



ROADMAP BACK TO SCHOOL FOR FAMILIES

UPDATED AUGUST 4, 2021



Athletics and Extracurricular Activities

We will continue following guidelines and recommendations from the IHSAA and the Indiana Department of Education.

Classrooms

Below is a list of changes we're continuing this school year.

Classroom Changes
Students will be distanced in the classroom as much as possible
Students will have assigned seats to assist with tracing
Masks are required in the classroom; teachers will have the flexibility to not require masks when students are socially distanced in their classrooms

Cleaning

Below is a list of changes we've made to our cleaning protocols during the pandemic that will continue.

Cleaning Changes
All classrooms and offices will be cleaned nightly using electrostatic sprayers to disinfect surfaces
Highly trafficked areas such as restrooms and the office will be cleaned throughout the school day
Students will have access to hand sanitizer stations in their classrooms and common areas and will also have opportunities for hand washing throughout the day
Students will receive instruction to reinforce good hygiene measures and signage will be placed throughout the building

Close Contact

An individual is considered a close contact if any of following is true:

- You were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more. This could be a single encounter of more than 15 minutes or multiple encounters within a single day that add up to more than 15 minutes. If masks are worn and students are facing the same direction, this is reduced to 3 feet.
- You provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19
- You had direct physical contact with the person (hugged or kissed them)
- You shared eating or drinking utensils

- They sneezed, coughed or somehow got respiratory droplets on you

Keep in mind that anyone who lives with or stayed overnight for at least one night in a household with the infected person while he or she was infectious is at highest risk.

These close contact criteria apply regardless of mask use, face shields, or physical barriers, such as Plexiglas or plastic barriers. The only exception is if a healthcare worker in a school setting is wearing the proper personal protective equipment. When an individual's symptoms, contact, or test status changes, their quarantine or isolation requirements should be reassessed.

Fundamentally, a close contact is anyone you think has had enough exposure to transmit infection.

Closing School

The Indiana State Department of Health houses COVID-19 related data by county at <https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/2393.htm>. The decision to close school is made in consultation with the Madison County Health Department based on our local data. In addition to positive COVID-19 cases and the number of students in quarantine, another reason we may need to close is due to staff coverage concerns.

If schools are closed during the pandemic, our goal will be to continue with eLearning while closed. We will try to send home devices the day before; however, if this is not possible, we will contact guardians for a plan to pick-up.

Confirmed Case of Covid-19

When there is confirmation that a person infected with COVID-19 was on school property, the school will work collaboratively with the Madison County Health Department and the Indiana Department of Education. Unless extenuating circumstances exist, the school will work with the local 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.

The school nurses will contact the person confirmed with COVID-19, inform direct contacts of their possible exposure, and give 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.

When a student or adult in a school tests positive:

- No threshold has been set for if an entire school should close. If a school has multiple positive cases, administration will work with the Madison County Health Department and the Indiana State Department of Health on what steps to take.
- Siblings of a positive case should quarantine if they are considered a close contact.

When a student or adult in a school tests positive:

- In a classroom, identify who spent more than 15 minutes within 3 feet of the person for the 48 hours prior to symptoms or a positive test (for an asymptomatic person)
- If more than one student tests positive in a classroom, the entire classroom should quarantine for 10 days.
- If cohorting and assigned seating has not been possible, such as for preschool through sixth grade, an entire classroom may need to quarantine.
- Close contacts will be called by a school nurse for guidance on 10-day home quarantine period.

If school closure is determined necessary, schools will consult with the health departments to determine the status of school activities including extracurricular activities, co-curricular activities, and before and after-school programs.

Elwood Virtual Academy

ECSC will be offering a virtual option next school year for families. Elwood Virtual Academy will be for ECSC students in grades kindergarten through twelfth grade. Families can select this option if they are concerned with the COVID-19 Pandemic or if they believe a virtual option is better for their family.

This option will allow students to continue to be connected to ECSC. Students would have the flexibility of in-person for certain courses such as higher level math courses or programs at Hinds Career Center. Students that select the virtual option will also be able to participate in Extracurricular Activities at ECSC.

