



EMINENCE COVID-19 HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN 2021-2022

DOCUMENT WILL CONTINUE TO BE UPDATED

Original Draft Adopted 6-30-2020

Current Draft Adopted 7-22-2021

Eminence Plan Overview

Considerations outlined within the Eminence Community School Corporation plan are intended to provide guidance for preparing school operations under the current pandemic environment. The original document follows the guidelines and recommendations from Indiana's Considerations for Learning and Safe Schools (IN-CLASS). As the conditions, current medical landscape, and growing body of knowledge surrounding COVID-19 evolves it will continue to present challenges to planning, preparing, and guiding school operations. Revisions to this document will be made as new information, guidance, and directives are provided to schools.

Eminence Community School Corporation will continue to review the CDC's Decision Tree, the CDC Considerations for Schools, and the CDC's Community Mitigation Strategies. Eminence has been working closely with the Morgan County Department of Health as plans are put into place and revised for school opening. Eminence will also work with the Morgan County Department of Health when there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 or an increase in confirmed cases in the county.

2021-2022 School Year August Reentry Protocol

Mask Protocol for 2021-2022 School Year

As of July 22, 2021, face coverings will be optional for students and staff of the Eminence Community School Corporation in all settings, unless otherwise required by an order or directive of the local or State Department of Health, Governor, or an agency of the federal government, including specifically, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

As of July 12, 2021, the CDC mandates face coverings for all persons utilizing public transportation (including school buses). Thus, until the CDC mandate is modified or lifted, students and staff will be required to wear a face covering when riding on a school bus. A call out will go to families if the CDC bus mask requirement is lifted or modified.

Vaccination Protocol for 2021-2022 School Year

The CDC recommends COVID-19 vaccinations for individuals age 12 and older. The School Corporation respects the responsibility of each person or family to determine whether vaccination is appropriate. COVID-19 vaccinations will not be required for employment or attendance for students or staff.

In the event of close contact with a person who tests positive for COVID-19, fully vaccinated

students and employees will not be required to quarantine. Unvaccinated students and employees will be required to quarantine if the student or employee is in close contact with a person who tests positive for COVID-19.

A student or employee will be considered "fully vaccinated" if a period of at least fourteen (14) days has elapsed since the student or employee has received the final dose of an inoculation against COVID-19 and provides record of inoculation (copy of card) to the appropriate health assistant, Corporate RN, CHIRP or the Morgan County Health Department.

The provisions of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) requiring additional paid leave for employees upon the occurrence of certain qualifying events, including the inability to attend work as a result of an order to quarantine from a health care provider or governmental authority, are no longer mandatory. As a result, if an employee is unable to attend work due to quarantine, the employee must utilize available sick days or personal days.

If parents or guardians have questions regarding these policies, please contact the principal's office of the school where your student(s) attends.

If employees have questions regarding these policies, please contact your immediate supervisor.

Health Protocol for Eminence Community Schools

It is essential for the Eminence School Community School Corporation to work together to prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19 in the school environment and in the community while still providing a quality education program. In order to provide the additional medical supervision necessary during this time, a clinical assistant will continue to be provided to help our school nurse.

State statute provides 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 Morgan County 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). Staff and students may be asked to quarantine after traveling if returning from an area where high rates of positivity of COVID-19 are prevalent.

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

- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Congested/Runny Nose
- Diarrhea

Students or employees will be excluded from school if they test positive for COVID-19 or exhibit one or more of the symptoms of COVID-19 based on CDC Guidance that is not otherwise explained until they present a medical release form signed by their doctor.

Return to School After Exclusion

Once a student or employee is excluded from the school environment, they may return if they satisfy the recommendations of the CDC.

Untested persons who have not received a test proving or disproving the presence of COVID-19 but experience symptoms 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);
- Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved); and
- At least 10 calendar days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

The state website has a list of testing facilities, their location, and hours of operation. This list is updated frequently.

Tested Positive - Symptomatic

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

- The individual no longer has a fever (without the use medicine that reduces fevers);
- Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath has improved);
- At least 10 calendar days have passed since symptoms first appeared; or
- The individual has received two negative tests at least 24 hours apart.

