# North Knox School Corporation Reopening Plan

















Adopted by the Board of School Trustees on 5/19/21

This plan represents a collaborative effort of representatives from North Knox School Corporation. This plan has been presented to and approved by the North Knox School Board of Trustees. An opportunity for public input was provided at the time of adoption. We recognize our part in providing for a safe learning environment and serving as a vital partner in our local economy. All components of this plan will follow directives from Governor Eric Holcomb and guidance from the CDC, Indiana Department of Health, Knox County Health Department, and Indiana Department of Education.

North Knox School Corporation will use a data-based approach to determining school operation as it relates to reopening and maintaining educational opportunities for all students regarding COVID-19. The approach aligns with the reopening stages as outlined in the Back on Track with Indiana guidance provided by Governor Eric Holcolm. North Knox will be constantly evaluating these factors and will likely fluctuate between operating plans accordingly.

The North Knox school community can find information pertaining to vaccination opportunities by contacting the Knox County Health Department at (812) 882-8080 or <a href="knoxcounty.in.gov/health">knoxcounty.in.gov/health</a>. Additional information regarding vaccination locations can be found at <a href="www.vaccines.gov">www.vaccines.gov</a>.

Per the director of school transportation of the Indiana Department of Education, the CDC has mandated mask wearing on all public transit, which includes school buses. North Knox School Corporation will monitor and adjust this policy accordingly as state and federal mandates are adjusted or removed.

# NORTH KNOX SCHOOL CORPORATION REOPENING At-A-Glance

\*All students enrolled in North Knox School Corporation in any capacity are still mandated to participate in state testing.

Traditional face-to-face education with contingency plans if conditions change (per guidance from Governor Holcomb or State/Local Health Department. With the continually updated guidelines due to the pandemic, we are also preparing contingency plans for intermittent shutdowns and/or reductions in capacity.

The current plans for the traditional face-to-face learning are:

- 1. Full time traditional classroom, with social distancing (when possible) and other safe health guidelines in place (Green Stage)
- 2. 50% capacity -Combination of in-person & remote learning (Yellow Stage)
- 3. 100% remote learning (Red Stage)

## **Face Masks/Coverings**

The use of face masks/coverings will be determined by state and local health departments.

# **Guiding Principles**

# State and County Metrics

The number of hospitalized COVID-19 patients statewide has decreased for 14 days

The state retains its surge capacity for critical care beds and ventilators

The state retains the ability to test all Hoosiers who are COVID-19 symptomatic, as well as healthcare workers, essential workers, first responders, and others as delineated on the ISDH website

Health officials have systems in place to contact all individuals who test positive for COVID-19 and complete contact tracing

State and local data regarding guiding principles will be monitored daily.

Addressing Community Spread in K-12 Schools			
(Green)	(Yellow)	(Red)	
Low/No Spread	Minimal/Moderate Spread	Substantial Spread	
<ul> <li>Establish and maintain communication with local and state DPH health officials</li> <li>Participate in contact tracing efforts and specimen collection efforts as directed by local health officials (to the extent feasible)</li> <li>Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread. COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols</li> <li>Establish a protocol for students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms when they come to school (see When a Child, Staff Member Becomes Sick at School)</li> <li>Consider ways to accommodate needs of children, teachers/staff, and families at higher risk for severe illness (see Protecting Vulnerable Populations)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Establish and maintain communication with local and state DPH health officials</li> <li>Participate in contact tracing efforts and specimen collection efforts as directed by local health officials (to the extent feasible)</li> <li>Implement enhanced social distancing measures (see Transitioning, Large Groups, and Teaching and Learning)</li> <li>Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread. COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols</li> <li>Establish a protocol for students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms when they come to school (see When a Child or Staff Member Becomes Sick at School)</li> <li>Isolate and deep clean impacted classrooms and spaces.</li> <li>Consider ways to accommodate needs of children, teachers/staff, and families at higher risk for severe illness (see Protecting Vulnerable Populations)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Coordinate with local and state health officials</li> <li>Participate in contact tracing efforts and specimen collection efforts as directed by local health officials (to the extent feasible)</li> <li>Schools that are closed, remain closed. Implement distance/remote learning (see Food Service and Teaching and Learning).</li> <li>Close off affected areas and if possible, wait 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting.</li> <li>Accommodate needs of children, teachers/staff, and families at higher risk for severe illness (see Protecting Vulnerable Populations)</li> </ul>	

\*The Superintendent of school will be the official communication officer and lead contact between school corporation and local/state health departments.

