



# *Pacers*



***Switzerland County School Corporation  
2021-2022 Return to School Action Plan***



# *Table of Contents*

Document Overview	3
Health Protocol for Schools	3
Returning to School After Exclusion	5
Social Distancing in the School Environment	11
Switzerland County Educational Plan 21-22	12
Nutrition Service Procedures	14
Special Education Overview	15
Student Transportation Considerations	18
Indiana State Health Department Mitigation Recommendations	19
Additional Resources	20

The Switzerland County School Corporation 2021-2022 school year calendar is currently following the previously approved schedule. In the event a change must be made all parents will receive notification of the updated calendar dates and the dates will be taken to the board in a public school board session.

We will make every effort to ensure communication is enhanced through this period of rapidly changing information. Please update your Skyward information with the most current information.

The school has taken the following precautions. We have hired additional custodial staff to meet the increased cleaning requirements. Our teachers are assisting in the cleaning of hard surface tables, bus drivers are cleaning seats and students areas, faculty and staff will clean all playground equipment each morning, and cafeteria and common areas have been modified or staggered to accommodate lower capacity limits. Please encourage your child to bring only necessary items to school, come to practices dressed to reduce locker room use, and help them promote self-distancing practices. Working together we look forward to working with your student during the 2021-2022 school year.

Please see the following pages for more detailed information on our 2021-2022 school year.

## Document Overview

The goal of Switzerland County School Corporation is to provide the best educational experience possible for students while providing a safe learning environment during COVID-19. This document is the framework of how we will accomplish this goal while making decisions using the best information available at this time.

The guidance provided by national, state, and local officials rapidly changes. Knowing information changes quickly the planning, preparing, and operating of the school district may change and this document may be revised. Please **expect revisions and updates throughout the 2021-2022 school year** based on the information provided by federal, state, and local officials as the medical landscape and knowledge surrounding COVID-19 continue to evolve.

We believe the best instruction takes place when teachers and students can work together in the classroom. Our goal is to have school in session with classroom instruction throughout the 2021-2022 school year. To do this we must maintain a safe and healthy school environment and monitor the prevalence of COVID-19 in our community.

Knowing there are students with various health needs. Switzerland County School Corporation is dedicated to offering options for students who may be immune compromised or face high risk medical conditions with health care provider documentation.

We also understand that conditions change within our nation, state, and local community quickly. If the state or local health officials determine it is necessary to make alternative plans, this document also contains basic guidance for students in the event that a quick transition to online learning is needed.

O

## **Health Protocol for Schools**

It is essential for the school community to work together to prevent the re-introduction and spread of COVID-19 in the school environment and in the community while still providing a quality education program.

State statute gives public school districts the authority to exclude students who have a

contagious disease such as COVID-19 or are liable to transmit it after exposure (IC 20-34-3-9).

In addition, the local health department has the authority to exclude students from school and may order students and others to isolate or quarantine (IC 16-41-9-1.6). As such, districts/schools are encouraged to work closely with their local health departments.

### **Symptoms Impacting Consideration for Exclusion from School**

Students and employees will monitor symptoms to recognize the following COVID-19-related symptoms:

- A fever of 100.4 ° F or greater
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Body aches and fatigue
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- GI symptoms- abdominal Cramping & diarrhea

Students or employees will be excluded from school if they test positive for COVID-19 or have someone in their home that has tested positive for COVID-19 until they present a medical release form signed by their doctor. If the student or employee has had COVID-19 within (90) days or it has been fourteen (14) days since last COVID vaccination they will not be excluded. The School Corporation may exclude any student or employee who exhibits one or more of the symptoms of COVID-19 based on CDC Guidance that is not otherwise explained. See return to school guidance below for further information.

Students and staff who have had direct contact without proper PPE with students or staff may be excluded from school. Please see return to school below for further guidance.

Schools may now use BinaxNow cards to test symptomatic teachers, staff and students (**with parental consent**) to more quickly isolate positive individuals and begin contact

tracing. Schools that choose to use BinaxNow cards will need to complete training and agree to comply with our CLIA waiver.