Tested Positive - Asymptomatic

Persons who have not had symptoms but tested positive for COVID-19 may return when they have gone ten calendar days without symptoms and have been released in writing by a healthcare provider.

Screening

The current CDC guidelines recommend screening all students and employees for COVID-19 symptoms and history of exposure. Screening can consist of self-screening, school-based screening, and/or medical inquiries. The type and extent of screening is at the discretion of the school corporation.

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 in this circumstance to make additional medical inquiries of staff and students than would otherwise be allowed. Additional medical inquiries are:

- If a parent tells the district/school that a student is ill, the district/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 district/school can inquire as to whether the employee is experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms.
- If a person is obviously ill, the district/school may make additional inquiries and may exclude the person from school property.

Even without symptoms, if a student or employee has recently had contact with a person with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19, has someone in their home being tested for COVID-19, or has recently traveled from somewhere considered to be a “hot spot” by the CDC, the district/school may exclude the student or employee from school attendance.

Wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) - Non-students

If social distancing is not possible - masks may be worn but this is optional.

- Some non-students may be required to wear additional PPE when directed to do so by district/school protocol or the employee’s supervisor.

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

If social distancing is not possible - masks may be worn but this is optional.

- Some students may be required to wear additional PPE when directed to do so by student 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, Eminence Community Schools will immediately contact the Morgan County Health Department and the Indiana Department of Education. Unless extenuating circumstances exist, ECSC will work with the Morgan County 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 provide 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 health department. If a closure is determined necessary, Eminence Community Schools will consult with the Morgan Health Department to determine the status of school activities including extracurricular activities, co-curricular activities, and before and after-school programs.

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 that impacted buildings or bus areas, furnishings, and equipment are thoroughly disinfected. If possible, based upon student and staff presence, the custodial staff will wait 6 hours or as long as possible prior to disinfecting. However, if that is not possible or school is in session, the cleaning will occur immediately.

Immunizations

School immunization requirements will continue to remain the same as in past school years. Please ensure your child receives all required vaccinations for the 2021-2022 school year.

Preventative Measures

The priority for preventing the spread of disease in the school setting is to insist that sick employees and students stay home. Additionally, students and employees should remain home if someone in the household has COVID-19 symptoms or is being tested for COVID-19. It is possible for some people to be infected with COVID-19, but show no signs of illness even though they are contagious and can spread the disease to others. It is also unknown how contagious people are the day or two before they begin to exhibit illness symptoms. Thus, these employees or students may be present at school, will show no signs of illness, but be capable of transmitting the disease to others. In these situations, important mitigation strategies include social distancing, frequent handwashing, and appropriate PPE though masks remain optional.

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.

These key times for handwashing may include a modified class pattern to maintain the best opportunities possible while maintaining distancing between students and 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

Thorough and frequent cleaning of shared resources will occur when individual resources are not able to be provided.

To assist with the extra sanitizing to keep our Eminence students and staff safe, additional custodial staff may be hired.

Social Distancing at Eminence

The following are measures that Eminence Community Schools 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.

Educational Programming

- Students will attend school each day, as normally as possible.

- Eminence Community School Corporation will offer in-person instruction and alternative methods of instruction if specified in a student individual learning plan that is based on student need.
- 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 the 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 if symptoms are like those of COVID-19 prior to returning to school.

Classroom and Learning Space

- Student seats will be spaced as far apart as possible.
- Acrylic partitions will be used on tables when necessary.
- Students and Staff will limit traveling between classrooms. Students will be asked to remain seated as much as possible in the classroom.
- Handwashing breaks and/or hand sanitizer breaks will be available for students.
- Water Fountains will be open and students may also bring water bottles from home.
- Students and staff will be encouraged to socially distance whenever possible and maximize distance between themselves in situations less than six feet.

