

## Southern Wells Community Schools

### 2021-2022 Covid-19 Continuing Education Guidance Document

In order for Southern Wells Community Schools to continue its in-person instruction we were successful with this past school year, this two-page document outlines the ongoing efforts of the greater Southern Wells Community to operate safe and healthy schools following the termination of Indiana's public health emergency on July 1, 2021.

Southern Wells Community Schools continues to collaborate, share information, and review plans with the Wells County Health Department to help protect the whole school community. Prior to the 2020-2021 school year, Southern Wells Community Schools developed its Return to Learn Plan, which can be found by clicking on the following link ([Southern Wells Return to Learn Plan](#)) As part of the plan's development, the Southern Wells Board of School Trustees approved this plan in the spring of 2020, as well as three updates to the plan, that were also reflected at our web site throughout the course of the past school year.

**Beginning July 1, 2021, the governor's public health emergency for the state of Indiana expired. Southern Wells will implement the following items for the start of the 2021-2022 school year:**

**Masks** – Masks will be recommended, but not required, for staff and students for all school related activities.

**Contact tracing** - A student, or staff member, with a confirmed case of Covid-19 will be quarantined as outlined on page two of this document (10 calendar days without symptoms from the date of the positive test result.) If a student or staff member has been in close contact with a person who has a confirmed case of Covid, contact tracing will not occur and those individuals will not be required to be quarantined due to the close contact as long as they remain symptom free and will follow board adopted student handbook guidelines concerning the health and safety of our students, staff and school community. In the event we have a large number of confirmed cases, and contact tracing needs to occur, we will work closely with the Wells County Health Department.

[High School Student Handbook](#) and [Elementary Student Handbook](#)

**Volunteers/Guests** – Volunteers and guests will be allowed back in the building(s) using the following guidelines per the county spread levels: <https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/>

Blue – Visitors allowed following pre Covid protocol set at each building.

Yellow/Orange – Temperature checks required in main office and visitor(s) must be fever free to enter beyond the office. If a visitor is not willing to have their temperature checked that individual will not be allowed to visit.

Red – No visitors.

#### **Additional information:**

Screening Measures should be completed before a student/employee leaves home. A student/employee should stay home, if the individual exhibits a fever of 100.4° F or greater with any of the following symptoms: Persistent Cough, Shortness of Breath or Difficulty Breathing, Chills, Repeated Shaking with Chills, Muscle Pain, Body Aches, Headache, Sore Throat, New Loss of Taste or Smell, Diarrhea, Vomiting, Nausea.

**2021-22 Employee and Student Quarantines/Restrictions will be Limited to Individuals with a Positive COVID-19 Test Result.**

**Contact tracing** - A student, or staff member, with a confirmed case of Covid-19 will be quarantined as outlined on page two of this document (10 calendar days without symptoms from the date of the positive test result.) If a student or staff member has been in close contact with a person who has a confirmed case of Covid, contact tracing will not occur and those individuals will not be required to be quarantined due to the close contact as long as they remain symptom free and will follow board adopted student handbook guidelines concerning the health and safety of our students, staff and school community. In the event we have a large number of confirmed cases, and contact tracing needs to occur, we will work closely with the Wells County Health Department.

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The items below provides guidelines for returning to school/work following a positive COVID-19 test. Whether there are symptoms or not, a positive test result will require a 10-day quarantine for the individual who has tested positive. The difference is when the 10 days start.

**Guidance for returning to school/work after experiencing a fever of 100.4° F or greater and one or more of the symptoms listed above with positive test result for COVID-19.**

No fever for at least 24 hours without the use of medicine that reduces fevers

Other symptoms have improved

At least 10 calendar days have passed **since the first symptoms appeared.**

**Guidance for returning to school/work after testing POSITIVE for COVID 19, but being asymptomatic (experiencing no symptoms) . . .**

10 calendar days without symptoms from the date of the positive test result.

**Social distancing at school/cleaning of facilities**

We will work to maintain three feet of social distancing, and it will be the preferred operation in classrooms, as much as possible when it can be done without interrupting the normal instructional practice. Building administrators will be meeting with staff prior to the students returning to review and establish any necessary protocols in order to continue to minimize any potential spread. These protocols will also be communicated to the students and families. In addition, our proactive cleaning regime of our facilities will also continue.

**All plans for the start of school on August 12, 2021 are subject to change based on public health data, guidance, federal, state and/or county directives and the responsibility of the Southern Wells Community Schools Board of Trustees to govern the local public school program.**