



Coronavirus Resource Guide Updates

December 22, 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.

With respect to K-12 extracurricular and co-curricular activities, for counties designated as blue, yellow, and orange, overall attendance at must be limited to no more than 25% of capacity with the approval of the local county health department; for counties designated as red, attendance must be limited to participants, support personnel, parents/guardians, siblings, and other minor children of a parent/guardian of students.

Additional measures should be taken to ensure all nonfamily/household groups are and remain socially distanced.

All non-competing and non-performing participants, support personnel, and attendees are required to wear face coverings or face shields at all times.

If the local health department does not approve a specific attendance percentage, it is assumed the attendance restrictions based on the color designation established by the Indiana State Department of Health in each county would apply. 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.
- (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.

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 Department of Health has posted an updated document for school-related decisions under the county designation system and may be found at https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/20_COVID%20color%20level%20recs_12-15-20.pdf.

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/>. This website is being updated with information on vaccines at least weekly. In the next few weeks, the state will be determining the timeline for vaccinations for Phase 1b and 1c and who will be included in those Phases. 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.

Following is an article on the new COVID-19 Stimulus package related to relief dollars for schools: <https://www.edweek.org/policy-politics/k-12-schools-get-57-billion-in-covid-19-deal-but-no-state-and-local-government-relief/2020/12>. The package includes \$54.3 billion for public schools. It does not provide for federal liability protections. The FFCRA leave provisions will no longer be mandated as of January 1, 2021. More information will be provided after the package is signed by the President and the 6000-page bill has been digested.

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%202018v3.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>