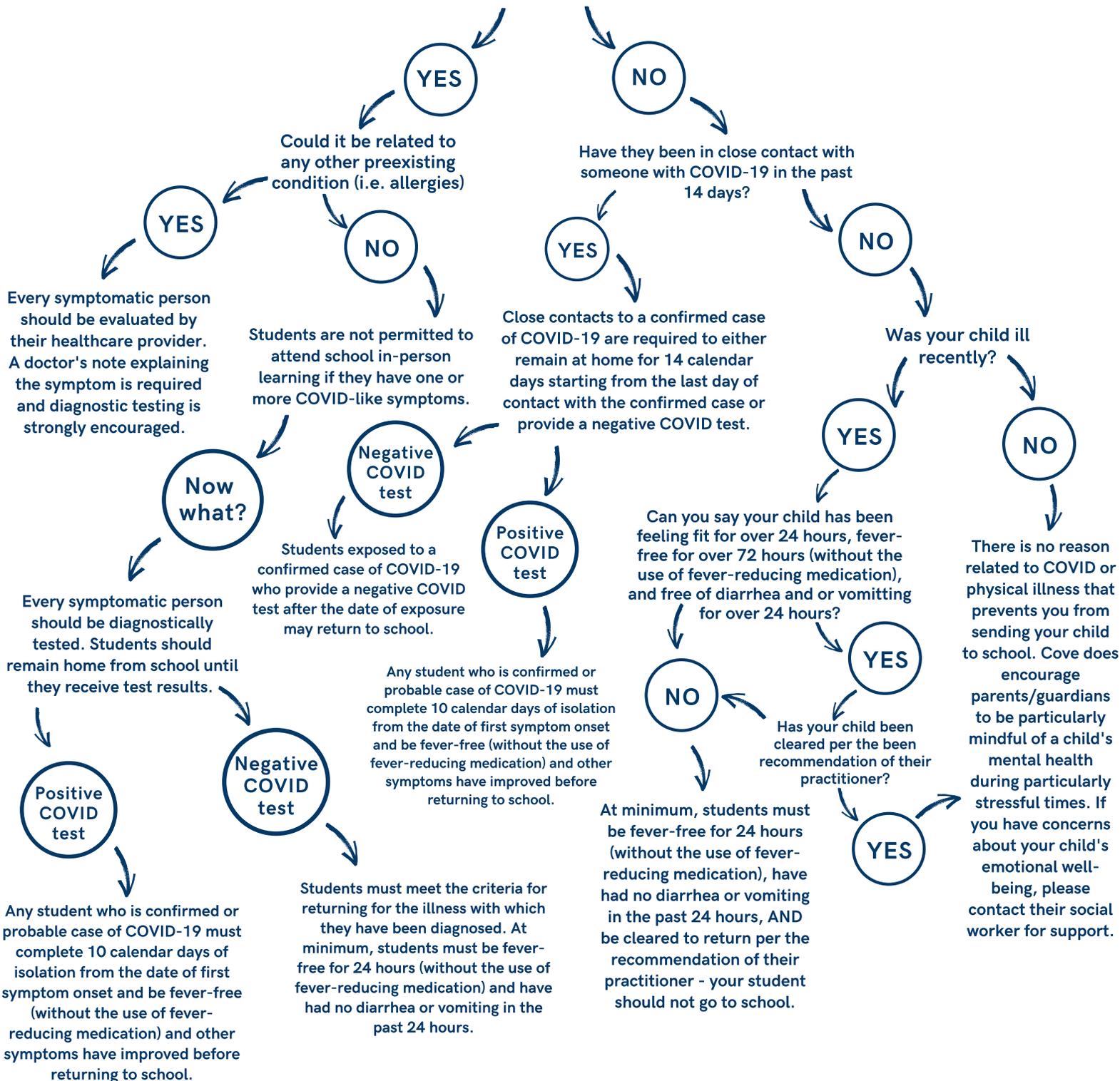
- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

The list does not include all possible symptoms. If you are experiencing any symptoms of illness, please stay home.



