**South Pekin Grade School District 137**

**2021-2022 Learning Plan**

The South Pekin Grade School District 137 school board and administration is dedicated to providing as close to a pre pandemic educational experience for the students at SPGS as possible. With this being said, it is the intent of the board and administration to continue providing full in person learning from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. 5 days a week for all SPGS students. With the exception of the following items, South Pekin Grade School will be operating as it did prior to Covid-19:

**Remote Learning**

At the end of the 2020-2021 school year, students who were in a “medically fragile” situation were allowed to participate in remote learning. The CDC’s most recent CDC guidance (which has been adopted by the Illinois State Board of Education) states, "Beginning with the 2021-22 school year, all schools must resume fully in-person learning for all student attendance days, provided that, pursuant to [105 ILCS 5/10-30](http://link.isbe.net/c/6/?T=OTAyMDg4NDQ%3AMDItYjIxMTkwLThmOTY0ZGE4NjhjNjQ4ZDZhZmY1MjE3MTQyMTgzYmE4%3AdHJveS50ZWF0ZXJAbWN1c2Q3MDkub3Jn%3AY29udGFjdC0xMzhkMTI4NDZkZjRlYTExYTgxNjAwMGQzYTU5MTNiZC0wYjVjNDJjOGVlMDA0MDc4YmEwNmE3N2YxMzViYmEwOQ%3AdHJ1ZQ%3ANA%3A%3AaHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuaWxnYS5nb3YvbGVnaXNsYXRpb24vaWxjcy9mdWxsdGV4dC5hc3A_RG9jTmFtZT0wMTA1MDAwNTBLMTAtMzAmX2NsZGVlPWRISnZlUzUwWldGMFpYSkFiV04xYzJRM01Ea3ViM0puJnJlY2lwaWVudGlkPWNvbnRhY3QtMTM4ZDEyODQ2ZGY0ZWExMWE4MTYwMDBkM2E1OTEzYmQtMGI1YzQyYzhlZTAwNDA3OGJhMDZhNzdmMTM1YmJhMDkmZXNpZD0xZGFiNDM1MS1kZWUwLWViMTEtYmFjYi0wMDIyNDgwOGIwZDYjOn46dGV4dD0xMC0zMA&K=LVynSp6j3hoyqmwaqi_GsQ) and [105 ILCS 5/34-18.66](http://link.isbe.net/c/6/?T=OTAyMDg4NDQ%3AMDItYjIxMTkwLThmOTY0ZGE4NjhjNjQ4ZDZhZmY1MjE3MTQyMTgzYmE4%3AdHJveS50ZWF0ZXJAbWN1c2Q3MDkub3Jn%3AY29udGFjdC0xMzhkMTI4NDZkZjRlYTExYTgxNjAwMGQzYTU5MTNiZC0wYjVjNDJjOGVlMDA0MDc4YmEwNmE3N2YxMzViYmEwOQ%3AdHJ1ZQ%3ANQ%3A%3AaHR0cHM6Ly9pbGdhLmdvdi9sZWdpc2xhdGlvbi9pbGNzL2Z1bGx0ZXh0LmFzcD9Eb2NOYW1lPTAxMDUwMDA1MEszNC0xOC42NiZfY2xkZWU9ZEhKdmVTNTBaV0YwWlhKQWJXTjFjMlEzTURrdWIzSm4mcmVjaXBpZW50aWQ9Y29udGFjdC0xMzhkMTI4NDZkZjRlYTExYTgxNjAwMGQzYTU5MTNiZC0wYjVjNDJjOGVlMDA0MDc4YmEwNmE3N2YxMzViYmEwOSZlc2lkPTFkYWI0MzUxLWRlZTAtZWIxMS1iYWNiLTAwMjI0ODA4YjBkNg&K=lrmmWhrheZKJhOnUzO7wYg), remote instruction be made available for students who have not received a COVID-19 vaccine or who are not eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine, only while they are under quarantine consistent with guidance or requirements from a local public health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health."

South Pekin Grade School will offer remote instruction to students who meet this criteria. Remote instruction materials will be sent home and/or pushed out through Google Classroom.

**Safety Precautions and Enhanced Cleaning**

South Pekin Grade School will continue to have enhanced cleaning throughout the school day. This will include cleaning high touch areas, wiping down desks, and ensuring that high traffic areas are routinely cleaned.