## **Return to School After Exclusion**

Once a student or employee is excluded from the school environment (whether it be by a parent or guardian, a physician or other health care provider, or the school nurse), they may return after 10 days without a test from the last contact of the person testing positive. On day 11, 12, 13, and 14 the student will be required to wear a mask. They may return to normal mask protocols on day 15.

Parents may also opt to have their child COVID-19 tested on day 7, 8, or 9 and return to school prior to the 10 day no test quarantine or the 14 day quarantine period if their test results are negative.

Those who provide a negative test on day 7, 8, or 9 may return to in school attendance and will be required to wear a mask until day 14. During day 7, 8, and 9 students MAY NOT participate in extra-curricular activities. This includes academic courses Band, Choir, and P.E.

Persons who have not received a test proving or disproving the presence of COVID-19 but experience symptoms (of general illness) may return if the following three conditions are met:

- They have not had a fever for at least 72 hours (that is three full days of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers);
- **AND** other symptoms (have returned to normal for 72 hours or 3 days) (for example, 3 days after your cough or shortness of breath have resolved.)
- **MAY** be excluded 14 calendar days by the healthcare provider from the time your symptoms first appeared.

The state website has a list of over 200 free testing facilities, their location, and hours of operation. This list is updated frequently. Some of those locations can be found at the following link: [INDIANA TESTING SITES](#)

## **Tested Positive- Symptomatic**

Persons who experienced symptoms and have been tested positive for COVID-19 may return to school if the following conditions are met:

- The individual has not had a fever for 72 hours in their final 3 days of the 10 day exclusion (without the use of medicine that reduces fevers); and
- Other symptoms have returned to normal (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath has returned to normal); and
- At least 10 calendar days have passed since symptoms first appeared; and cleared by their health care provider.

## **Tested Positive- Asymptomatic**

Anyone who has not had symptoms but tests positive for COVID-19 may return to school/work 10 days from the test date if fever free for 72 hours.

## **Tested Positive- Impact on School Operations**

If there is a positive case within the school, all areas must be properly cleaned and sanitized before students can return to school. This may require a closure depending upon the required time to successfully complete the areas. This includes all buses and playground equipment.

The Health Department will be provided a list of students who were assigned to any area where someone has received a positive test. The Health Department will then work together with the school to attempt to contact trace and notify those individuals that may need to be self-quarantined and excluded from school. The Health Department may also ask the school for information on anyone who is a Person Under Investigation by the Health Department.

During a non scheduled school closure there will be no school related activities. This includes extra-curricular and co-curricular activities. Non Scheduled school closures may range from 2 to 5 days, or longer depending on the number of students and staff involved, as well as the general Covid-19 activity in the community at large. All school closures will be communicated to parents as soon as possible.

Students and staff who are socially distanced at least three feet and are wearing a mask **at all times** will not be required to quarantine.. This change does **not** apply to lunch, athletics, band, orchestra, choir or any other school setting where students may gather, nor does it apply to classrooms in which students have been allowed to remove their masks.

- Students within 0-3 feet longer than 15 minutes are still required to quarantine.
  - Students 3 to 6 feet, longer than 15 minutes, **with both students properly wearing face coverings (covering both mouth AND nose )**, only the student who is positive will be required to quarantine.
  - Students greater than 6 feet are not required to quarantine.
  - Please note, bus riders who share a seat will be required to quarantine.  
Those in seats around a positive person, more than 3 feet and wearing a face covering will NOT be required to quarantine.
- In the academic setting, parties must properly wear face coverings while in close contact (3 feet to 6 feet) with a positive person at school, to meet the guideline **to not be required to quarantine**.
  - Grades K-2 are NOT required to wear face coverings. If they are in contact with a known positive person at school without a face covering, they will continue to be required to quarantine per our current guidelines.

Parents may choose to send their child back to school 10 days without a test from the last contact of the person testing positive, if a child returns after 10 days they must wear a mask in all settings, social distance, and wear a mask during athletics if they choose to participate with clearance from their healthcare provider. Parents should continue to monitor symptoms during this time period and students may return to normal activities after day 14.

Mask wearing will be required for those under grade three if they choose to return prior to day 14. After day 14 they may return to no mask.

