



Executive Order 2021-24 and 77 Ill. Admin. Code 690.361 Fact Sheet

On Friday, September 17, 2021, Governor Pritzker issued [Executive Order 2021-24](#), which clarified schools' authority to exclude students and school personnel from school premises (including in-person instruction and extracurricular events) when students or school personnel are a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19; a close contact to a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19; or exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) also adopted an emergency administrative rule, [77 Ill. Admin. Code 690.361](#), to implement the Executive Order.

The Executive Order and emergency rule are intended to support schools and clarify their authority to control the spread of COVID-19 in schools. Together, the Executive Order and emergency rule do the following:

- Eliminated the definitions of “Isolation, Modified” and “Quarantine, Modified” from the Communicable Disease Code to clarify that exclusion from school is not considered isolation or quarantine.
- Clarified that schools must conduct contact tracing to identify occurrences of COVID-19 and close contacts of COVID-19 cases in schools.
- Clarified that schools have an obligation to exclude students and school personnel from the school premises as follows regardless of whether or not an order for isolation or quarantine has been issued by the local health department or a court:
 - Schools shall exclude students and school personnel who are confirmed or probable cases of COVID-19 for at least 10 days.
 - Schools shall exclude students and school personnel who are close contacts for at least 14 days, or as otherwise recommended by the local health department (e.g. exclusion for 10 days or exclusion for 7 days with a negative test result on day 6).
 - As an alternative to excluding a student who is a close contact for 14 days, schools may permit an asymptomatic student who meets the definition of a close contact to remain in school if both the close contact and the COVID-19 case were masked for the entire exposure period and the close contact tests negative on days 1, 3, 5 and 7 after exposure to the COVID-19 case.
 - Students and school personnel who exhibit COVID-19 like symptoms must be excluded from school for a minimum of 10 days (or until they test negative) and until they are fever free for 24 hours and until 48 hours after diarrhea and vomiting have ceased.
- Clarified that requiring vaccination, testing, wearing of masks, or exclusion do not constitute isolation or quarantine and may be done without an order from a court or local health department.

IDPH and the Illinois State Board of Education, have updated their [Revised Public Health Guidance for Schools](#) and related [FAQs](#) consistent with the Executive Order and emergency rule. Additionally, IDPH has provided [Public Health Interim Guidance for Local Health Departments and Pre-K- Schools – COVID-19 Exclusion Protocols](#), which provides practical guidance for schools and local health department in complying with the Executive Order and rules.