"Should I Send My Child to School?" Decision-Making Cheatsheet

Is your child exhibiting one or more COVID-like symptoms?



A Day in the Life of a Cove Student

Learning at Home



1

Get to School On Time

Students will be expected to **log in by the start of classes at 8:30 a.m.** They will follow the **in-person learning schedule as a member of an assigned Pod.** New remote learning expectations and will support remote students as integrated members of the live classroom.



2

Remote Participation

The remote learning program, like the in-person learning program, will consist of a **minimum of five instructional hours.** Students will be expected to be **on time** for each of their classes and **participate throughout the duration of the class.** Participation and work completion will count towards a student's overall grade.



3

Service Delivery & Accessing Content

Clinicians and specialists, among other related service providers, **will continue to provide student services if a student is working remotely.**

Remote Learning at Cove School

Cove students may elect to participate in our Remote Learning Program. Instruction will be provided in a synchronous manner where students who are at home will still participate in discussions with and collaborate with the teachers and students in their assigned classroom. Students are expected to be fully dressed in clothes that are appropriate for school in person. They also should participate at a desk or table. In the case of an emergency school closing, all students will participate in our Remote Learning Program.

It should be noted that expectations for remote learning have an emphasis on the following:

- Students should get dressed in regular school attire.
- Students should be sitting at a table or desk - beds are for after school.
- Chatting should be limited to lesson related discussions.
- Kindness matters.



In-Person

INSTRUCTION

- Students will be assigned to pods - small group comprised of two classes (15-18 students total) and 3 teachers.
- 2 hour literacy block, 1 hour math block, 1 hour science/social studies block.
- Video delivery of electives in the classroom.

PARTICIPATION

- In-class participation and group discussion weighed into class grade
- Small groups possible with social distancing and using desks as dividers

SUPPORT

- Ability to raise hand and receive feedback
- Can engage peers for support while maintaining social distance



Remote Learning

INSTRUCTION

- Students participating remotely will be assigned to a pod and follow in-person instruction via live stream from the classroom at Cove.
- Live stream of instruction (~30 min, followed by ~30 min of independent work for reading, writing, math and science/social studies).
- Access to elective videos.

PARTICIPATION

- Assignment completion serves as participation
- Opportunity for participation during class discussion
- Work to be completed independently

SUPPORT

- Can alert teacher that support is needed through Zoom tools (ex, handraising, messaging).

Flexibility to transition between delivery models with advanced notice.

Students receive high-quality, individualized service delivery in both models.

Checklist to Prepare Your Student for In-Person Learning with Face Coverings at **The Cove School**



Plan and Prepare

- Have multiple face coverings, so you can wash them daily and have back-ups ready.
- Label your child's cloth face coverings clearly in a permanent marker so that they are not confused with those of other children.
- Consider providing your child with a container (e.g., labeled, resealable bag) to store their face covering when it is not being worn (e.g., when eating).

Build Comfort Surrounding Face Coverings

- As a family, model wearing cloth face coverings, especially when social distancing is difficult to maintain.
- Praise your child for wearing a face covering correctly.
- Put a face covering on favorite stuffed animals or toys.
- Draw a face covering on a favorite book character.
- Show images of other children wearing face coverings.
- Allow your child to choose a face covering that considers their sensory needs.

Practice Makes Perfect

- Start by wearing face coverings during preferred activities.
- Watch Mr. Laube and Ms. Aniolowski's video while wearing a face covering.
- Slowly increase the amount of time your child is wearing a mask during the day.
- Practice with your child putting on and taking off face coverings without touching the cloth.

Take Care of Your Household's Emotional Health

- Talk with your child and answer their questions - let them voice out their fears or worries.
- Validate your child's feelings about wearing face coverings - communicate that what they are feeling is normal.
- Reach out to Cove for support - we hear you and are here for you.