Parents may also opt to have their child COVID-19 tested on day 7, 8, or 9 and return to school prior to the 10 day no test quarantine or the 14 day quarantine period if their test results are negative.

Those who provide a negative test on day 7, 8, or 9 may return to in school attendance and will be required to wear a mask until day 14. During day 7, 8, and 9 students MAY NOT participate in extra-curricular activities. This includes academic courses Band, Choir, and P.E.

## **Medical Inquiries**

Federal law typically limits the type of medical inquiries that can be made, but given the nature of the pandemic more leeway has been given to districts/schools to make additional medical inquiries of staff and students than would otherwise be allowed.

- If a parent or guardian notifies the school that a student is ill, the school may ask the parent whether the student is exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19.
- If an employee calls in sick or appears ill, the school can inquire as to whether the employee is experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms.
- If a person is obviously ill, the school may make additional inquiries and may exclude the person from school property.

## **Wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) - Non-students**

Faculty and staff may wear masks in the hallways or in the classroom when social distancing is not possible. Teachers will have plexiglass barriers in each room for desks or teaching areas. Staff will wear a mask if not behind the barrier when working with students.

- Some non-students may be required to wear additional PPE (i.e. health-related, custodial staff, specialized positions such as bus drivers or cafeteria staff, etc.) when directed to do so by the employee's supervisor.
- Additional accommodations may need to be made for staff based on their individual health plan.

## **Wearing Masks and other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) - Students**

- Masks are optional for all students while at school except while riding the bus. Masks with a design must meet school standards.
- Additional accommodations will be made for students based on their individual health plan.



## **Clinical Space COVID-19 Symptomatic**

Each school building has a nurses office for daily medication and routine health issues. Any student experiencing COVID-19 symptoms will be provided a mask and monitored until a parent can pick up the student. Only essential staff assigned to the room may enter. A record will be kept of all persons who entered the room and the room will be cleaned several times throughout the day. Strict social distancing is required and staff must wear appropriate PPE. Students who are ill will be walked out of the building to their parents.

Before returning to school, a student or staff member must be fever-free, without the use of fever reducing medications, and all other symptoms of illness must return to normal for 72 hours. Additionally, all staff and students with fevers or symptoms associated with COVID-19 are encouraged to seek medical attention for further evaluation and instructions. Students and staff may return before the 72 hour window has elapsed if they are approved to do so in writing by their healthcare provider. Please see guidance above.

## **Clinic Space Non-COVID-19 Related**

Students who do not display symptoms of COVID-19 can be seen and treated in a non isolated area of the nurse's clinic. These would include students who are injured during the school day or students with special health care needs such as those with chronic health conditions (i.e. diabetes or seizures), and those requiring some medical treatments. Be advised that high risk procedures, particularly suctioning and nebulized breathing treatments are not allowed and parents of children who may require these procedures should seriously consider the risk of in-person instruction. (i.e. - suctioning, tube feeding, or nebulizers), and those with individual health plans.

## **Confirmed Case of COVID-19 on School Property**

When there is confirmation that a person infected with COVID-19 was on school property, Switzerland County School Corporation will contact the local health department immediately. The Switzerland County School Corporation will also notify the Indiana Department of Education per state guidance. Unless extenuating circumstances exist, Switzerland County School Corporation will work with the local health department

to assess factors such as the likelihood of exposure to employees and students in the building, the number of cases in the community, and other factors that will determine building closure. **It is the responsibility of the local health department to contact the person confirmed with COVID-19, inform direct contacts of their possible exposure, and give instructions to those involved with the confirmed case, including siblings and other household members regarding self-quarantine and exclusions.** *The individual who tested positive will not be identified in communications to the school community at large but may need to be selectively identified for contact tracing by the local or state health department.* If a long term closure is determined to be necessary, Switzerland County School Corporation has determined the status of all in-person school activities including, extracurricular activities, co-curricular activities, and before and after-school programs may be canceled until school resumes.

