



## Illinois School for the Deaf

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*Founded February 23, 1839*

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### Letter from the Desk of the Superintendent

August 5, 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), has concluded that ISD will begin the 2020-2021 school year with remote learning rather than in-person instruction. While ISD staff has worked diligently to develop safety plans for in-person instruction as well as online learning, we are making decisions with the health and safety as priority of everything we do.

Remote learning will begin **Thursday, August 20, 2020 and run through the end of the first quarter, October 16, 2020**. During this time, in addition to providing robust remote instruction, we will continue to evaluate the situation and to communicate when further decisions are made, with the health and safety of everyone being the first consideration. ISD will continue to communicate regarding our progress in preparing for the eventual return of on-site learning.

Please ensure that you have fully registered online and mail in your Health Center consent form by August 20, 2020. In the coming days, you will receive information from your child's principal and educators with further details of the remote learning process.

We ask that you continue to exercise caution and common sense and to apply protective measures 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.

I hope to see all the students back at ISD soon, we miss them!

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.*