	Definitions				
Face Coverings	Recommendations regarding face coverings differ based on the level of community spread and can be found throughout this document. The use of face coverings is recommended but optional.	Hand Sanitizer	Hand sanitizers should contain at least 60% alcohol. This will be provided to all students and staff in restrooms, classrooms and frequently trafficked areas.	Clean/ Disinfect	Ensure safe and correct application of disinfectants and keep out of reach of children.

## Level of Community Spread

(as determined by state and local health officials) (Green) Low/No Spread (Yellow) Minimal/Moderate Spread (Red) Substantial Spread

#### Instructional Model

(as determined by school districts) In-person or COVID Online Class

See description below

### Hybrid

K-12 would rotate either M-T in person instruction or Th-F in person instruction. Wednesday would be a deep clean day for all buildings and busses. Wednesday will be remote learning days.

**Remote Learning** 

Virtual learning 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. M-F

**Response** (as determined by school districts in partnership with local health officials)

## School Buildings Open

Implement preventative practices and additional proactive processes/protocols

# Limited/Staggered Use of School

Buildings
Implement alternating schedules for students and distance learning

## **Target Closure**

Isolate and clean targeted area

#### Short-term

Close for short-term facility wide deep cleaning

#### **Extended Closure**

Close building(s) for at least 14 days

Level of Community Spread (as determined by state and local health officials)	(Green) Low/No Spread	(Yellow) Minimal/Moderate Spread	(Red) Substantial Spread
Practicing Prevention	Students and staff will self-monitor     temperature and symptoms daily. STAY     HOME IF YOU ARE SICK     Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as hand washing, covering coughs, and face coverings	<ul> <li><u>Daily temperature and symptom screening upon school entry</u>. STAY HOME IF YOU ARE SICK.</li> <li>Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as hand washing, covering coughs, and face coverings</li> <li>Hand soap and/or hand sanitizer and paper</li> </ul>	School buildings are closed.  Use social media and other communications to inform parents, students, and staff about COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures, good hygiene, and school/district
	<ul> <li>Hand soap and/or hand sanitizer alcohol and paper towels will be provided in all bathrooms, classrooms, and frequently trafficked areas</li> <li>Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and</li> </ul>	towels will be provided in all bathrooms, classrooms, and frequently trafficked areas  Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread. COVID-19 symptoms, preventative	specific protocols  • Encourage COVID-19 testing

	entrances to communicate how to stop the spread. COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols.  • Clean/disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least daily and shared objects after each use.  • The use of face masks/coverings will be determined by state and local health departments.  • Students will have access to clean drinking water.  • Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible, as long as this does not pose a safety or health risk to students or staff  • Conduct deep cleaning of schools prior to students/staff returning. Classrooms and all high-touched areas will be cleaned and disinfected at least daily.  • According to state guidelines individuals with temperatures of 99.5 or higher will be sent home.	measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols.  Clean/disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least daily and shared objects after each use.  The use of face masks/coverings will be determined by state and local health departments.  Students will have access to clean drinking water.  Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible, as long as this does not pose a safety or health risk to students or staff  Conduct deep cleaning of schools prior to students/staff returning. Classrooms and all high-touched areas will be cleaned and disinfected at least daily.  According to state guidelines individuals with temperatures of 99.5 or higher will be sent home.	
Transportation	<ul> <li>Implement standard operating procedures.</li> <li>Buses will be cleaned and sanitized prior to students return.</li> <li>Social distancing is not possible.</li> <li>The use of face masks/coverings will be determined by state and local health departments.</li> <li>Drivers will clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.</li> <li>Buses will be aired out when not in use</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Implement standard operating procedures.</li> <li>Buses will be cleaned and sanitized prior to students return.</li> <li>Social distancing is not possible.</li> <li>The use of face masks/coverings will be determined by state and local health departments.</li> <li>Drivers will clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces after each use.</li> <li>Eliminate ECA trips</li> <li>Buses will be aired out when not in use</li> <li>It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to ensure social distancing at bus stops.</li> </ul>	School buildings are closed.  No transportation necessary.

# Entering School Buildings



- Students and staff will self-monitor temperature and symptoms daily.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided for students and staff
- Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread. COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols
- Students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms when they come to school will be isolated (see When a Child or Staff Member Becomes Sick at School)
- Visitors and volunteers must pass COVID questionnaire and temperature screening upon each visit.