As soon as the district becomes aware of a student or employee who has been exposed to or has been diagnosed with COVID-19, the custodial staff will be informed, so the impacted building or bus areas, furnishings, and equipment can be thoroughly cleaned. If possible, based upon student and staff presence, the custodial staff will wait 24 hours or as long as possible prior to cleaning. However, if that is not possible or school is in session, the cleaning will occur immediately.

## **Immunizations**

All state immunization requirements remain in place.

## **Preventative Measures**

***The priority for preventing the spread of disease in the school setting is to insist that sick employees and students stay home. This necessarily starts with parents and guardians. Parents and guardians are asked to “self screen” their children at home. If that student or staff member has any of the symptoms of illness listed above, they should notify the school and keep their child as well as any household contacts home.***

Frequent handwashing and avoiding touching your face, eyes, nose, or mouth are also important steps a person can take to avoid becoming sick or spreading germs to others. This is especially important after contact with a “high touch surface” such as doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, table tops and any shared item.

A modified class pattern will help to maintain the best opportunities possible for hand washing while students maintain social distance. These key times include:

- Each hour of the school day
- During Breakfast and Lunch
- After recess and when using the restroom
- After blowing nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After using shared equipment

## **Social Distancing in the School Environment**

The following are measures that Switzerland County School Corporation will take to increase social distancing while still maintaining a level of in person classroom instruction. These protocols may evolve as they are implemented, and more information is obtained about COVID-19.

### **Social Distancing**

Social distancing will not be possible at all times while at school. The following areas will be modified to help assist in reducing contact, but six foot social distancing barriers are not possible at all times in a school setting. This is why frequent handwashing and facial coverings are recommended, as well as why those staff members and students who have conditions that may put them at risk for more serious illness should strongly weigh the risk and benefits of in-person learning.

- School bus seats will be assigned for all routes. Students must remain in their seat and not move from seat to seat. Routes have been reviewed to help reduce transfers and number of occupants. Many bus routes cannot be reduced any further. If you feel you must transport your student each day we understand.
- During pick up and drop off times, parents should expect longer wait times as an increased number of parents may utilize the pick up and drop off option for their child. To help with the flow of traffic, and social distance among family groups, we are asking all parents to remain in their cars.. Your child's principal will provide a map of the pick up and drop off line and rules prior to the start of school.

- Breakfast items will include some prepackaged grab-and-go items allowing students to quickly eat and return to the hall or classroom reducing cafeteria attendance at one time.
- The number of lunch times in a day have increased at the secondary level. This will allow for fewer students per lunch. Elementary schools will go to lunch two grade levels at a time. This will allow the lunch room to have no more than 150 students in each lunch session. During lunch, students will be seated at a minimum distance apart of every other seat.
- Recess will be modified to one grade level at a time. Balls and other student used items will be sanitized by a teacher prior to passing them out and sanitized again when collected at the end of recess. A school faculty or staff member will spray all climbing or hand touched playground equipment with a CDC approved cleaning solution each morning..
- All students will wash their hands when entering the building from recess.
- Handwashing breaks or hand sanitizer will be available for students frequently throughout the day Students will be allowed to carry a clear water bottle to class. Access to fill water bottles will be made available.
- In the mornings all hallways will be open to allow for social distancing as much as possible. Students may enter classrooms as the classrooms open in the morning.
- Students and staff will be encouraged to socially distance whenever possible

## **Switzerland County School Corporation**

### **Educational Instruction Plan**

Daily classroom instruction provided with daily bus service will be offered. Breakfast and lunch will be provided following the SCSC guidelines above. Daily recess will take place for all elementary students. State and local health guidelines will be followed. Sports seasons will take place as scheduled for all student athletes attending school. Additional services will be provided for students who incur absences during the 21-22 school year due to COVID-19 related issues. Communication through your building offices during extended absences will ensure measures are taken to ensure academic needs are met.

