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Date: July 15th, 2021

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For Immediate Release

Subject: COVID-19 School Guidance

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The Kankakee County Health Department supports back-to-school guidance released by the CDC, IDPH, and ISBE. Guidance from these sources includes:

- Masks should be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated.
- CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms, combined with indoor mask wearing by people who are not fully vaccinated, to reduce transmission risk. When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, such as when schools cannot fully re-open while maintaining these distances, it is especially important to layer multiple other prevention strategies, such as indoor masking.
- Screening testing, ventilation, handwashing, and respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick and getting tested, contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation, and cleaning and disinfection are also important layers of prevention to keep schools safe.
- Many schools serve children under the age of 12 who are not eligible for vaccination currently. Therefore, this guidance emphasizes implementing layered prevention strategies (masking, distancing, testing) to protect people who are not fully vaccinated. Source <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/news/illinois-department-public-health-adopts-cdc-covid-19-prevention-school-guidance>

In summary, schools should continue Covid-19 mitigation efforts, including masking when indoors. Masking can be optional for those providing proof that they are fully vaccinated. Also, those fully vaccinated are not required to quarantine if they are exposed to a positive Covid-19 case.

If you can, please get vaccinated. Vaccine is now widely available for ages 12 and older.

Vaccine Provider Locations:

Kankakee County Health Department, call 815-802-9449 to make an appointment.

Your local pharmacy (Walgreens, CVS, Walmart, Kroger, Jewel Osco, Meijer, Main Street Pharmacy, also Riverside Hospital).

Community Events Providing Vaccinations:

Friday, July 16th from 11:30am to 1:30 pm at Pembroke Fellowship Church, 13279 E. 5000 S Road, Pembroke Township

Saturday July 17<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 to 1:00 at Bird Park in Kankakee, Touch a Truck Event (vaccines located inside). Pfizer and one-dose J & J available

Saturday, July 17th from 9am to 1pm at Agape Community Outreach Mission. 196 Harrison Ave. Kankakee

Saturday, July 17th from 11am to 2pm at Martin Luther King Park, 13675 E Central, Pembroke Township

Wednesday, July 21st from 10am to 3pm at Kankakee Trinity United Methodist Church. 936 South Third Ave. Kankakee  
To find future events, please like KCHD on Facebook or visit [kankakeehealth.org](http://kankakeehealth.org) under the "events section".