



North Daviess Community School Corporation

2021-2022 School Year

COVID-19

Return to In-Person Instruction Plan

As of July 1, 2021, local school boards of public K-12 education institutions will be responsible for implementing whatever measures and restrictions are deemed necessary and prudent to address the impact and spread of COVID-19 for their buildings, facilities, and grounds, including transportation. Educational governing bodies are encouraged to follow CDC guidance and any guidance that may be issued by the Indiana Departments of Health and Education.

1. School Day

- a. In-person instruction will be provided 5 days a week.
- b. Virtual learning will be an option for families who prefer to keep students at home **ONLY** if approved by the Superintendent and have medical reasons for doing so. (physician consultation and documentation will be necessary)

2. Masks and Contact Tracing

- a. Masks **will not** be required for students and staff. (Please also reference the "Transporting Students" section of this document.)
- b. Students and staff **may wear** masks if so desired.
- c. Determine contact tracing requirements, if any, for in-school and out-of-school exposure with guidance from Daviess County Health Department.
- d. Follow IDOE attendance guidelines for students who are absent due to a COVID-19 related reason.

3. Practicing Prevention

- a. Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as handwashing, covering coughs, etc.
- b. Provide hand soap and hand sanitizer, paper towels, and no-touch trash cans in all bathrooms, classrooms, and frequently trafficked areas.
- c. Post signage to communicate how to stop the spread. Include COVID 19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and specific protocols.
- d. Clean/disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least daily & shared objects after each use.
- e. Take steps to make sure all water systems and features are safe.
- f. Turn off the water fountains except for water filling stations and encourage students and staff to bring water bottles from home.
- g. Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible, as long as this does not pose a safety or health risk to students or staff.
- h. Conduct deep cleaning of schools prior to students/staff returning; schedule additional cleanings as needed.
- i. Student seating should remain at least 3 feet apart, when feasible.

4. Transporting Students

- a. Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as:
 - i. Require bus drivers to wear face masks/coverings per the duration of the federal transportation mask mandate.
 - ii. Students wear face masks/coverings per the duration of the federal transportation mask mandate.
 - iii. Students must sit in assigned seats.
 - iv. No guest riders unless pre-approved due to a supervision issue or split households.
 - v. Inspecting buses prior to students returning and as a part of regular rotation.
 - vi. Increased cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces on buses.
 - vii. Airing out buses when not in use.
 - viii. Provide hand sanitizer to students and staff.
- b. Scrutinize field trips to determine the educational gain versus risk
 - i. Offer alternative options for students who do not feel comfortable attending.
 - ii. Consider virtual field trips if they are an option.

5. Entering School Buildings

- a. Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventive measures such as:
 - i. Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff.
 - ii. Limit unnecessary congregations of students and staff.
 - iii. Post signage to communicate how to stop the spread. Include COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and specific protocols.
 - iv. Continue established COVID-19 protocol for students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms when they come to school.
 - v. Limit visitors and volunteers when students are present. Screen prior to interactions with students or staff.
 - vi. Students will be allowed to enter buildings at 7:45 A.M. unless prior approval is given.

6. Serving Meals

- a. Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as:
 - i. Encourage students to hand wash before and after meal service.
 - ii. Providing hand sanitizer for students and staff.
 - iii. Conducting cleaning of cafeterias and high-touch surfaces throughout the school day.
- b. Consider single-serve/pre-wrapped items and utensils when appropriate.
- c. Students will be required to sit in their assigned seats/locations.

7. Transitioning (hallways)

- a. Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as:
 - i. Encourage students to avoid congregating during passing periods or by lockers.
 - ii. Conducting cleaning of hallways and high-touch surfaces throughout the school day.
 - iii. Providing hand sanitizer for students and staff at entrances to classrooms.

8. Conducting Large Group Gatherings

- a. Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as:
 - i. Providing hand sanitizer for students and staff.
 - ii. Limiting unnecessary congregations of students and staff.
 - iii. Follow any Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA), Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA), or other extra-curricular/co-curricular governing bodies guidelines for performances, and practices.
 - iv. Submit plans to the local health department for recurring and special events when requested.

9. Supporting Teaching and Learning

- a. Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as:
 - i. Providing hand sanitizer for students and staff.
 - ii. Conducting cleaning of classrooms and high-touch surfaces daily.
- b. Establish an academic baseline:
 - i. Use formative assessments as available.
 - ii. Conduct meetings with teachers to analyze data and students' academic levels.
- c. Discuss the shared experience
 - i. Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Resources
- d. Target interventions and supports:
 - i. Provide additional instructional supports to:
 - 1. Students at risk of not graduating on time.
 - 2. Students with disabilities. (recovery services)
 - 3. Students who had poor attendance in the 2020-2021 school year due to COVID-19 related reasons.
 - 4. Other students identified as being behind academically by teachers and parents.
- e. Address learning loss:
 - i. Provide extended learning opportunities through summer school programming.

10. Vaccinations

- a. Follow Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) guidance if COVID-19 becomes a required or recommended vaccine. Currently, the COVID-19 vaccine is not listed as either a required or recommended vaccine. Should that change, religious and medical exemptions will be followed like with all other vaccines. [2021-2022 Required and Recommended School Immunizations: https://www.in.gov/isdh/files/2021-2022%20Immunization%20Requirements.pdf](https://www.in.gov/isdh/files/2021-2022%20Immunization%20Requirements.pdf)
- b. Provide parents/guardians with ISDH COVID-19 vaccination information for students.

11. Communication

- a. A COVID-19 Dashboard will be maintained on the NDCSC website that lists cases per building if individuals are still required to report positive cases to each school.

12. Protecting Vulnerable Populations

- a. All federal, state, and local guidelines will be followed as well as adherence to FERPA and HIPAA requirements. In addition, adherence to state and federal employment law and extended leave allowances, and offering an Employee Assistance Program to all staff members.

13. Terms/Definitions:

- a. **In-School Learning** - students present in the school building.
- b. **Virtual Learning** - students completing lessons and activities remotely through technology.
- c. **Vulnerable populations** - elderly individuals and/or individuals with serious underlying health conditions including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune system is compromised such as by chemotherapy for cancer and other conditions requiring such therapy as identified by national health organizations.