## **Course sizes, structure, and classrooms to decrease infection:**

- Communal use spaces such as dining halls and playgrounds will have grade levels staggered and areas will be cleaned in between use.
- P.E., choir, band, and other large classes may be moved on your child's schedule to accommodate smaller classes and other precautions.
- COVID-19 has required us to reorganize assemblies, field trips, registrations, orientations, round-ups, and other large gatherings. We appreciate your understanding.
- Alternate recess will be provided to minimize the number of students on the playground, encourage social distancing, and allow time to clean equipment between uses.
- Every effort will be made to increase space between students during in-person instruction.
- Classes may be held outdoors when possible.
- Students will be required to remain seated in assigned seats.
- We will limit classroom visitors to outside curriculum instructors only. Presenters will be encouraged to present virtually if at all possible.
- Every effort will be taken to ensure adequate supplies are available to minimize sharing of high touch materials (art supplies, equipment, etc. will be assigned to a single child) or limit use of supplies and equipment by one group of children at a time and clean between uses.
- Some soft surface items that may be hard to clean have been removed from classrooms. (stuffed animals, bean bag chairs, and other soft touch toys) Classes will also avoid or minimize the sharing of electronic devices, toys, art supplies, and other games or learning aids when possible.
- There will be no use of attendance awards or perfect attendance incentives for students. We want to work collaboratively with parents and students in an effort to reduce spread of colds and virus related symptoms that may be symptoms of COVID-19. If your child is sick, please keep them home and notify the school of the absence. A doctor's note will not be necessary for each absence but may be requested upon the student's return if symptoms are COVID-19 related.

## **Exchange of Resources to and from School**

Parents, every effort should be made to reduce the amount of materials, supplies, and personal belongings going to and from school. The school will take the same efforts in

consideration to reduce student exposure to high-touch, shared resources at school. We will require students take their devices home daily.

## **Nutrition service procedures to minimize exposure:**

The cafeteria is typically used for student lunches, however meals may be served in classrooms in an effort to reduce cafeteria capacity if necessary.

Prior to any meal service, all children should utilize hand washing or sanitizing to ensure safe eating practices. Opportunities to wash hands before both breakfast and lunch will be provided to students.

Any parent-supplied items for students should come individually wrapped in pre-packaged unopened boxes.

All school booster related sales will follow the guidelines of concessions.

We will take the following precautions:

- No self-serve food line items.
- Disposable napkins and silverware will be provided.
- Controls such as sneeze guards have been installed in cafeteria serving lines, and face shields will be provided for all cafeteria workers.
- Medically fragile students will be served separately from other students. Please call your principal if your child needs an accommodated meal or meal time.
- We will promote social distancing while waiting in line.
- Food-sharing is prohibited.
- Students will be provided a lanyard and ID card with a bar scan for their lunch account. No touch pads for lunch numbers will be available.
- Hand sanitizer will be available upon entry to the cafeteria and at each line.
- PPE will be provided to all food service staff, including both staff preparing and serving food.

## **Special Education Overview**

Switzerland County Schools will continue to collaborate, share information, and review plans with local health officials to help protect the whole school community, including those with special needs. District and school plans will be designed to work with other community strategies to slow the spread, protect high-risk populations, and minimize disruption to teaching and learning.

Switzerland County Schools have developed strong communication plans with families to discuss the delivery method of instruction for students with disabilities in the event of necessary school closures.

### **Case Conferences**

#### **Annual Case Reviews**

The case conference committee (CCC) will continue to meet yearly to conduct the annual case review (ACR). Switzerland County Schools will hold the ACR within the one year timeline, regardless of school closures.

### **Case Conference Committee Meetings to Review and Revise the IEP**

Teachers of Record will contact parents/guardians at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year to discuss educational progress and potential recommendations for students with special needs if necessary. If the recommendations warrant adjustments to the student's current IEP, the case conference committee will convene to discuss the necessary updates and/or additional services to be added to the IEP.

### **Future Services/Compensatory Services**

Compensatory services will be discussed by the CCC, and the determination made given the student's academic need in terms of skill loss. This decision will be based on collected data during an agreed-upon timeframe following the student's return to school. If the CCC determines compensatory services are warranted based on the collected data, the CCC will reconvene, and the IEP will reflect the decisions of the committee in the IEP.

### **Transition IEPs**

Transition assessments are updated annually, even during the COVID-19 pandemic. When updating transition assessments, teachers of record (TORs) may conduct assessments virtually or in-person. Assessments may be administered prior to or during the CCC meeting. In all cases, assessment information will be documented within the Summary of Findings utilizing the SPIN method - Strengths,

Preferences, Interests, and Needs.

