



Galesburg Community Unit School District 205

932 Harrison Street
Galesburg, IL 61401
Ph. (309) 973-2000
Fax (309) 343-7757
www.galesburg205.org

The information contained below is meant to be a more detailed explanation of the Governor's Executive Order requiring vaccinations for school employees. While we have attempted to answer questions we have either already received or presumed we would receive at some point, there may be some information that is not completely understood. If you still have questions after reading this document, please contact Jennifer Shissler, the District Health Services Coordinator at jshissler@galesburg205.org.

General Rule. "School Personnel" for both public and private schools must be vaccinated for COVID-19 or tested at least weekly for COVID-19 infection. School Personnel include employees, volunteers, contractors, and employees of contractors who are in close contact with persons at the school for more than 15 minutes at least once per week on a regular basis, as determined by the school. School Personnel does not include individuals whose presence on school property is for a short period and whose moments of close physical proximity to others is fleeting, such as contractors making deliveries.

All Full and Part-Time employees are covered under this order. In addition, all coaches and sponsors, whether paid or serving on a volunteer basis would be covered under this order, as would substitutes for all the above-named classification of employees.

Obligation to Exclude. Schools are obligated to exclude from school property School Personnel who are not vaccinated against COVID-19 unless they comply with weekly testing requirements.

You can show proof of vaccination or submit to weekly testing. If you cannot comply with either of these requirements will result in the employee being excluded from work. An employee would be able to use available personal leave in order to remain receiving a paycheck. In some cases, but not all, sick leave may be available until it is exhausted. Please refer to the sick and personal leave sections of your Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). Please note that an employee can only miss three consecutive days before the District will require a Doctor's note.

Vaccination and Testing Start Dates. Personnel must have received the first dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series or a single-dose COVID-19 vaccine by Sunday, September 5, 2021. If a two-part vaccine, the second dose must be administered within 30 days of the first dose. Proof of vaccination may be met by providing one of the following: (1) a CDC COVID-19 vaccination record card or photograph of the card; (2) documentation of vaccination from a health care provider or electronic health record; or (3) state immunization records. Starting Monday, September 6, persons who cannot show vaccination, must be tested at least weekly. The order implies that the first test can occur anytime the week of September 6. As such, it would not be until Monday, September 13 that any individual would be required to be excluded from school property as a result of not being vaccinated or tested.

Vaccinated employees must turn in proof of vaccination to their school's nurse by the end of the work day on Friday, September 10. If you have not met this requirement, you must come to work on



Galesburg Community Unit School District 205

932 Harrison Street
Galesburg, IL 61401
Ph. (309) 973-2000
Fax (309) 343-7757
www.galesburg205.org

Monday, September 13th with a negative test result. Please see below for which tests the district will accept. This test must have been taken no more than 72 hours prior to the start of work on Monday.

In short, if an employee is choosing the testing route, a negative test must be turned in when the employee arrives on the first day of every week. That negative test must have been taken no more than 72 hours prior arrival.

Employees should present their test results to the building Principal or his/her designee.

If you have already turned in your proof of vaccination to the District Office, but you work in another building, please turn in proof of vaccination to your building's nurse, as well.

Testing Options. Subsection 3(d)(i) of the Executive Order provides that testing must be done using a test that has Emergency Use Authorization ("EUA") from the FDA. There have been many tests that the FDA has given EUA to including many rapid covid tests. The FDA lists the approved [molecular](#), [antigen](#), and [serology and adaptive immune response](#) tests at the provided links. Using the search function on the provided links, FDA lists four EUA molecular rapid tests, 10 antigen tests, and 13 serology and adaptive immune response tests. The Executive Order indicates that IDPH recommends that School Personnel be tested using a PCR test if available. However, use of a PCR test is not required.

The District is given some latitude regarding what tests it will accept (IDPH would prefer we only accept PCR, but there is a shortage of PCR tests in the area, so we are expanding the list of allowable tests). We will accept PCR or any Covid test from a lab, pharmacy or health care organization. This means the District will NOT accept any at-home test results.

Exemptions. The order does allow exemptions from the vaccine requirement where: (a) vaccination is medically contraindicated; (b) the individual is entitled to a reasonable accommodation from vaccination due to ADA, Illinois Human Rights Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act; and (c) vaccination would require the individual to violate or forego a sincerely held religious belief, practice or observance. In the event of an exemption, School Personnel must participate in weekly testing to be admitted to school property. As a practical matter, School Personnel can refuse vaccination for any reason since the order only obligates schools to exclude a person if he or she is not vaccinated or tested on a weekly basis.

Any exemption an employee wishes to file will be scrutinized by District legal counsel, who will compare the exemption request against the legally stated exemptions in the Executive Order.


Dr. John Asplund
CUSD #205 Superintendent


Jennifer Shissler
CUSD #205 Health Services Coordinator