Coronavirus Resource Guide Updates

December 16, 2020

For more information on the Coronavirus and related issues for schools, visit: www.doe.in.gov; www.cdc.gov; www.in.gov/isdh; www.ed.gov/coronavirus.

This update supplements the Coronavirus Resource Guide dated August 19, 2020 and was written to direct you to appropriate updated resources and services. It should not be used to replace local, state, or federal guidelines. All references have been provided in-line and in a resource section at the end of the update to help you continue your research. All information has been adapted from state and federal agencies and other quality resources to support and specify the role of the school board during this pandemic.

Updates from the State of Indiana

Executive Orders

On December 10, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order 20-50, continuing the county-based assessment of restrictions based upon designated colors. The executive order sets forth (1) general directives for all individuals and businesses, (2) specific directives for hospitals, restaurants, other food and beverage venues, and (3) educational entities, and includes new restrictions on counties based on designated colors. EO 20-50 went into effect on December 13, 2020, and will remain in effect through January 3, 2021.

Requirements for all public school corporations include:
> (1) All students in grades 3-12 and all faculty, staff, vendors, contractors, volunteers, and visitors must wear a face covering or face shield while physically present in any building, facility, or grounds unless an individual meets one of the exemptions listed in the order.
> (2) All students regardless of age or grade, and anyone else on a school bus, must wear a face covering or face shield while on the bus or any other school-sponsored mode of transportation unless an individual meets one of the exemptions listed in the order.

Exceptions to the requirements above include:
> (1) Individuals do not have to wear a face covering or face shield while eating or drinking.
> (2) Faculty and staff, when present in a room, office, or place, do not have to wear a face covering or face shield as long as six feet of social distance can be maintained.
> (3) If, in a classroom setting, all students and instructors can maintain six feet of social distance, a face covering or face shield is not required. Alternatively, if all students are positioned to face in the same direction and all students can maintain at least three feet of social distance, then students do not have to wear a face covering or face shield. Teachers must wear a face covering or face shield unless they can maintain six feet of social distance from students.
> (4) Students do not have to wear face coverings or face shields during recess as long as social distancing can be maintained.
> (5) Students, teachers, coaches, trainers, volunteers, and other personnel participating in extracurricular and co-curricular activities do

not have to wear a face covering or face shield while engaged in strenuous physical activity.

Restrictions on extracurricular school events are based on the color designation established by the Indiana State Department of Health in each county. The restrictions are as follows:

(1) Counties that are blue may have up to 250 individuals present provided that social distancing requirements are maintained, face coverings or face shields are worn, and other sanitation measures are implemented.

(2) Counties that are yellow may have up to 100 individuals present provided that social distancing requirements are maintained, face coverings or face shields are worn, and other sanitation measures are implemented.

(3) Counties that are orange may allow up to 50 individuals present provided that social distancing requirements are maintained, face coverings or face shields are worn, and other sanitation measures are implemented.

For the above-designated counties, attendance at K-12 extracurricular and co-curricular activities must be limited to 25% of capacity, and additional measures should be taken to ensure all nonfamily/household groups are and remain socially distanced.

(4) Counties that are red may allow up to 25 individuals present provided that social distancing requirements are maintained, face coverings or face shields are worn, and other sanitation measures are implemented. Attendance at K-12 extracurricular and co-curricular activities must be limited to participants, support personnel, parents/guardians, siblings, and other minor children of a parent/guardian of students. All non-competing and non-performing participants, support personnel, and attendees are required to wear face coverings or face shields at all times.

The Order requires all schools to develop and implement an enforcement plan and to have sufficient personnel and volunteers available during the extracurricular activities to monitor and ensure compliance with the directives of the Order.

As in previous orders, the Executive Order allows county officials to impose more stringent requirements. Thus, school corporations are also subject to any additional requirements of their county health department.

The executive order may be found at https://www.in.gov/gov/files/Executive-Order-20-50-Continuation-of-Color-Coded-County-Assessments.pdf.

As a reminder, the Governor issued an executive order effective December 1, 2020, that extended the public health emergency until December 31, 2020. That order may be found at https://www.in.gov/gov/files/Executive-Order-20-49-Ninth-Renewal-of-Emergency-Declaration.pdf. The extension allows school boards to meet virtually until December 31, 2020.

Indiana State Department of Health

The Indiana State Department of Health has developed a website for entities, including schools, to submit a request for additional health care workers. All submissions through the Indiana Healthcare Workforce Needs Request Form will be reviewed and responded to within 1-2 business days. Schools and other entities may receive a list of workforce reserve candidates available within the local community matching the request. The requesting organization is responsible for all communications with reserve workforce candidates from that point forward.

