

Indianapolis Public Schools
LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction

Updated 10/1: In accordance with the IDOE's request for a safe return to in-person instruction, and CDC guidance for safe schools, IPS has set forth the following policies to promote student and staff safety during in-person learning:

- Universal and correct wearing of masks:
 - Masks are required for all students and staff — regardless of vaccination status — in all IPS buildings.
 - Masks are required on IPS buses for all students, staff and drivers, regardless of vaccination status. This is a federal Transportation Security Administration (TSA) mandate.
 - Masks are required for all visitors — parents/guardians, community partners, volunteers — regardless of vaccination status while indoors. If outdoors, masks are required only if socially distancing is not possible.
 - Students can remove masks during active play outdoors only — regardless of vaccination status — if socially distanced.
 - IPS will stock disposable masks for emergency use in schools and on buses.
- Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing
 - Schools will continue to cohort students as much as possible and practice social distancing of 3 feet when possible.
 - Students will be able to eat in school cafeterias but will have assigned seating. Masks are not required for students while eating and drinking.
 - In K-8 schools, staff will reduce the number of students in the cafeteria at any given lunch period as much as possible (utilizing classrooms, the outside, or the gym to reduce the number of students eating lunch together).
 - In high schools, students may continue to eat in the cafeteria with mandatory assigned seating for contact tracing purposes.
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
 - Signs promoting effective handwashing practices are posted in all IPS restrooms.
 - Proper hand washing, cough, and sneeze protocols are required.
 - Hand sanitizer will continue to be available in all IPS classrooms.
- Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including ventilation
 - All high-touch surfaces will be cleaned and sanitized frequently in school and office buildings and on buses.
 - No-touch water bottle filling stations available in schools.
- Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with state and local governments
 - Seating charts will be maintained in classes, during lunch periods, and on buses for contact tracing.
 - The IPS COVID-19 dashboard on the district website will track positive cases throughout the district and schools will notify families and staff of any positive cases at their location.

- Students identified as a close contact in a classroom setting where everyone is consistently and correctly masked will no longer be required to quarantine. However, families may still choose to have their student quarantine.
 - If masks are not worn consistently or correctly in a classroom, students identified as a close contact will need to quarantine for 14 days.
 - Face shields are not considered a mask and those wearing one will be required to quarantine if identified as a close contact.
 - This guidance will not apply to staff members who are deemed close contacts. Unvaccinated staff members will still be required to quarantine for 14 days. Fully vaccinated staff who do not have symptoms will not be required to quarantine.
- Areas where students may not be masked consistently (lunch, band, athletics, etc.) will require contact tracing and for students to be quarantined if they have been identified within 6 feet (for more than 15 minutes) of a person who tested positive.
- Students/staff who have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 and who meets the following criteria does NOT need to quarantine: Someone who has COVID-19 illness within the previous three months, has recovered and remains without COVID-19 symptoms (for example, cough, shortness of breath).
- Quarantine periods will expire after 14 days post exposure.
- IPS accepts either a PCR or rapid test for both asymptomatic and symptomatic individuals. Tests must be done in a clinical setting.
- Seating charts will be maintained in all classrooms, cafeterias, and school buses so that contact tracing can be conducted.
- COVID-19 symptoms must be monitored at home for students and staff. Those displaying symptoms must remain at home.
- Diagnostic and screening testing
 - Parents and staff should check students and self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms before reporting to school or work.
- Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities
 - IPS will continue to host vaccination clinics throughout the school year. Dates, times and locations will be provided on the district website and via district communication to families and staff.
 - Students are still encouraged to provide proof of vaccination status to IPS given that mask guidance may change later in the school year. Additionally, vaccinated students who are not symptomatic are not required to quarantine if there's a possible exposure. Vaccinated students (ages 12 and older) can voluntarily provide proof of vaccination status.
 - Staff should continue to provide proof of vaccination status per HR protocol given that mask guidance may change later in the school year. Additionally, vaccinated staff who are not symptomatic are not required to quarantine if there's a possible exposure. Vaccinated staff can provide proof of vaccination to the IPS HR Department.
 -

- Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies
 - Students who must quarantine due to COVID-19 will receive classwork from their individual teachers via Schoology.
 - While in quarantine, students are expected to complete classwork via their school-issued device.
 - IPS provides a fully remote option for students who choose it. This fully remote option is provided in cooperation with our charter school partners.