



Thornton Fractional

HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 215

BURNHAM • CALUMET CITY • LANSING • LYNWOOD

2022-2023 School Year Guidance for D215 Students and Families

Updated January 17th, 2023

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Preface

District 215 is committed to a healthy, safe school environment. Therefore, the District will continue to use guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois State Board of Education to inform local decisions which are in the interest and safety of the Thornton Fractional communities. Furthermore, the District will continue to seek input for revisions from school community members such as staff, students, parents and administrators. *This guidance is subject to change and will be reviewed at least every 6 months (or sooner as directives from federal, state, and local health officials are updated).*

Health Protocols and Procedures

Exclusionary Symptoms (Students and Staff):

It is essential that we work together to prevent the introduction and/or spread of COVID-19 in our school setting and in our communities. Illinois law provides District 215 the authority to exclude students who have a contagious disease such as COVID-19 or students who are liable to transmit it after exposure.

Students and employees should be aware of the following COVID-19- symptoms (as of the 6/27/2022 IDPH Interim Guidance):

- Fever or chills
- New Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue from unknown cause
- Muscle or body aches from unknown cause
- New onset of moderate to severe headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Parents are expected to check their student(s) daily for symptoms. If a student exhibits **any** of these symptoms, the student must not attend school, ride the school bus, or attend school athletics/activities.

Students Exhibiting COVID-19-like Symptoms at School:

If a student exhibits COVID-19 symptoms, he/she must adhere to the procedures listed below:

- Students who exhibit COVID-19-like symptom(s) should be immediately masked, if they are not already, and sent to the nurse's office for further evaluation.
- Students exhibiting COVID-19-like symptoms should be safely transported home by parent or guardian as soon as possible, or safely transported by parent or guardian to a health care facility for clinical evaluation and testing, if necessary.

If You Test Positive for COVID-19:

Everyone, regardless of vaccination status, must do the following:

- Stay home for five calendar days after the first day of symptoms or the specimen collection date.
- Individuals may return to school with consistent mask use after 5 days if asymptomatic or if fever-free without fever reducing medication for 24 hours, diarrhea/vomiting have ceased for 24 hours, and other symptoms have improved. Be aware that your clinical provider may determine that you need a longer period of isolation based on certain underlying clinical conditions such as a weakened immune system. Individuals must wear a mask for five more days after returning to school. If unable to wear a mask consistently, individuals must remain home for those 5 days.

Call Off / Absence Procedures:

Parents/Guardians of a symptomatic student must alert the Attendance Secretary as to why the student is absent from school. Additionally, students that have tested positive for COVID must submit test results to the school nurse to excuse their absence(s) and return to campus.

- For students who are confirmed or probable cases of COVID-19 or those who exhibit COVID-19 like symptoms, the school will provide remote instruction. Students may log into their classes using the unique teacher's zoom link for each class. However, teachers will not be actively monitoring Zoom chat during class time, so distribution of assignments and communication with remote students will occur outside of live classes via email, Google Classroom, or Microsoft TEAMS.

- Parents/guardians of students who are too ill to participate remotely may complete an Extended Absence Homework Request. The Guidance Department will assist in making arrangements for assignments. Teachers must be given 24 hours' notice to prepare assignments. If a student is absent for three or more weeks, the parent may call the Social Worker to explore other options.

Preventative Measures

District 215 encourages the use of preventative measures; including, but not limited to:

- Hand washing and availability of hand sanitizer
- Physical distancing when possible
- Mask wearing
- Cleaning and disinfecting of shared items

Universal Masking and Mitigation Measures

District 215 reserves the right to require specific mitigation measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. These may include, but are not limited to: universal masking, physical distancing, and/or remote instruction. As outlined in District 215's Board of Education policy 4:182, the district will adhere to current COVID-19 prevention guidelines for schools set forth by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), and the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH). District 215 reserves the right to adapt recommended guidelines based on school or community positivity rates and/or other circumstances as deemed appropriate by the Board of Education.

References:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Corona Virus

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Illinois Department of Public Health School Decision Making Tree

https://dph.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/idph/covid19/guidance/school/School-decision-tree-guidance_6.27.2022.pdf

Illinois State Board of Education COVID-19 Updates and Resources

<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/covid19.aspx>