South Pekin Grade School will ensure that hand sanitizer stations are placed in each classroom, and students will be encouraged to frequently use them. In addition, extra time will be allowed for students to wash their hands.

Water fountains will continue to be closed, and students will be able to have water bottles throughout the day. Water bottle fillers have been installed on each floor of the building, as well as in the gym lobby.

**Social Distancing**

Classrooms will be designed with social distancing in place, and to the greatest extent possible, students will be three to six feet away from their peers. Students will sit at tables in the lunchroom, and they will be socially distanced to the greatest extent possible. Students will eat breakfast in their classrooms, and they will be discouraged from lingering in the hallway in the morning. Social distancing guidelines may be enhanced if the district’s mitigation level enters level two or three.

**Vaccination**

The district views the vaccination status of students as private information. However, the district may have to require proof of vaccination for students in order to allow them to avoid certain mitigation strategies, such as healthy quarantining.

The district will not pressure parents to have their children vaccinated, and as vaccines become more available for children of all ages, the district respects the authority of parents to make those decisions for their children. Parents who are interested can visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov/) to find out where they can get their children vaccinated in our community.

**Health Screenings (Office)**

Students who report not feeling well during the school day will be screened for Covid-19 symptoms in the office. Any student who displays or reports a symptom that is associated with Covid-19 will be sent home, and will not be allowed to return to school until his or her symptoms are gone. Depending on the nature and number of symptoms, students who have Covid-19 symptoms may be asked to receive a negative Covid-19 test before they are allowed to return to school. The district will follow the same procedure for students who are called into school in the morning due to not feeling well.

**Face Coverings**

Due to the governor’s order that went in to place on August 4th, 2021, all students, staff, and visitors will be required to wear a face covering when indoors. While we are bound to follow the above guidance by law, when/and if this mandate should expire, we will follow the protocols as described below:

While in Mitigation Level 1 or Mitigation Level 2 of its Covid-19 Mitigation Level System (see next section), the district will be leaving the decision to mask up to parents and staff members. Should school and community transmission rates result in the district moving to Mitigation Level 3 of the Covid-19 Mitigation level System, the use of face coverings will be required for all students and staff members.

**Covid-19 Mitigation Level System**

South Pekin Grade School District 137 will determine mitigation levels by consulting the following Tazewell County data as well as the Tazewell County Health Department:

1. **Positivity Rate** (Test positivity = [County positive tests for 7 days]/[County total tests for same 7 days] x 100)
2. **New cases per 100,000** (Calculated as a rate = [County case count for 7 days] / [County population] x 100,000)
3. **Weekly count of new cases increase** (Total count of new cases reported during the 7 days is measured for the change from week to week for two consecutive weeks)
4. **Weekly count of new youth cases increase** (Total count of new cases that are Under 20 Years Old, reported during the 7 days is measured for the change from week to week for two consecutive weeks)

Link to the metrics: <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/countyschool?county=Tazewell>

When any three of the four data points are listed as “moderate” or “substantial”, **and** 1) the district has had a positive Covid-19 test that can be connected to transmission at the school **or** 2) the daily number of positive cases and quarantines among the staff and students at South Pekin Grade School increases substantially, the district will enter **Mitigation Level 2**.

When any three of the four data points are listed as “substantial”, **and** 1) the district has had a positive Covid-19 test that can be connected to transmission at the school **or** 2) the daily number of positive cases and quarantines among the staff and students at South Pekin Grade School increases substantially, the district will enter **Mitigation Level 3**.

The district will implement the following strategies at each Mitigation Level to limit the transmission of Covid-19:

**Mitigation Level 1**

1. Masks are recommended if closer than three feet for more than 15 minutes. Masks are required on the school bus.
2. Use of seating charts in the classroom, at lunch, and while on the bus.
3. To the greatest extent possible, students will be three feet from their peers.
4. Parents are asked to self screen their child(ren) for Covid-19 symptoms. Students with symptoms should be kept at home and the symptom reported to the office.
5. On an appointment level only, visitors, guest speakers, etc. are allowed at the school.

