

J. Sterling Morton High School District 201 2020-2021 School Year School Closure Plan

School Closure Plan

J. Sterling Morton High School District 201 schools must be prepared for a short-term closure, regardless of community spread, if COVID-19 infections in a school make it necessary to do so. The district will consult with the Cook County Department of Public Health to make determinations about self-quarantine or school closure.

Coordinate with local health officials

Once learning of a COVID-19 case in someone who has been in a school, J. Sterling Morton High School District 201 will immediately notify local health officials. These officials will help administrators determine a course of action for the school and programs.

- J. Sterling Morton High School District 201 will notify the Cook County Health Department of the positive case of COVID-19.
- The two entities will collaborate to confirm the positive COVID-19 case and to what degree the J. Sterling Morton High School District 201 Positive Case Plan will be implemented.

School Dismissal

- It is not expected that reports of individual cases of COVID-19 will result in school dismissal or closure. Local health officials will help the school determine appropriate next steps, including whether an extended dismissal duration is needed to stop or slow further spread of COVID-19. A school, or students from impacted classrooms, may in some cases, be dismissed for 1 or more days. This initial short-term dismissal allows time for J. Sterling Morton High School District 201 and the local health officials to gain a better understanding of the COVID-19 situation impacting the school.
- Schools are not expected to make decisions about dismissal or canceling events on their own. J. Sterling Morton High School District 201 along with the Cook County Health Department recommendations for the scope (e.g., class sections, a single school, multiple schools, or the full district) and duration of school dismissals will be made on a case-by-case basis using the most up-to-date information about COVID-19 and the specific cases in the community.
- During any full school dismissal, all extracurricular group activities, school-based afterschool programs, and large events (e.g., assemblies, spirit nights, field trips, and sporting events) may be cancelled.
- During any full school dismissal, staff, students, and their families are discouraged from gathering or socializing anywhere. This includes group childcare arrangements, as well as gathering at places like a friend's house, a favorite restaurant, or the local shopping mall.
- During any full school dismissal, full virtual learning will continue for all students M-F on the same class schedule as the hybrid model.
- Meals will be offered as "grab-and-go" for students affected by the school closure.

Communication Plan

J. Sterling Morton High School District 201 will coordinate with local health officials to communicate dismissal decisions and the possible COVID-19 exposure.

- This communication to the school community will align with the communication plan in the school's emergency operations plan.
- In such a circumstance, J. Sterling Morton High School District 201 will maintain confidentiality of students or staff members as required by HIPAA the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act.
- Families will be notified of the planned duration of the closure and the anticipated return to in-person learning

Cleaning and Disinfection

J. Sterling Morton High School District 201 custodial staff will follow the established cleaning procedures for building cleaning and disinfection.

- Close off areas used by the individuals with COVID-19 and wait as long as practical before beginning cleaning and disinfection to minimize potential for exposure to respiratory droplets. Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area. If possible, wait up to 24 hours before beginning cleaning and disinfection.
- Cleaning staff will clean and disinfect all areas (e.g., offices, bathrooms, and common areas) used by the ill persons, focusing especially on frequently touched surfaces.
- If surfaces are dirty, they must be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.

Return to School Plan for the 2020-2021 School Year

At Morton, Every Student Succeeds



Extending the school dismissal

Temporarily dismissing schools is a strategy to stop or slow the further spread of COVID-19 in communities. The need to extend school closures will be made in collaboration with the Cook County Health Department.

- School dismissals and event cancellations may be extended if advised by local health officials. The nature of these actions (e.g., geographic scope, duration) may change as the local outbreak situation evolves.
- During school dismissals (after cleaning and disinfection), J.S. Morton District 201 may stay open for staff members (unless ill) while students stay home. Keeping facilities open: a) allows teachers to develop and deliver lessons and materials remotely, thus maintaining continuity of teaching and learning; and b) allows other staff members to continue to provide services and help with additional response efforts. Decisions on which, if any, staff must be allowed in the school will be made in collaboration with the Cook County Health Department.
- Administrators must seek guidance from local health officials to determine when students and staff will return to schools and what additional steps are needed for the school community. In addition, students and staff who are well but are taking care of or share a home with someone with a case of COVID-19 must follow instructions from local health officials to determine when to return to school.