Cafeteria Procedures

Meals may be served in classrooms or in alternative areas in an effort to reduce cafeteria capacity if deemed necessary. Prior to any meal service, all children will utilize hand washing or sanitizing to ensure safe eating practices. Opportunities to wash hands before both breakfast and lunch will be provided to students. If your student brings their lunch please send bagged or boxed meals with all necessary utensils, condiments, napkins, etc.

We will implement the following precautions:

- No self-serve food line items.
- Disposable napkins and silverware will be provided.
- Sneeze guards in the cafeteria serving line.
- We will serve medically fragile students 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.
- Online deposits will be taken and an office drop box for cash is available. We will limit cash transactions during the waiting line. Staff handling cash will not also handle food.
- Hand sanitizer will be available upon entry to the cafeteria.
- All food service staff will have temperatures taken before food preparation.
- PPE will be provided to all food service staff.

Breakfast and Lunch

- Breakfast Schedule - Elementary students may eat breakfast in the classroom unless it is determined by the school that they should eat breakfast in the multipurpose room. Junior and Senior High students will pick up their meals in the cafeteria and go to their classroom to eat (grab and go).
- Lunch Schedule - Students will be socially distanced during lunch with assigned seating.

Transportation

We are continuing to pay attention to protocols used in student transportation to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and protect both students and employees. The CDC has mandated that masks are to be worn whenever students or staff are on school transportation vehicles.

The following are protocols Eminence Community Schools has established 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 considerations were implemented last school year and will be in place again during the 2021-2022 school year.

- All bus seats and student areas will be sprayed using a CDC and local health agency approved cleaning solution before and after each route, both morning and afternoon.
- Drivers will wear face shields and/or masks per CDC mandate.
- Students will wear school appropriate masks during all bus rides until further notice.
- Students may be assigned a specific seat and must remain in that seat throughout the route.
- Bus routes have been modified to allow for less student exchange points and fewer riders where possible.
- Students displaying symptoms of COVID-19 must be picked up from school. They will not be allowed to ride the bus home.
- All activity buses will be cleaned after their route before sports teams or academic teams travel.
- Students must remain in their seat and not move from seat to seat.
- If you feel you must transport your student each day - we understand.
- 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 again this year.
- Any changes in Drop-Off Areas will be shared with families.

Recess

- The Recess and/or Playground Schedule will be altered to limit the number of students on the playground at one time. Playground equipment will be routinely cleaned.
- All students will use hand sanitizer and/or wash their hands when entering the building from recess.

Please contact your building principal with any questions for the 2021-2022 school year.

Mr. Dustin Adams - Eminence Elementary School
Mr. Brian Burelison - Eminence Jr.-Sr. High School

765-528-2141
765-528-2222

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 make the same effort to consider reducing student exposure to high-touch, shared resources at school. We may require students to take their devices home daily. Both the Elementary and the Junior-Senior High students will have an assigned Chromebook for the 2021-2022 school year.

Extra-Curricular and Co-Curricular Re-entry

See Athletic and Extracurricular Plan.

Special Education

All meetings regarding the special education process will be held virtually. Special education teachers will reach out to families prior to annual case review meetings, re-evaluation meetings, initial evaluations and any other pertinent meetings to set up virtual meetings. All paperwork will be sent electronically or by US mail to be seen by families prior to the meeting. All participants will be present during the meeting except for the families.

If a parent refuses to meet virtually, the school will agree to meet in person in the school with social distancing put in place.

Our Special Education Cooperative, Old National Trail, will be allowed to enter the building to perform their various services associated with the special education process.

Health Department Mitigation Strategy

Eminence Community Schools will work with the Morgan County 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. We encourage families with children who have underlying health issues to discuss your child's situation with your personal health care provider to determine what is most appropriate for your child.

Eminence Community Schools 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. Please contact us and the Morgan County 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.

If an individual in one's home has COVID-19 or is quarantined because of COVID-19, those in the household should also stay home for a minimum of two weeks. Return to school after documented infection with COVID-19 should be provided by the individual's health care

provider.

In the event our school is closed for a period of time there will be no use of facilities by any group and all activities will be cancelled.

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Updated 9-1-2020

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