The Indiana State Department of Health has posted information on the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines. This information may be found at https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/vaccine/. It appears teachers will be in Phase 2 or the latter part of Phase 1 of eligibility for the vaccine, but the timeline for the vaccinations of these Phases has not been determined as of December 16, 2020. There are additional resources at the bottom of the referenced webpage relating to the vaccine and the state plan for distribution.

Updates from the Federal Government

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated the following documents:

"Guidance for K-12 School Administrators on the Use of Masks in Schools" (updated December 14, 2020) https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/cloth-face-cover.html

"Screening K-12 Students for Symptoms of COVID-19: Limitations and Considerations" (updated December 14, 2020)

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/symptom-screening.html

The CDC has posted information on the distribution of the vaccine at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations-process.html. The Advisory Committee for Immunization Practice for the CDC has provided guidance to be used by individual states to determine who are essential workers. Teachers and administrators and other school employees are included in its recommendations. See page 10 at https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/Version_4.0_CISA_Guidance_on_Essential_Critical_Infrastructure_Workers_FINAL%20AUG%2018v3.pdf.

Online Resources for School Boards

Indiana State Department of Health
- COVID-19 dashboard and map, including data on school COVID-19 counts (updated Mondays at 12:00 p.m.) https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/2393.htm
- Recommendations to assist schools with decisionmaking based on the level of community spread (updated November 17, 2020) https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/20_COVID%20color%20level%20recommendations_11-17-20.pdf.
- Coronavirus response requirements for all Hoosiers; COVID-19 County Metrics and Requirements https://www.in.gov/gov/files/Coronavirus_Response_Requirements.pdf
- "Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidance for Schools" (Updated March 2020)https://www.in.gov/isdh/files/ISDH%20school%20guidance.pdf

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- "Interim Considerations for Testing for K-12 School Administrators and Public Health Officials" (updated December 4, 2020) https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-testing.html
- "Information for School Nurses and Other Healthcare Personnel (HCP) Working in Schools and Child Care Settings" (updated December 3, 2020) https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/school-nurses-hcp.html
- "Operating Schools During COVID-19: CDC's Considerations" (updated October 2020) https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html

- "Strategies for Protecting K-12 School Staff from COVID-19" (updated October 2020) https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-staff.html
- "Indicators for Dynamic School Decision-Making" (updated September 2020) https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/indicators.html

- Teachers, administrators, and other school employees are defined as essential workers by the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practice. See page 10. (updated August 2020) https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/Version_4.0_CISA_Guidance_on_Essential_Critical_Infrastructure_Workers_FINAL%20AUG%2018v3.pdf.
- "K-12 Schools and Childcare Programs: FAQs for Administrators" (updated June 2020) https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools-faq.html
- "Cleaning, Disinfection, and Hand Hygiene in Schools – a Toolkit for School Administrators" (updated November 19, 2020): https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/clean-disinfect-hygiene.html
- "Interim Guidance for Case Investigation and Contact Tracing in K-12 Schools" (updated November 18, 2020): https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/contact-tracing.html

U.S. Department of Education
- "COVID-19 Information and Resources for Schools, Students, and Families" https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus
- Guidance and resources on serving children with disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic https://sites.ed.gov/idea/topic-areas/#COVID-19
- Waivers and Flexibility https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus/waivers-and-flexibility
- Program Information: FAQs and Responses https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus/program-information
- US Dept. of Ed., Q&A on educating students with special needs during the pandemic: https://sites.ed.gov/idea/files/qa-covid-19-03-12-2020.pdf.
  The Office for Civil Rights webinar on eLearning and Remote Learning: https://www.youtube.com/watch?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=&v=DCMLk4cES6A.

National School Boards Association

- COVID-19 School Design Guidelines (updated August 2020)
  https://www.nsba.org/Resources/coronavirus
- Setting a New Course: A Legal Guide to Operating Schools in the Pandemic Era (updated July 2020) https://www.nsba.org/-/media/NSBA/File/legal-setting-a-new-course-operationg-schools-in-the-pandemic-era-guide-july-2020.pdf
- Concerns and Challenges to Providing Meaningful IDEA-related Services During COVID-19 (updated July 2020) https://www.nsba.org/-/media/Files/nsba-aasa-aesa-IDEA-white-paper-july-14-20.pdf
- Preparing for Widespread Illness In Your School Community A Legal Guide for School Leaders (updated March 2020) https://www.nsba.org/-/media/NSBA/File/legal-school-safety-addendum-coronavirus-march-3-2020.pdf?la=en&hash=1D72FA91F23169E07855464FC5D1434148FE3F78