### **CCC Meeting Method Options**

Case Conference Committee (CCC) meetings will be conducted virtually if school buildings are closed. As school buildings reopen, CCC meetings may be conducted in-person or through virtual means.

### **EdPlan Connect**

EdPlan Connect is a new addition to the Indiana IEP system that will allow parents to:

- \*Access student records online and in their native language;*
- \*Sign documents electronically and save time;*
- \*View past documents in the student's record;*
- \*Stay up to date with student progress.*

Your student's Teacher or Record will instruct you on how to access this information when you are contacted in the Fall if you are not currently receiving EdPlan Connect information.

### **Evaluations**

Requirements for evaluations remain unchanged. Evaluations may be conducted virtually if the school psychologist has been appropriately trained in conducting virtual assessments and has access to the digital assessments.

### **Medically Fragile Students**

Medically fragile students are at high-risk of severe medical complications if exposed to COVID-19, and therefore may be unable to attend school. Medically fragile students unable to attend school will be provided with educational services remotely. The determination of the services to be provided will be made by the CCC based upon the individual student's medical and educational needs. Special education and related services determined by the CCC could be provided online or in a virtual instructional format, through instructional telephone calls, or other curriculum-based instructional activities. If the services are to be delivered through online or virtual instruction, technological competency and the need for additional assistive technology must be considered. The CCC will convene at least every 60 instructional days to review the IEP for every student unable to attend school in person.



### **Homebound Services**

Switzerland County Schools will provide special education and related services to a student with a disability who is absent for an extended period of time. **If a child with a disability is absent for an extended period of time because of a COVID-19 infection and the school remains open, then the IEP Team will determine whether the child is available for instruction and could benefit from homebound services such as online or virtual instruction, instructional telephone calls, and other curriculum-based instructional activities, to the extent available.** In doing so, school personnel will follow appropriate health guidelines to assess and address the risk of transmission in the provision of such services. Depending on the nature of exposure and extent of COVID-19, exceptional circumstances could affect how a particular service is provided.

If a child does not receive services after an extended period of time due to COVID-19 or another issue and Switzerland County Schools have been provided with a physician's statement stating the student will be unable to attend school for 20 or more instructional days, Switzerland County Schools will make an individualized determination whether and to what extent compensatory services may be needed, consistent with applicable requirements, including to make up for any skills that may have been "lost."

### **Use of Homebound due to Infection in Student's Family**

Once school buildings reopen, a student with a disability may be quarantined at home for an extended period of time due to a family member's infection. Switzerland County Schools will follow the same homebound protocol identified above. School personnel will likewise follow appropriate health guidelines to assess and reduce the risk of transmission in the provision of such homebound services.

### **Use of Homebound Not Related to COVID-19**

As schools reopen, Switzerland County students who were receiving services in a homebound placement will remain in that placement until the CCC determines that a different placement is appropriate. Whether the location of the homebound services identified in the student's IEP is in the student's home or an out-of-school location other than the student's home, school personnel will follow appropriate health guidelines to assess and reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19.

### **Homebound Timelines**

CCCs will reconvene regarding homebound placements at least once every 60 instructional days.

### **Special Transportation**

Switzerland County Schools will continue to provide special transportation for in-person services as has always occurred in the past for students with need. The special transportation needs will be documented in the student's IEP.

### **Therapy**

Switzerland County Schools reentry planning for providing IEP-required therapies has been made in accordance with the CDC community-level guidance for schools which addresses;

- \*Medical and special transportation needs;
- \*Unique operating conditions related to intensified cleaning of the environment and equipment required for therapy sessions;
- \*Reduced/staggered sessions and social distancing during therapy;
- \*Face coverings and more frequent handwashing;
- \*Potential assistive technology for remote therapy needs when required;
- \*CCC planning for continued services if COVID-19 requires time away from the school building;
- \*Communication with families regarding potential regression or lack of progress and the plan to address such regression;
- \*Backlog of evaluations and the need to prioritize new referrals before re-evaluations;
- \*Staffing training to meet students' therapy needs;
- \*Flexible and adaptive scheduling to maximize therapy service provisions; and
- \*Equal services for students with disabilities attending non-public schools within school districts.

