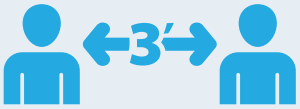
MARION COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
2021-2022 COVID-19 HEALTH & SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

To keep Marion County moving in a positive direction, it is more important than ever to follow guidance from local, state, and federal officials on how to stop the spread of the virus. Marion County continues to experience COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, which, left unchecked, pose a risk to our community. We will continue to monitor the prevalence and impact of new, more transmissible COVID-19 variants, such as the Delta variant, and follow the progress of the vaccination rates of our citizens. To ensure that we continue to proactively take measures that are vital to the mitigation of the pandemic, MCPHD issues the following guidance along with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH):

SOCIAL DISTANCING/ CLASSROOM



Recommend cohorting of all students and practice social distancing of at least 3 feet.

Recommend seating charts be maintained in classes, during lunch periods, and on buses for contact tracing.

Students will be able to eat in the cafeteria but should have assigned seating.

Masks are not required for students while eating and drinking.

All staff lounges and breakrooms should be closed unless all persons who utilize these spaces are fully vaccinated.

Encourage unvaccinated adults and students to socially distance at least 6 feet in common areas, such as school lobbies and auditoriums.

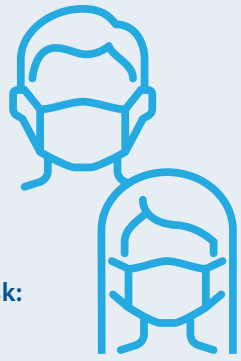
OFFICES/ VISITORS/ VOLUNTEERS

Masks are recommended for all visitors – parents/guardians, community partners, volunteers – regardless of vaccination status while indoors. If outdoors, masks are recommended only if socially distancing is not possible.

Recommend visitors/volunteers be asked to conduct a symptom check before entering a school building.

Recommend visitors/volunteers not be permitted to eat with students/staff during breakfast or lunch.

MASKS/FACE COVERINGS



Masks are recommended indoors for all unvaccinated students (K-12) and all unvaccinated teachers and staff (except when eating).

Masks are also strongly recommended for all students or teachers and staff that may have any underlying condition who may be at increased risk of illness.

For outdoor settings, masks are recommended for unvaccinated individuals in crowded settings or for individuals with underlying medical conditions where social distancing cannot be maintained.

The following categories of people continue to be exempt from the recommendation to wear a mask:

» Any individual who is unable to physically remove the mask by themselves.

» A child under the age of 2 years.

» A person with a disability who cannot wear a mask, or cannot safely wear a mask, because of the disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

» A person for whom wearing a mask would create a risk to workplace health, safety, or job duty as determined by the relevant workplace safety guidelines or federal regulations.

» Individuals who are hearing or speaking impaired and for whom a mask or face covering is an obstacle to communication.

ATHLETICS/ EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Encourage vaccination of participants.

Student athletes are not required to wear masks during practice and games.

Recommend that band, orchestra, and choir groups limit the duration of practice and performance to no more than 90 minutes, unless outdoors.

Recommend that band and orchestras be socially distanced between string and percussion instruments (with face masks if not vaccinated), and wind instruments (without masks).

Recommend that band members continue the use of bell covers during indoor rehearsals.

Recommend that choirs maintain social distancing and wear face masks if not vaccinated.

Recommend that a distance of at least 10 feet is maintained between performers and audience members during musical or theatrical performances.

Recommend that a distance of at least 10 feet is maintained between athletes and spectators at sporting events.

Recommend that schools maintain rosters and attendance records for practices/games for contact tracing.

Recommend that schools implement strategies to decrease congregating in locker rooms.

Public attendance at games and extracurricular performances is allowed.

Recommend that spectators or event attendees sit together with other household members who are in attendance.

Recommend that spectators or event attendees who are not vaccinated wear masks while indoors or outdoors when social distancing cannot be maintained.

CLEANING/ SANITIZING/HYGIENE

All high touch surfaces should be cleaned and sanitized frequently.

Hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes should continue to be available.

Proper hand washing, cough, and sneeze protocols are recommended.

Water bottle filling stations should be installed and available in all schools.

TRANSPORTATION

Masks are required for students, bus drivers, and staff utilizing any school sponsored vehicle for transportation. Masking on public transportation is a federal mandate.

Recommend that transportation procedures should continue to include seating charts for contact tracing.

Recommend that bus drivers open windows to improve ventilation when weather allows.

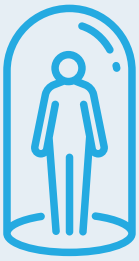
TESTING/VACCINATION

Being vaccinated is the most effective way to protect oneself and others from COVID-19. Vaccinations are free and vaccination sites are conveniently available across our community.

Vaccinations for eligible students, faculty, and staff will be the most effective way to keep schools open and individuals healthy.

COVID-19 testing is free, reliable, and sites are conveniently located across our community.

ISOLATION



Persons who test positive for COVID-19 should isolate for a minimum of 10 days from the onset of symptoms, or from the test collection date, if asymptomatic.

Individuals can return to work/school if:

» At least 10 days have passed since onset of symptoms or test collection date (asymptomatic infections);

» Fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications; and

» Significant improvement in COVID-19 symptoms

Individuals who do not meet the above criteria must continue isolation for 14 days.

CLOSE CONTACTS

In a classroom setting in which any individuals are unmasked, any person who is within 6 feet of a someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more within a 24-hour period will be considered a close contact.

In a classroom setting in which all individuals are masked, any individual who is within 3 feet or less from the person who tested positive for COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more in a 24-hour period will be considered a close contact.

In all other areas of the school environment, any unvaccinated individuals within 6 feet of a person diagnosed with COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more in a 24-hour period will be considered a close contact.

QUARANTINE

Staff and students who are identified as a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19 should quarantine for a minimum of 10 days after last exposure to the case.

Any close contact who meets quarantine exemption criteria shall not have to be excluded from work/ school unless symptoms occur.

A 14-day quarantine is the most protective option.

Close contacts can return to work/school after 14 days without limitations if they have remained asymptomatic in the two weeks since their last exposure to the confirmed case.

Close contacts can return to work/school after 10 days if they:

» Have remained completely asymptomatic for the 10 days following exposure;

» Can wear mask and maintain social distancing for days 11-14; and

» Agree to leave work/school and isolate if symptoms develop during days 11-14 after exposure.

Marion County Public Health Department does not recommend the use of the 7-day quarantine model.

Recommend that individuals quarantine while they are waiting for COVID-19 test results.

CLOSE CONTACT QUARANTINE EXEMPTION

Fully vaccinated individuals who can provide documentation of vaccination. Fully vaccinated is defined as at least 2 weeks have passed since completion of two dose vaccination series, or at least 2 weeks have passed since completion of the 1 dose vaccination series.

Individuals who have had a positive COVID-19 test within the previous 90 days (3 months).

COVID-19 SYMPTOM CHECKLIST

- Fever/Chills
- Cough
- Shortness of Breath
- Fatigue
- Muscle/Body Aches
- Headache
- Loss of Taste/Smell
- Sore Throat
- Sinus Congestion
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea

MARION COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

MARIONHEALTH.ORG