



Illinois School for the Deaf

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Letter from the Desk of the Superintendent

December 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. To this end, the COVID-19 outbreak is being monitored as it evolves and informs important decisions about operations for the Illinois School for the Deaf (ISD).

After careful and thoughtful consideration, I want to inform you that we have 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 in January. While ISD staff has worked diligently to develop safety plans for in-person instruction as well as online learning, this decision considered the health and safety of ISD students and staff as the first priority. This decision was based on guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), and the administration at ISD, the Division of Rehabilitation Services, as part of and the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS).

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.

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

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.*