

After July 1, 2021, local school boards will be responsible for implementing whatever measures and restrictions deemed necessary and prudent to address the impact and spread of COVID-19 for their buildings, facilities, and grounds, including transportation. Educational governing bodies are encouraged to follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) guidance.

Per CDC order, masks are required to be worn on public transportation, which includes school buses. Information regarding this federal CDC order can be found [here](#).

IDOH has released preliminary fall guidance for K-12 schools. A summary of this guidance can be found below. The full guidance can be found [here](#). This guidance includes additional recommendations regarding handwashing, daily cleaning, ventilation, nursing clinic procedures, daily screening, food service, water system maintenance, and extracurricular activities. To view a recorded webinar explaining this guidance, as well as a question and answer session, click [here](#) and scroll to the June 4, 2021, Back to School video.

K-12 Schools:

- Unvaccinated staff and students
 - Masks recommended indoors (except when eating); social distance at least 3 feet if all students are facing forward in the classroom; social distance at least 6 feet in all other areas of the school; and quarantine if identified as having had close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19.
- Vaccinated staff and students
 - Masks are not necessary; use good judgment regarding social distancing; and no quarantine needed if identified as a close contact as long as they remain asymptomatic.

Track and Isolate Positive Cases:

- Individuals should stay home for 10 days following the onset of symptoms or a positive test result.

Who is a close contact?:

- If all students are masked and facing forward in the classroom, only individuals within 3 feet of a person diagnosed with COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.
- If all students are **not** masked and facing forward in the classroom, all individuals within 6 feet of a person diagnosed with COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.

Quarantine:

- **Vaccinated** close contacts do not have to quarantine, but should monitor for symptoms and isolate if symptoms develop.
- **Unvaccinated** individuals who are identified as a close contact must quarantine.
 - **Asymptomatic close contacts** may return on day 8 (with specific negative testing and precautions), day 11 (with precautions), or day 15 (without testing or precautions).

Report:

- Schools should report all positive cases and close contacts via the [IDOH K-12 Gateway portal](#).

All guidance is subject to change as CDC and other expert guidance changes. Please email questions to backtoschool@isdh.in.gov.