EGSC BACK TO SCHOOL PLAN 2021-22

As of July 1, 2021, local school boards of public K-12 education institutions 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, to include transportation. EGSC will implement the following guidelines addressing the local impact and spread of Covid-19 effective July 1, 2021. We will recommend you follow CDC guidance that may be issued by the Indiana Departments of Health and Education. Please note that changes to this guidance may occur as a result of future guidance and requirements from the Governor, CDC, Indiana State Department of Health, and Gibson County Health Department.

Masks and Contact Tracing

Masks will not be required for students or staff unless there is a significant increase of positive Covid-19 cases within a specific school building.

- Students and staff may wear masks if so desired, but they are not required at this time.
- Determine contact tracing requirements in conjunction with the Indiana State Health Department and the Gibson County Health Department(see below).
- Follow IDOE attendance guidelines for students who are absent due to a Covid-19 related reason.

School Day

- All students will attend in-person instruction 5 days per week.
- Virtual learning will only be available to students during quarantine due to COVID-19. • Virtual learning IS NOT available for general illness, vacations, etc.
- Virtual options will be considered on a limited basis for students severely compromised with a Dr's statement and past success with this mode of instruction.
- Students attending virtually due to COVID-19 will be required to log into Google Classroom or work on planned assignments. All assignments and videos will be available in Google Classroom or distributed to younger students at times.
- Students will be responsible for completing all assignments and assessments assigned by the teacher.
- Students needing technical support should contact the building princip

Practicing Prevention

- Students/staff should self-assess for COVID-19 symptoms daily. • STAY HOME IF YOU ARE SICK o Students and employees should remain home if someone in the household has COVID-19 symptoms or is being tested for COVID-19.
- Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as handwashing, covering coughs, and face coverings/masks.
- Provide hand soap and hand sanitizer, paper towels, and no touch trash cans in all restrooms, classrooms and frequently trafficked areas.
- 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.
- Clean/disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least daily and shared objects after each use.
- Take steps to make sure all water filling stations and features are safe and add to the number of available stations.
- Turn off the water fountains except for water filling stations and encourage students and staff to bring water bottles from home.
- Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and make improvements.
- Student seating should remain at least 3 feet apart, when feasible.

Transporting Students

- Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as:
    - Require bus drivers to wear face masks/coverings per the duration of the federal transportation mask mandate.
    - Students wear face masks/coverings per the duration of the federal transportation mask mandate.
    - Bus drivers will ask for students to sit in assigned seats to allow for tracing if necessary.
    - No guest riders unless pre-approved.
    - Inspecting buses prior to students returning and as a part of regular rotation.
    - Increased cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces on buses.
    - Airing out buses when not in use.
- Scrutinize field trips to determine the educational gain versus risk.
    - Offer alternative options for students who do not feel comfortable attending.
    - Consider virtual field trips if they are an option.

Entering School Buildings

- Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as:
    - Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff.
    - Limit unnecessary congregations of students and staff.
    - 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.
    - Continue established Covid-19 protocol for students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms when they come to school.
    - Limit visitors and volunteers when students are present. Screen prior to interactions with students or staff.

Serving Meals

- Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as:
    - Encourage student hand washing before and after meal service.
    - Providing hand sanitizer for students and staff.
    - Conducting cleaning of cafeterias and high-touch surfaces throughout the school day.
    - Students will be assigned seats.

Transitioning

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

Conducting Large Group Gatherings

- Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as:
    - Providing hand sanitizer for students and staff.
    - Limiting unnecessary congregations of students and staff.
    - 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.
    - Submit plans to the local health department for recurring and special events when requested.

Supporting Teaching and Learning

- Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as:
    - Providing hand sanitizer for students and staff.
    - Conducting cleaning of classrooms and high touch surfaces daily.
- Establish an academic baseline:
    - Use formative assessments. (ie IREADY, Dibels, ESGI, Study Island, etc.)
    - Conduct meetings with teachers to analyze data and see where students are academically.
- Discuss the shared experience
    - Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Resources
- Targeted interventions and supports:
    - Provide additional instructional supports to:
        - Students at-risk of not graduating on time.
        - Students with disabilities. (recovery services)
        - Students who had poor attendance in the 2020-2021 school year due to Covid-19 related reasons.
        - Other Students identified as being behind academically as indicated by assessments or teacher recommendation.
- Desks will be separated by 3 feet or to the extent possible and be facing one direction.

Vaccinations

- 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 as with all other vaccines.
- Provide parents/guardians with ISDH Covid-19 vaccination information for students of the district when age group becomes available. Please call the nurse for this information
- Currently, Covid-19 vaccinations are not part of the required immunizations for school attendance. We do recommend those that are of age get vaccinated as this will keep them from getting caught up in contact tracing.

Protecting Vulnerable Populations

- 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 offerings of an Employee Assistance Program to all staff members.

Illness

- Anyone exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms during school will be assessed by the school nurse.
- School nurse will use medical judgement to communicate next steps to parents.
- Strict social distancing (6ft) will be required for ill students/staff.
- Contact the school nurse with any questions regarding student illness.

School Exclusion and Return

- 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).
- EGSC will monitor CDC guidelines pertaining to student/staff illness, exclusion and quarantine.
- Students/staff exhibiting fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea will be excluded from school attendance until one of the following:
    - Documentation of an alternative diagnosis (Not COVID-19) is acquired from a healthcare provider and symptoms have improved.
    - Be fever free for 24 hours without the use of any medication
    - Diarrhea – be 24 hours free from diarrhea
    - Vomiting – Able to eat at least 2 solid meals OR Documentation of a Negative COVID-19 test is provided.
- Students/staff testing positive for COVID-19 will be required to quarantine for 10 days starting from the onset of symptoms or date of the positive COVID-19 test draw.
- Close Contacts
    - A close contact is anyone within 3 feet (6 feet if unmasked) of a confirmed positive COVID-19 person for 15 minutes or more. These individuals are required to quarantine per the CDC/ISDH.

- Students/staff identified as a close contact to a confirmed positive COVID-19 person will be required to quarantine.
- Students/staff may return to school on Day 8 with a negative test result OR on Day 11 without a COVID-19 test. Individuals must remain symptom free through day 14 of exposure.
- Students/staff who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are not required to quarantine as long as they remain symptom free.
- Students/staff who have documentation of recovery from COVID-19 in the past three months will not be required to quarantine as long as they remain symptom free.