- <u>Daily screening students and staff</u> (to the extent practicable):
  - o Take temperatures ideally before entering buildings
  - o Isolate and send home if internal temperature over 99.5°F
- Hand sanitizer will be provided for students and staff.
- Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread. COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols.
- Students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms when they come to school will be isolated (see When a Child or Staff Member Becomes Sick at School)
- Mark spaced lines to enter the building and designate entrance and exit flow paths
- Visitors and volunteers must pass COVID questionnaire and temperature screening upon each visit.

#### School buildings are closed.

- Essential staff report in-person to carry out necessary functions.
- Remote tools and platforms will be used to conduct essential business and keep in-person reporting to essential staff during school closures

Food Service	<ul> <li>Implement standard operating procedures.</li> <li>Students wash hands before and after meal service</li> <li>Hand sanitizer will be provided for students and staff</li> <li>The use of face masks/coverings will be determined by state and local health departments.</li> <li>Social distancing will be promoted as needed.</li> <li>Assigned seating may be implemented.</li> <li>Cleaning of cafeterias and high-touch surfaces throughout the school day</li> <li>Meal service will follow state and local health department COVID guidelines.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Students wash hands before and after meal service</li> <li>Hand sanitizer will be available for students and staff.</li> <li>Mark spaced lines to enter the cafeteria and serving lines (to the extent practicable).</li> <li>Designate entrances and exit flow paths; stagger use (to extent practicable).</li> <li>Conduct cleaning of cafeterias and high-touch surfaces throughout the school day.</li> <li>Meals served in cafeteria will promote social distancing.</li> <li>Pre-packaged meals will be provided to each student. Disposal utensils will be included if necessary.</li> <li>The use of face masks/coverings will be determined by state and local health departments.</li> <li>Students use assigned seating.</li> </ul>	School buildings are closed.
Transitioning	<ul> <li>Implement standard operating procedures.</li> <li>The use of face masks/coverings will be determined by state and local health departments.</li> <li>Designate areas of the hallway (i.e. lanes) as flow paths to keep students separated as needed.</li> <li>Consider staggered class (ex: by hall, odd/even room numbers, grade, discipline) changes to decrease number of students in hallways at one time as needed.</li> <li>When possible minimize congregation of students.</li> <li>Clean hallways and high-touch surfaces daily.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>The use of face masks/coverings will be determined by state and local health departments.</li> <li>Limit mixing between groups (to the extent practicable).</li> <li>Designate areas of the hallway (i.e. right side lanes) as flow paths to keep students separated to minimize congregation of students.</li> <li>Consider staggered class (ex: by hall, odd/even room numbers, grade, discipline) changes to decrease number of students in hallways at one time</li> <li>Have the same group of students stay with the same staff (all day for young children and as much as feasible for older children)</li> <li>NKP &amp; NKI teachers will rotate to classes.</li> </ul>	School buildings are closed.

Large Groups	<ul> <li>Implement standard operating procedures.</li> <li>Hand sanitizer will be provided for students and staff</li> <li>The use of face masks/coverings will be determined by state and local health departments.</li> <li>Follow IHSAA guidelines for athletics</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Hand sanitizer will be provided for students and staff</li> <li>The use of face masks/coverings will be determined by state and local health departments.</li> <li>Abide by the maximum number of people allowed to congregate as defined by the Governor's current statewide Executive Order.</li> <li>Discourage the congregation of students in parking lots and common areas.</li> <li>Stagger the schedule for large group gatherings (i.e. recess and school meals)</li> <li>Utilize large spaces (i.e. gymnasiums, auditoriums, outside spaces as weather permits) for social distancing</li> <li>Follow IHSAA guidelines for athletics</li> </ul>	School buildings are closed.
Teaching and Learning	<ul> <li>Implement standard operating procedures.</li> <li>Social distancing may not be possible in classrooms. Desks will be separated to the extent possible and facing one direction.</li> <li>Keep each child's belongings separated &amp; individually labeled in storage area, container, locker, cubbies, etc. which are to be taken home and cleaned daily.</li> <li>Ensure adequate supplies to minimize shared-use of high-touch items OR limit use by one group at a time and clean/disinfect between use</li> <li>Avoid immediate contact (hand shaking, hugs, etc.)</li> <li>Use assigned seating</li> <li>Establish academic baseline of returning students</li> <li>Provide interventions and supports for students at-risk</li> <li>Hand sanitizer will be provided for students and staff</li> <li>Disinfectant will be available in all classrooms and in high traffic areas for wiping down desks and shared items.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Hybrid Instructional Models</li> <li>Special education students will be allowed to continue in person instruction as these students rely on daily routines and social interactions to address their individual learning needs.</li> <li>A/B Schedules Alternating Days with remote learning:         <ul> <li>Group A Students-Monday/Tuesday</li> <li>Group B Students-Thursday/Friday</li> <li>Wednesday will be remote day</li> </ul> </li> <li>All students engage daily (direct instruction, support, and monitoring of student progress) either in-person or by remotely accessing the classroom.</li> <li>Keep each child's belongings separated &amp; individually labeled in storage area, container, locker, cubbies, etc. which are to be taken home and cleaned daily.</li> <li>Ensure adequate supplies to minimize shared-use of high-touch items OR limit use by one group at a time and clean/disinfect between use</li> <li>Avoid immediate contact (hand shaking, hugs, etc.)</li> </ul>	School buildings are closed.  Implement remote learning  Distribute printed instructional packets/ materials if necessary    The provided in the provided in the provided in the printed