## **Student Transportation Considerations**

The school bus is often the student's first contact with the school in the morning and the last point of contact in the afternoon. We are paying particular attention to protocols used in student transportation to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and protect both students and employees.

The following are protocols Switzerland County School Corporation has put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic. These precautions are not required by law but are taken as an additional precautionary measure in an effort to protect both students and staff.

**Preparation and Cleaning and Inspection of all buses and transport vehicles for cleanliness and safety has taken place this summer. The following are additional considerations taking place during the 2021-2022 school year.**

- All bus seats and student areas will be sprayed using a CDC approved cleaning solution before and after each route, both morning and afternoon. ..
- Drivers must wear masks or face shields during the route and while cleaning the bus.
- Students must wear school appropriate masks during all bus rides.
- Students will be assigned a specific seat and must remain in that seat throughout the route.
- Wait a period of 24 hours before cleaning a bus/transportation vehicle that transported a passenger or had a driver who tests positive for COVID-19 or exhibited symptoms of COVID-19 will be observed. If 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible. Affected buses can be used immediately after cleaning.
- Bus routes have been modified to allow for less student exchange points and fewer riders where possible.

**Modifications for School and Extracurricular Transportation Situations**

- Custodial-arranged, reimbursable transportation for McKinney-Vento, foster, and medically fragile students is possible for those able to transport McKinney-Vento out of district homeless, foster, or medically placed students.
- Drivers and maintenance/cleaning staff are properly trained. (Eight hours of annual training required.)
- Contact your school if you feel a student or the driver exhibits symptoms of COVID-19.
- Students displaying symptoms of COVID-19 must be picked up from school. They will not be allowed to ride the bus home.
- Avoiding touching surfaces often touched by passengers.
- All activity buses will be cleaned before and after their route before sports teams or academic teams travel.

## **Health Department Mitigation Strategy**

### **Recommendations**

Switzerland County School Corporation is working with our local health department to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 among students, staff and teachers. Although evidence shows that most children infected with COVID-19 have mild symptoms, some children will develop serious illness, especially those children at risk because of underlying health issues. Switzerland County School Corporation is dedicated to offering options for students who may be immune compromised or face high risk medical conditions with health care provided documentation.

Switzerland County School Corporation is prepared to respond to COVID-19 cases if and when they occur in our facilities. Through our action plan and working with our local health officials it is

our mission to provide your child with the best educational opportunities possible in any circumstance. This requires each school to develop a mandatory reporting system for all teachers, administrators, staff and students (parents/guardians) to report any documented positive cases of COVID-19 in their school. Please help us by contacting your school and our local health department in the event you or a family member has tested positive in your home.

Any student, teacher, administrator or staff who is symptomatic for infection should stay home and consult their primary care provider or seek testing.

You will note that in the event of a documented positive case the school may close. This will allow the local health department or the Indiana State Department of Health to engage in further testing, and schools can enhance cleaning etc. **In the event our school is closed for a period of time there will be no use of facilities by any group and no athletic activities will take place.**

**However, day to day instruction will continue through Google Classroom in a distance learning environment until students can return.**

Recommendations about prolonged closure will depend on the community level of disease and the current burden of infection impacting our hospital systems. This decision will be made by Mr. Rod Hite, Superintendent while working with Dr. Scott Frede, Switzerland County Health Officer.

### **References and Resources**

This document was created through resources created by the Indiana State Department of Education.

[https://www.doe.in.gov/sites/default/files/news/june-5-class-document.pdf?utm\\_content=&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_name=&utm\\_source=govdelivery&utm\\_term=](https://www.doe.in.gov/sites/default/files/news/june-5-class-document.pdf?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=)

Additionally, the following documents include information for COVID-19 resources:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2020). Guidance for Administrators of US K-12 Schools and Child Care Programs

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>

National Institutes of Health, (2020) Coronavirus stability

<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/new-coronavirus-stable-hours-surfaces>

World Health Organization, (2020) Coronavirus (COVID-19)

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>