

2021-2022 COVID Guidance



FAIRFIELD

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

This Fairfield Community Schools COVID-19 Safe Learning Plan will serve as a framework for providing the maximum amount of in-person instruction, while continuing to be guided by public health agency recommendations to promote the safety of students and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. The wellbeing of students and staff has been, and will continue to be, our top priority.

This guidance was developed using the current Indiana Department of Education's COVID-19 Guidance. The IDOE recommends our planning considerations include the following two key points: 1) Our district's ability to keep our students and staff safe. 2) The amount of spread in our local community.

This plan was updated in January 2022 to reflect updated policies and procedures. More details about the optional wearing of masks, guidance for close contacts, and ongoing mitigation practices can be found within this updated guidance.

We are committed to continue to work with local and state health officials, as well as neighboring school districts, to evaluate the conditions in Elkhart County. Primary decision making for updates to this guidance will be based on local data meticulously gathered at our own schools. This guidance is subject to change.

Fairfield Community Schools will continue to monitor the spread of COVID-19 in our schools.

- All students will attend school in-person 5 days per week.
- Masks will be optional, except in situations where an individual is determined to be a close contact or has tested positive.
- Students or staff who test positive for COVID-19 will isolate for 5 days and be expected to wear a mask at school for days 6-10.
- Students or staff who are determined to be close contacts of someone who tested positive for COVID-19 will follow the procedures outlined in the Student Learning Considerations at the close of the document.
- As we return to full capacity in classrooms, lunchrooms, and buses, all students and staff will continue to respect each other's personal space.
- Cleaning and mitigation strategies will remain in place as we work together to ensure the wellbeing of students and staff.
- We will continue to monitor the spread of COVID-19 in our schools and will put mitigation practices in place as needed. Monitoring and mitigation will be based on school data.

Environmental Considerations

SOCIAL DISTANCING

- All students and staff will continue to respect each other's personal space in classrooms, lunchrooms, and on buses.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

- Hand sanitizer will be available in high-traffic locations such as cafeterias, restrooms, and gymnasiums.
- Students may bring their own PPE, including face masks and sanitizer.
- Staff will teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as techniques for proper handwashing and covering coughs.
- Nurses, custodians, and bus drivers will have specialized PPE equipment to use as needed.
- Students and staff who are determined to be a close contact to someone who tested positive for COVID-19 will be expected to wear a face mask

SCHOOL BUILDINGS

- Classrooms will be cleaned and disinfected.
- High traffic areas such as restrooms and health stations will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the day.
- Frequent contact areas will be cleaned and sanitized daily.

TRANSPORTATION

- Transportation staff will receive training on safety protocols, including COVID-19 mitigation strategies.
- Frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned with approved cleaning supplies.
- Students may be assigned seating to assist with contact tracing. Students may be assigned to seating arrangements with family members.
- Safe and proper use of open windows and hatches along with fans will be encouraged when reasonable to allow for increased ventilation.

FOOD SERVICE

- Surfaces will be wiped and disinfected frequently.
- Tables will be cleaned prior to food being served.
- Surfaces will be cleaned between each lunch period.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided in cafeterias.

HEALTH SERVICES

- Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 will be required to isolate for 5 days and wear a mask at school for days 6-10.
- Children who present COVID-19 symptoms while at school will be cared for by nursing staff.
- Parents/guardians will be contacted immediately to pick up their child. The child needs to be picked up as soon as possible.
- Additional mitigation strategies may include closing a classroom, a school wing, or a school building.

Student Learning Considerations

IN-PERSON LEARNING

Fairfield Community Schools will follow in a traditional format, with students attending classes in person, five days per week.

POSITIVE TEST RESULTS

Students or staff who test positive for COVID-19 will be required to:

- isolate for 5 days,
- may return on day 6, if symptoms subside and fever free for 24 hours,
- and must wear a mask on days 6-10.

The appropriate health agencies will be notified of any student with a positive COVID-19 test. Teachers will work with parents and students to establish how lessons and assignments will be completed.

CLOSE CONTACTS

Individuals who are determined to be close contacts will either wear a mask at school or quarantine at home. Individuals determined to be a close contact may remain at school if they meet the following conditions:

- Report daily to the school nurse for symptom monitoring and immediately isolate if symptoms develop. (See symptomatic close contacts below)
- Practice good hand hygiene by washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Stay at least 3 feet from other individuals.
- Wear a mask over the nose and mouth at all times when around others for 10 days.
- Maintain 3 feet of physical distance and remain masked at all times during indoor extra-curricular activities.

SYMPTOMATIC CLOSE CONTACTS

Students or staff who develop symptoms after being a close contact will be required to:

- isolate for 5 days,
- may return on day 6, if symptoms subside and fever free for 24 hours,
- and must wear a mask on days 6-10.

The appropriate health agencies will be notified of any student with a positive COVID-19 test. Teachers will work with parents and students to establish how lessons and assignments will be completed.

ADDITIONAL MITIGATION

Additional mitigation strategies may include closing a classroom, a school wing, or a school building.