



Coronavirus Resource Guide

Updated February 24, 2021

This guide and updates are 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 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.

For further information visit: doe.in.gov/covid-19/resources, www.cdc.gov/coronavirus, coronavirus.in.gov, www.ed.gov/coronavirus

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Updates from the Governor

[Executive Order 21-06](#)

The Governor on February 25 extended the county-based measures and *modified slightly* the restrictions originally established last year. The new order found [here](#) goes into effect on March 1, 2021 and will remain in effect through March 31, 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 an exception 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 an exception in the order.

Exceptions to the face covering requirements above include:

1. Face coverings or face shields are not required 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, if six feet of social distance is maintained.
3. In a classroom setting, if students and instructors maintain six feet of social distance, a face covering or face shield is not required. If students are positioned to face in the same direction and maintain three feet of social distance, students do not have to wear a face covering or face shield. Teachers must wear a face covering or face shield unless they maintain six feet of social distance from students.
4. Students do not have to wear face coverings or face shields during recess, if social distancing can be maintained.
5. For extracurriculars and co-curriculars, students, teachers, coaches, volunteers, and trainers do not have to wear a face covering or face shield while engaged in strenuous physical activity.

Attendance levels at K-12 extracurricular and co-curricular activities are *strongly recommended* 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;
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;
3. For counties designated as blue, 100% of the facility's capacity.

Executive Order 21-05

The Governor also on February 25 renewed the declaration of a public health emergency for the 12th time. The renewal found [here](#) takes effect on March 1 and will expire on March 31, 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 month of March, 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.

Updates from the Indiana State Department of Health

Guidance for Quarantine for Schools

The Indiana State Department of Health announced changes in quarantine guidelines, which can be found [here](#), 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.

[County COVID-19 Guidelines – Color Codes](#)

COVID-19 requirements are detailed [here](#) for all Hoosiers and by county based on color code.

[Latest Vaccine News and Resources](#)

The Indiana State Department of Health posts information [here](#) on the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines. 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 available for persons 60 years old or older, health care workers, and first responders.

Updates from the United States Department of Education

[Federal Assessment Guidance](#)

The U.S. Office of Elementary and Secondary Education issued guidance [here](#) regarding federally required spring assessments. The Indiana Department of Education has requested a waiver from the U.S. Department of Education for calculating accountability determinations this year and is working with state legislators to ensure schools are held harmless for the test results by issuing a null grade for the current school year.

Updates from the Indiana Department of Education

[Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act \(CRRSA\)](#)

The Indiana Department of Education posted preliminary ESSER II funding allocations [here](#) for Indiana school corporations, as well as additional information related to the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) signed into law in December 2020. The funds are available to school corporations beginning March 13.

Online Resources for School Boards

Indiana State Department of Health

- [COVID-19 dashboard, map, and data on school case counts](#) (updated Mondays at 12:00 p.m.)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- [FAQs for Administrators, Teachers, and Parents](#) (February 2021)
- [Toolkit for K-12 Schools](#) (January 2021)
- [Strategies for Protecting K-12 School Staff](#) (January 2021)
- [Operating Schools During COVID-19](#) (December 2020)
- [Case Investigation and Contact Tracing in K-12 Schools](#) (December 2020)
- [Guidance for K-12 School Administrators on the Use of Masks in Schools](#) (December 2020)
- [Screening K-12 Students for Symptoms of COVID-19](#) (December 2020)
- [Testing for K-12 School Administrators and Public Health Officials](#) (December 2020)
- [Information for School Nurses and Other Healthcare Personnel \(HCP\) Working in Schools and Child Care Settings](#) (December 2020)
- [Cleaning, Disinfection, and Hand Hygiene in Schools – a Toolkit for School Administrators](#) (November 2020)
- [Monitoring and Evaluating Mitigation Strategies in K-12 Schools](#) (November 2020)
- [Indicators for Dynamic School Decision-Making](#) (September 2020)

U.S. Department of Education

- [COVID-19 Waivers and Flexibility](#)
- [Program Information and COVID-19: FAQs and Responses](#)
- [Guidance and resources on serving children with disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- [Q&A on educating students with special needs during the pandemic](#) (March 2020)
- [Office for Civil Rights webinar on eLearning and remote learning](#) (March 2020)

National School Boards Association

- [COVID-19 School Design Guidelines](#) (August 2020)
- [Setting a New Course: A Legal Guide to Operating Schools in the Pandemic Era](#) (July 2020)
- [Concerns and Challenges to Providing Meaningful IDEA-related Services During COVID-19](#) (July 2020)
- [Preparing for Widespread Illness In Your School Community: A Legal Guide for School Leaders](#) (March 2020)

School Board Resolution on the Continuation of the Expanded Paid Sick Leave Act (EPSLA)

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 _____ 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