	<ul> <li>The use of face masks/coverings will be determined by state and local health departments.</li> <li>Cleaning of classrooms and high-touch surfaces throughout the school day</li> <li>Prepare for possible future remote learning</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Use assigned seating</li> <li>Space seating with desks facing one direction</li> <li>Hand sanitizer will be provided for students and staff</li> <li>Disinfectant will be available in all classrooms and in high traffic areas for wiping down desks and shared items.</li> <li>The use of face masks/coverings will be determined by state and local health departments.</li> <li>Cleaning of classrooms and high-touch surfaces throughout the school day</li> <li>Alternative School students will continue instruction on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, with Wednesday being a deep cleaning day.</li> </ul>	
Protecting Vulnerable Populations  Elderly individuals and/or individuals with serious underlying health conditions, including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune system is compromised such as by chemotherapy for cancer and other conditions requiring such therapy.  When a Child, or	<ul> <li>Implement standard operating procedures.</li> <li>Establish a point-of-contact with the local health department</li> <li>Identify local COVID-19 testing sites</li> <li>Hand sanitizer provided for students and staff</li> <li>PPE provided to vulnerable students and staff as appropriate</li> <li>Vulnerable students and staff allowed to wear PPE throughout the school day (to the extent practicable)</li> <li>Considerations for a vulnerable student's academic options will be determined via parent conference.</li> <li>Limit large group gatherings/interactions for vulnerable students and staff</li> <li>Anyone exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms durin</li> </ul>	Considerations for a vulnerable student's academic options will be determined via parent conference.  • Adhere to FERPA and HIPPA requirements  • Adhere to state and federal employment law and extended leave allowances	School buildings are closed.

Staff Member Becomes Sick at School	<ul> <li>School nurses will use Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions when caring for sick people.</li> <li>Parents picking up sick students will be asked to call the school when they arrive. Sick students will be sent out or escorted to the parent.</li> <li>Notify local health officials, staff, and families immediately of a possible case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other applicable federal and state privacy laws.</li> <li>Areas used by a COVID-19 sick person will be closed off and not used before cleaning and disinfection. Wait 24 hours before you clean and disinfect. If it is not possible to wait 24 hours, wait as long as possible. Ensure safe and correct application of disinfectants and keep disinfectant products away from children.</li> <li>Sick staff members and children will be excluded until they have met state DPH criteria to discontinue home isolation</li> <li>The health department will assist school officials to provide guidance on next steps, i.e. informing those who have had close contact to a person diagnosed with COVID-19, determining operations status, etc.</li> </ul>
Other Considerations	<ul> <li>Social distancing will be promoted as needed</li> <li>Students and staff members should wash hands and avoid touching their face, eyes, nose or mouth. Key hand washing times include: start of the school day; before/after eating; after restrooms; after blowing nose, coughing or sneezing; after using shared equipment.</li> <li>Students and employees should remain home if someone in the household has COVID-19 symptoms or is being tested for COVID-19.</li> </ul>

#### **School Exclusion**



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).

#### Monitoring of Student/Staff Attendance

- Daily health reports will be sent to the Superintendent. The report will track:
  - Reasons for student and staff absence
  - o Immediately report any positive cases of COVID-19 (one or more) to the Superintendent and local health department.

#### Symptoms Impacting Consideration for Exclusion from School

Students and employees should be trained to recognize the following COVID-19-related symptoms:

- A fever of 99.5 ° 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

Students and staff who are called in sick will be asked if they are exhibiting a fever of 99.5 or higher or any combinations of symptoms of COVID-19.

