



Coronavirus Resource Guide Updates

February 3, 2021

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 is written to direct you to appropriate updated resources and services related to the novel coronavirus. 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

Governor of Indiana

Executive Orders

The Governor extended the county-based measures and *modified slightly* the restrictions originally established in Executive Order 20-50. The new order, Executive Order 21-02, went into effect on February 1, 2021 and will remain in effect through February 28, 2021.

For school corporations, the previous face covering requirements remain in effect. As a reminder, the face covering requirements are:

- (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.

Attendance *recommendations* at K-12 extracurricular and co-curricular activities are as follows:

- (1) For counties designated as red, overall attendance (attendees, staff, and others) may not exceed 25 individuals;
- (2) For counties designated as orange, overall attendance (attendees, staff, and others) may not exceed 50 individuals;
- (3) For counties designated as yellow, overall attendance (attendees, staff, and others) may not exceed 100 individuals; and
- (4) For counties designated as blue, overall attendance (attendees, staff, and others) may not exceed 250 individuals.

Overall attendance *may be greater* than the numbers above *IF* the school corporation submits a safety plan to the local health department, ensures that attendees and staff adhere to social distancing requirements and wear face coverings, and has sufficient persons, staff, or volunteers to monitor compliance with these directives. If the school corporation complies with these requirements, overall attendance (attendees, staff, and others) may not exceed:

- (1) For counties designated as red or orange, 25% of the facility's capacity;
- (2) For counties designated as yellow, 50% of the facility's capacity; and
- (3) For counties designated as blue, 100% of the facility's capacity.

The Governor also renewed the declaration of a public health emergency for the 11th time. In Executive Order 21-03, the Governor declared it was necessary to extend the public health emergency for another 30 days. The renewal of the public health emergency took effect on January 30, 2020, and will expire on March 1, 2021, unless renewed further. As we have stated before, the modifications to the Open Door Law that allow school boards to meet remotely (or to have individual board members participate remotely) remain in effect as long as the public health emergency exists. Thus, for the remainder of February, school boards have the discretion to conduct remote or in-person school board meetings. Members of the board who elect to participate in a meeting virtually may be counted as present and may vote.

Both of the new executive orders may be found at <https://www.in.gov/gov/governor-holcomb/newsroom/executive-orders/>.

Indiana State Department of Health

County Guidelines by Color

The latest COVID-19 county guidelines by color may be found at <https://www.in.gov/gov/files/feb-1-to-feb-28-coronavirus-response-requirements.pdf>

Vaccines

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/index.htm>. This website is being updated with information on who is eligible for vaccines at least weekly. The vaccination dashboard may be found on this webpage along with other information and resources related to the vaccines. Vaccinations are now available for persons 65 years old or older, health care workers, and first responders.

At the Governor's weekly press conference, ISDH announced changes in quarantine guidelines, specifically:

- (1) Teachers and students will not have to quarantine if they have been exposed to COVID in a classroom where everyone is at least three feet apart and masked at all times.
- (2) In cases of close contact, the 14-day quarantine period can be reduced to 10 days if the teacher or student did not exhibit any symptoms; alternatively, a teacher or a student can return sooner if the teacher or student tests negative by a PCR test on day 5, 6, or 7 and exhibits no symptoms.

The ISDH will send the new quarantine requirements to all schools.

Additionally, it was announced that the Department will be sending additional masks, both adult and kid-sized, hand sanitizer, and rapid testing kits to schools.

Updates from the Federal Government

(No new guidance posted)

Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA)
The U.S. Department of Education has posted a factsheet comparing the primary differences between the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and the ESSER II Fund under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA). The factsheet may be found at https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/01/Final_ESSERII_Factsheet_1.5.21.pdf.

Information on the allocation of the federal monies may be found at https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/01/Final_ESSERII_Methodology_Table_1.5.21.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>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- "Strategies for Protecting K-12 School Staff" (updated January 4, 2021) <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-staff.html>
- "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>
- "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>
- “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.
- “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](#)

APPENDIX

**RESOLUTION ON CONTINUATION OF THE EXPANDED PAID SICK LEAVE ACT (EPSLA) BY THE _____
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES**

WHEREAS, the Expanded Paid Leave Act (EPSLA), which provided paid leave to employees who were unable to work or telework due to COVID-19-related issues expired on December 31, 2020.

WHEREAS, legislation passed by the United States Congress and signed by President Trump on December 27, 2020, allows employers to continue providing the EPSLA leave to their employees through March 31, 2021.

WHEREAS, this legislation allows employers to continue providing the EPSLA leave to their employees through March 31, 2021, school boards have the discretion to continue to provide the benefits of the EPSLA to its employees beyond March 31, 2021.

WHEREAS, the number of positive cases for COVID-19 continues to increase in the areas surrounding and within the school corporation, the need for employees to have paid leave available as required by the EPSLA continues beyond December 31, 2020. The Board concludes that continuing the leave benefits provided by the EPSLA to employees serves the legitimate purposes of maintaining morale and providing a safe work environment for all employees and students.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board shall continue to provide the paid leave for its employees as provided in the EPSLA and its regulations retroactively from January 1, 2021, until *[end date of continuation]*. All provisions of the EPSLA and its regulations in effect as of December 31, 2020, shall continue to be followed and provided including the qualifications, restrictions, and reasons for the leave and its payment of wages provisions with the following exceptions:

[List here the exceptions to the provisions of the EPSLA and its regulations the Board has determined.]

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2021.

Board President

Board Secretary