

SOUTH CENTRAL COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION



July 14, 2021

Dear Parent / Guardian,

The purpose of this letter is to inform stakeholders about masking, social distancing, and quarantine requirements for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year. Please note that this letter comes to you upon the approval by the South Central Board of School Trustees. Additionally, the recommendations outlined here were brought forward after consulting with the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE), the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH), and the LaPorte County Health Department. The ISDH also has a 1 page document which is included in this letter for informational purposes.

For the start of the 2021-2022 school year, South Central will make wearing of masks optional for all individuals. This decision may be revisited if cases begin to rise or the Health Department recommends a masking requirement in the future. We believe that making masks optional provides opportunities for students and staff to continue wearing masks if they desire. As individuals go about their routine business in our respective communities, it appears that fewer individuals are wearing masks. However, it is important to note that masks will still be required while utilizing school bus transportation as this is a Federal Requirement.

South Central will continue to work with our students and staff to social distance at least 3' as recommended next school year. We are confident that we can achieve that 3' distance in most circumstances. In addition, elementary students will return to the cafeteria to eat lunch daily. However, a return to these "normal" activities brings a certain level of risk with quarantine and contact tracing. South Central will still adhere to the 10 day quarantine period for positive individuals and/or those individuals that are direct contacts as discovered through contact tracing. It is important to note that contact tracing quarantines are not required of individuals that have been vaccinated.

In closing, we remain excited about the potential for next school year. We know that this information will be welcome with applause by some and displeasure by others. Please remember, if you or someone in your home feels ill, please stay home. Ultimately, we share in the desire to return to normalcy and will need everyone's help to continue to operate South Central as safely as possible. As always, thank you for your support and for choosing South Central for your child's education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Theodore Stevens'.

Dr. Theodore Stevens, Superintendent

Enclosures: 1

Back to School Guidance

Fall 2021



After July 1, 2021, local school boards will be responsible for implementing whatever measures and restrictions 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 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) guidance.

Per CDC order, masks are required to be worn on public transportation, which includes school buses. Information regarding this federal CDC order can be found [here](#).

IDOH has released preliminary fall guidance for K-12 schools. A summary of this guidance can be found below. The full guidance can be found [here](#). This guidance includes additional recommendations regarding handwashing, daily cleaning, ventilation, nursing clinic procedures, daily screening, food service, water system maintenance, and extracurricular activities. To view a recorded webinar explaining this guidance, as well as a question and answer session, click [here](#) and scroll to the June 4, 2021, Back to School video.

K-12 Schools:

- Unvaccinated staff and students
 - Masks recommended indoors (except when eating); social distance at least 3 feet if all students are facing forward in the classroom; social distance at least 6 feet in all other areas of the school; and quarantine if identified as having had close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19.
- Vaccinated staff and students
 - Masks are not necessary; use good judgment regarding social distancing; and no quarantine needed if identified as a close contact as long as they remain asymptomatic.

Track and Isolate Positive Cases:

- Individuals should stay home for 10 days following the onset of symptoms or a positive test result.

Who is a close contact?:

- If all students are masked and facing forward in the classroom, only individuals within 3 feet of a person diagnosed with COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.
- If all students are **not** masked and facing forward in the classroom, all individuals within 6 feet of a person diagnosed with COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.

Quarantine:

- **Vaccinated** close contacts do not have to quarantine, but should monitor for symptoms and isolate if symptoms develop.
- **Unvaccinated** individuals who are identified as a close contact must quarantine.
 - **Asymptomatic close contacts** may return on day 8 (with specific negative testing and precautions), day 11 (with precautions), or day 15 (without testing or precautions).

Report:

- Schools should report all positive cases and close contacts via the [IDOH K-12 Gateway portal](#).

All guidance is subject to change as CDC and other expert guidance changes. Please email questions to backtoschool@isdh.in.gov.