



Coronavirus Resource Guide

Updated May 5, 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 21-12

This executive order continues the modified restrictions of the county-based measures. The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) will continue to calculate the ratings of each county and the color codes remain in effect. The local county health departments are given the authority to implement mitigation measures in the county based upon the rating and data provided by the ISDH. The Executive Order states the face covering requirements at school, on school buses, and on school property continue to be in effect. It encourages school leaders to convene with county health officials and others to discuss actions to implement to decrease the spread of COVID-19 in their counties. School officials are also encouraged to review plans for extra-curricular activities and assemblies to “ensure best mitigation practices are being followed.” The requirements for schools may be found in paragraph 8 of the Executive Order, which may be found [here](#). The Executive Order is effective until May 31, 2021.

Executive Order 21-11

This executive order extends the public health emergency through May 31, 2021. The order may be found [here](#). This means that for the month of May school boards have the discretion to conduct remote, hybrid, or in-person school board meetings. HEA 1437 in Section 7 sets out the requirements for a meeting during a public emergency declared by the Governor. The text of HEA 1437 may be found [here](#).

Updates from the Indiana State Department of Health

[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 at least weekly with information on who is eligible for vaccines and other information and resources related to the vaccines. The vaccination dashboard may be found on this [webpage](#). Vaccinations are now available for persons 16 years old or older; persons 16 and 17 years of age must receive the Pfizer vaccine and have parental consent to receive the vaccine.

[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.

The quarantine guidelines may also be found in Executive Order 21-09 on page 8.

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

[American Rescue Plan Act of 2021](#)

The Indiana Department of Education announced that, as a result of the passage of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Indiana will receive approximately \$2.86 billion from the federal government for education purposes. Approximately \$1.8 billion will be for public schools, \$81.7 million will be for nonpublic schools, and \$705 million will be for higher education. According to the Department, at least 20% of schools' funds must be used to address learning loss. Information regarding the new requirements related to ESSER III funding, timeline for release of allocations, and return to in-person instruction plans have been added to the [IDOE ESSER webpage](#).

[School Meal Plans](#)

The Department of Education also announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture has extended several waivers that will allow all children to continue to receive nutritious meals through June 30, 2022.

[Pandemic Electronic Benefits](#)

The Division of Family Resources continues to partner with Indiana schools to provide Pandemic Electronic Benefits (P-EBT) to Indiana families during this Public Health Emergency. Beginning Saturday, May 1, through Monday, May 31, the data submission portal will be open to complete corrections for the issuance periods of October-December 2020 and January-March 2021. During this timeframe, data can also be submitted for April and May 2021. Additionally, for the May 2021 issuance, schools are permitted to project student eligible days. DFR will also begin to accept student eligibility for a new issuance period known as Summer P-EBT. For additional details, please see this [communication](#).

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

- [Schools and Child Care Programs – Plan, Prepare, and Respond](#) (April 2021)
- [Ventilation in Schools and Child Care Programs](#) (February 2021)
- [FAQs for Administrators, Teachers, and Parents](#) (February 2021)
- [Toolkit for K-12 Schools](#) (January 2021)
- [Strategies for Protecting K-12 School Staff](#) (January 2021)
- [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