



Illinois State Board of Education

Office of the Superintendent

Dear Superintendents:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its quarantine and isolation guidance with shorter isolation and quarantine periods of 5 days to focus on the period when a person is most infectious, followed by continued masking for an additional 5 days. CDC communicated on Jan. 4 that this guidance applies to the general population in the community, including workplaces and schools, and on Jan. 6, the CDC updated its [guidance](#) for school settings.

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and ISBE plan to align with CDC guidance on shortening isolation and quarantine periods for COVID-19 for schools. ISBE and IDPH will release updated guidance as soon as possible. In the meantime, please review the [IDPH Health Alert](#) for details on key changes that will take effect soon.

The CDC made these changes to reflect accumulating evidence that demonstrates that the majority of transmission occurs during the early periods of infection. Combined with continued adherence to universal indoor masking and highly effective vaccines, these changes will allow more students to stay safely in-person.

Thank you for your patience as we awaited clarity from the CDC, and thank you for all that you are doing to provide students the safe, in-person learning environment they need to thrive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carmen I. Ayala".

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