



## Illinois School for the Deaf

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*Founded February 23, 1839*

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October 1, 2020

Dear ISD Families, Staff, & Community,

I am writing to share some important information. The safety and health of our students, employees, and community is our top priority. Like many of you, we have been closely watching how the COVID-19 outbreak has been evolving and are making important decisions about operations for the Illinois School for the Deaf (ISD).

After careful and thoughtful consideration, I want to inform you that ISD, working with the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS), and Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has concluded that ISD will continue the 2020-2021 school year with remote learning at this time rather than return to in-person on-site instruction. While ISD staff has worked diligently to develop safety plans for on-site instruction as well as online learning, we are making this decision with the health and safety of our students and staff as our first consideration.

Remote learning will continue **Monday, October 20, 2020 and run through the end of the first semester, January 4, 2021**. ISD will continue to provide robust remote instruction, while also evaluating and planning for the possibility of returning to on-site learning as soon as it is possible to do so safely. We will communicate when further decisions are made, as well as update you on our progress in preparing for the eventual return of on-site learning.

In the coming weeks, ISD will be sending out a survey to families to get your feedback on how remote learning is going for your student and in what areas ISD can improve. We appreciate your willingness to participate in the survey.

We ask that you continue to exercise caution and common sense against the virus. For more information regarding practical precautions, you can visit <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/>.

And of course, if you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Julee M. Nist, M.Ed., Ed.S.  
ISD Superintendent

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A residential school for students who are deaf and hard of hearing operated by the Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services.

*Accredited by the Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf and North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.*