**Mitigation Level 2**

1. Masks are required if closer than three feet for more than 15 minutes and on the school bus.
2. Use of seating charts in the classroom, at lunch, and while on the bus.
3. Social distancing will be closely monitored, and certain activities that require students to be closer than 3 feet to their peers for a sustained amount of time will be eliminated.
4. Parents are asked to self screen their children for Covid-19 symptoms. Students with symptoms should be kept at home and the symptom reported to the office.
5. Students will be screened for fever as they enter the school.
6. Only “essential” visitors will be allowed at the school.
7. All field trips and/or assemblies will be postponed until the school re-enters Mitigation Level 1.

**Mitigation Level 3**

1. Masks are required for all staff and students at all times.
2. Use of seating charts in the classroom, at lunch, and while on the bus.
3. Every effort will be made to ensure that at least 6 feet of social distancing is allowed for all staff and students at all times.
4. Students will eat lunch at individual desks.
5. Parents are asked to self screen their children for Covid-19 symptoms. Students with symptoms should be kept at home and the symptom reported to the office.
6. Students will be screened for fever as they enter the school
7. Visitors will not be allowed at the school.
8. Students will not change for P.E.
9. All field trips and/or assemblies will be postponed until the school re-enters Mitigation Level 1.

If the district has to enter Mitigation Level 2 or Mitigation Level 3, the following criteria must be met in order for it to return to the previous Mitigation Level:

1. The data points used to determine Mitigation Levels return to the necessary levels.
2. Fourteen days have elapsed since the district’s positive Covid-19 test that was associated with transmission at the school.

**Contact Tracing**

South Pekin Grade School District 137 recognizes that contact tracing and quarantine notification done by the school is a prevention strategy recognized by the IDPH. The district also recognizes that in its July 9th update, the IDPH allows school districts to remove prevention strategies one at a time if local conditions and Covid-19 numbers allow for it. At the end of the 1st quarter of the school year, South Pekin Grade School will examine data related to contact tracing and the spread of Covid-19 among students and staff who have been quarantined. If the district is in Mitigation Level 1 or 2, and school wide data shows that a large majority of the students and staff who have been quarantined have not tested positive Covid-19, the district will remove this prevention strategy. The district will still report all positive cases to the Health Department, and it will honor quarantines issued by the Health Department. If the district moves to Mitigation Level 3, contract tracing and quarantine notification will resume and continue until the district is able to return to Mitigation Level 1 or 2.

**Close Contacts and Quarantines**

The district will follow the most recent CDC and IDPH guidance to determine close contacts (if contact tracing). Students and staff who are quarantined by the Health Department will be required to follow CDC and IDPH guidance. The most recent guidance states:

1. Students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student are not treated as close contacts as long as both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of a well-fitting mask and other K-12 school prevention strategies were in place.
2. If students are not consistently masked, then close contacts are classroom students who were within 6 feet of the infected student for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.
3. In general, individuals who are solely exposed to a confirmed case while outdoors should not be considered close contacts. The longer a person is exposed to an infected person, the higher the risk exposure/transmission.
4. The infectious period of close contact begins two calendar days before the onset of symptoms (for a symptomatic person) or two calendar days before the positive sample was obtained (for an asymptomatic person).
5. Persons who have had lab-confirmed COVID-19 within the past 90 days or those fully vaccinated who remain asymptomatic, according to CDC guidelines, are not required to quarantine if identified as a close contact to a confirmed case.

**Quarantine Length**

If universal masking is not in place (Mitigation Levels 1 and 2), students and staff who are considered close contacts (for definition see above) by the Health Department will be required to quarantine for 14 days.

If universal masking is in place (Mitigation Level 3), students and staff who are considered close contacts (for definition see above) by the Health Department will have the following options:

1. Quarantine for 14 days.
2. If asymptomatic, end quarantine after day 10. Individuals must continue to monitor for symptoms, and would be required to return to quarantine if symptoms develop. Masking and social distancing is required during days 10-14.
3. If asymptomatic, end quarantine on 8. Individuals who choose this option must have a negative PCR Covid-19 test on day 6 or 7. Masking and social distancing is required during days 10-14.

**Continued Evaluation of Plan**

The administration and board of education have the right to alter or adjust this program if the data or guidance changes. Again, it is in the best interest of our students, staff, and community to keep our students in our school buildings provided we can offer all concerned a safe and healthy learning environment.