

Coronavirus Resource Guide Updates

November 19, 2020

For more information on the Coronavirus and related issues for schools, visit: [www.doe.in.gov](http://www.doe.in.gov); [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov); [www.in.gov/isdh](http://www.in.gov/isdh); [www.ed.gov/coronavirus](http://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 November 13, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order 20-48, rescinding Stage 5 and its measures and restrictions. The new executive order sets forth (1) general directives for all individuals and businesses, (2) specific directives for hospitals, restaurants and other food and beverage venues, and educational entities, and (3) special restrictions on counties based on designated colors. This executive order went into effect on November 15, 2020, and will remain in effect through December 12, 2020.

Requirements for all public school corporations include:

(1) All students in grades 3-12, 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 other 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 cocurricular activities do not have to wear a face covering or face shield while engaged in strenuous physical activity.

Restrictions on events, defined as extracurricular school events, concerts, fairs, festivals, fundraisers, or other entertainment 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. Attendance at winter indoor K-12 extracurricular and cocurricular 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 however, cancellation or postponement of these events is strongly encouraged. Attendance at winter indoor K-12 extracurricular and cocurricular activities must be limited to participants, support personnel, parents/guardians, and siblings. All noncompeting and nonperforming participants, support personnel, and attendees are required to wear face coverings or face shields at all times.

Lastly, as in previous orders, this 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 Governor’s most recent executive order may be found at <https://www.in.gov/gov/files/Executive_Order_20-48_Color-Coded_County_Assessments.pdf>.

As a reminder, the Governor’s declaration of a public health emergency remains in effect until December 1, 2020. That order may be found at <https://www.in.gov/gov/files/Executive-Order-20-47-Eighth-Renewal-of-Emergency-Declaration_2.pdf>.

Indiana State Department of Health

The COVID-19 Dashboard and Map, including data on school COVID-19 counts, may be found at <https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/2393.htm>.

The State Department of Health’s recommendations on school operations (in the areas of academic instruction, extracurricular activities, and community engagement) based on the level of COVID-19 in the counties may be found at <https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/20_COVID%20color%20level%20recommendations_11-17-20.pdf>.

The COVID-19 County Metrics and Requirements may be found at

<https://www.in.gov/gov/files/Coronavirus_Response_Requirements.pdf> (see page 2).

# Updates from the Federal Government

None to Report

# Website Resources for School Boards

Indiana Resources

* ISDH “Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidance for Schools”: <https://www.in.gov/isdh/files/ISDH%20school%20guidance.pdf>

National Resources

* “Operating Schools During COVID-19: CDC’s Considerations <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>
* “K-12 Schools and Childcare Programs: FAQs for Administrators” CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools-faq.html>
* NSBA: COVID-19 PREPARING FOR WIDESPREAD ILLNESS IN YOUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY A Legal Guide for School Leaders: <https://www.nsba.org/-/media/NSBA/File/legal-school-safety-addendum-coronavirus-march-3-2020.pdf?la=en&hash=1D72FA91F23169E07855464FC5D1434148FE3F78>
* EPA/CDC Recommendations for School Cleaning: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>
* US Dept. of Ed., COVID-19 Information and Resources for Schools and School Personnel: <https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus?src=feature>
* 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>.