Students and employees will be excluded from school if they test positive for COVID-19, have a fever of 99.5 or higher, or exhibit a combination of the symptoms of COVID-19.

## **Return to School After Exclusion**



#### 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); AND
- Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved); AND
- Has been approved to return to school in writing by the student's healthcare provider OR
- Has remained at home for 10 days from first symptoms.

#### **Tested Positive-Symptomatic**

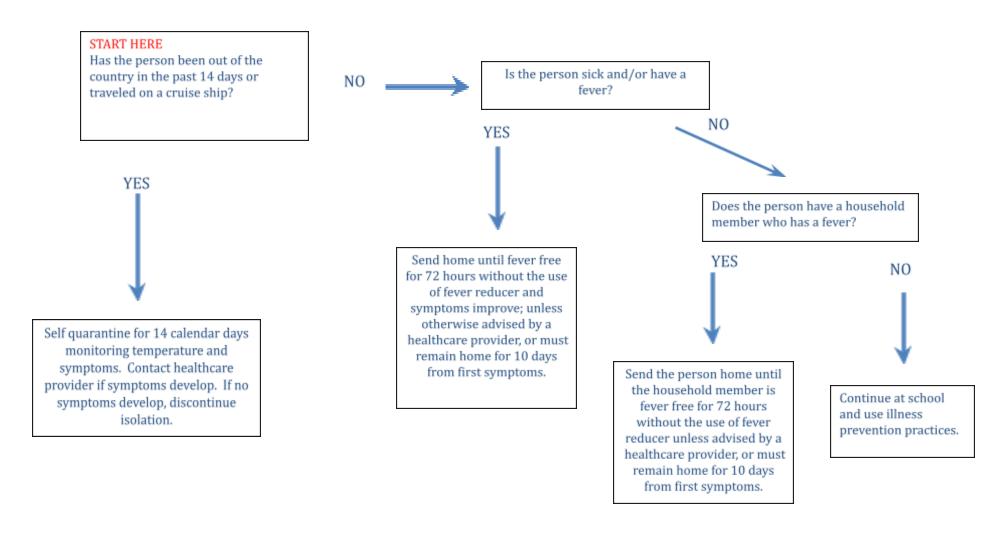
Persons who experienced symptoms and have been tested positive for COVID-19 may return to school if the following conditions are met:

• The individual no longer has a fever (without the use of medicine that reduces fevers) for 72 hours); **AND** 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; **AND** has been approved to return to school in writing by the student's healthcare provider;

#### **Tested Positive- Asymptomatic**

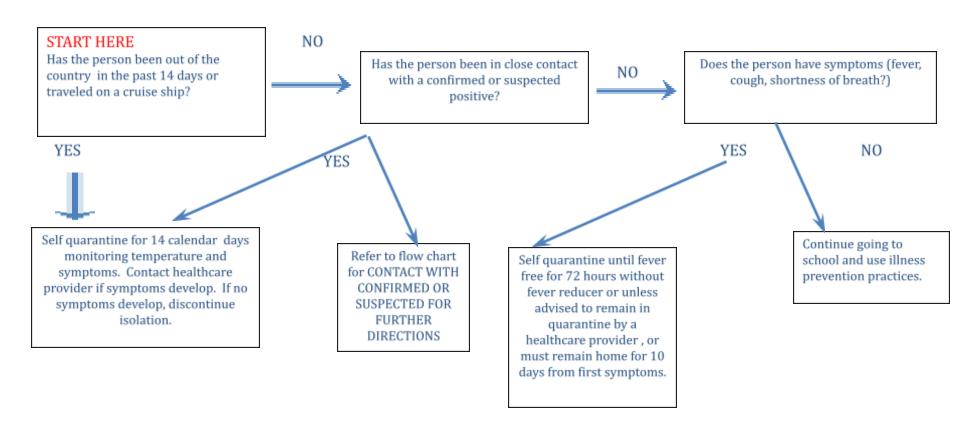
Persons who have not had symptoms but test positive for COVID-19 may return when they have gone 10 calendar days without symptoms **AND** has been *approved to return to school in writing by the student's healthcare provider.* 

# Risk Assessment for Sick Student/Staff Member



# **COVID-19 Risk Assessment - No Contact with Suspected or Confirmed - Symptomatic**

Suspected - has been tested for COVID-19 and awaiting results



# **COVID-19 Risk Assessment - Contact with Confirmed Positive**