Elwood Virtual Academy will use Edmentum to deliver grade level curriculum. This will be a combination of live and recorded teaching. There will also be ECSC staff available to provide regular support to students and to check-in virtually or in-person.

Families that select Elwood Virtual Academy will not be able to change to the traditional setting until second semester. Likewise, families will not be able to move from traditional to virtual until second semester. Please contact the building administrator below if you have any questions.

Elwood Elementary- Mrs. Bev Groover: bgroover@elwood.k12.in.us

Elwood Intermediate- Mrs. Abbey Grondin: agrondin@elwood.k12.in.us

Elwood Junior Senior High- Dr. Troy Friedersdorf: tfriedersdorf@elwood.k12.in.us

Field Trips

Field Trips will be allowed as long as cohorts of students can be accommodated. Teachers will also continue with virtual field trip options when applicable.

Food Service

We will continue serving meals whether we are open or closed during the length of the pandemic. If we are forced to close, additional information will be sent out regarding picking up meals. Below is a list of changes we're continuing this school year.

Food Service Changes
Self-serve items will be eliminated and disposable utensils will be used as much as possible
Breakfast will be delivered to the classrooms at EES and EIS
Lunch will be eaten in the cafeteria at EES, EIS, and EJSHS; K-6 classrooms will be separated in the cafeteria and 7-12 students eating together will be tracked

Health Plans and Underlying Health Conditions

Guardians should contact our school nurses with any health concerns we aren't aware of so plans can be put into place.

Isolation

Isolation means keeping sick people away from healthy ones. For COVID-19, this means that the sick person stays in a separate bedroom or separate area of the home and stays away from others. This includes staying home from school and any activities. Currently, guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that COVID-19 positive people with symptoms isolate for 10 days from the start of their symptoms, be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and show improvement of symptoms. Individuals who test positive without symptoms should isolate for 10 days from the date their sample was collected.

Masks

At this time, masks are required for all students and staff. This will be subject to change based on school data in addition to guidance from the Madison County and Indiana State Health Departments.

Nurse's Office

All buildings will have two separate Nurse's Offices. One will be utilized for students exhibiting Covid-19 symptoms and the other will be used for other medical needs. If students are exhibiting any symptom related to Covid-19, guardians will be expected to pick the student up promptly. Below are phone numbers and email addresses for the three school nurses.

- EES: Shari Vehikite; (765) 552-7381; svehikite@elwood.k12.in.us

- EIS: Michelle Beeman; (765) 552-7378; mbeeman@elwood.k12.in.us
- EJSHS: Stacey Bock; (765) 552-9854; sbock@elwood.k12.in.us

Quarantine

Quarantine means separating people who were exposed to someone who was sick. Since people who were around other sick people are more likely to get sick themselves, quarantine prevents them from unintentionally spreading the virus to other people even before they realize they are sick. Usually people who are in quarantine stay at home and avoid going out or being around other people. This includes staying home from school and other activities. Currently, the CDC advises that close contacts of COVID-19 positive people quarantine for 10 days after the last exposure with the COVID-19 positive person, even if they have a negative test.

Recess

Students at EES and EIS will continue to have recess daily. Students will stay with their classroom during recess and will rotate to different recess stations outside each day.

Related Arts

Students will continue to have Related Arts daily.

Returning to School After Exclusion

If a student, faculty or staff member is symptomatic (according to the above definition), NOT tested for COVID-19 and NOT a close contact of a COVID-19 positive person:

- The individual must remain at home for at least 10 days from the start of symptoms, be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications and show improvement of symptoms. Siblings and household contacts should be considered close contacts and quarantine for 10 days. Students do not need a note for return to school and should be allowed to return at the end of the recommended isolation.
- Individuals with an alternate diagnosis (such as an ear or urinary tract infection) do not need to isolate but will need a note from a healthcare provider saying “student may return to school on [date] and his/her illness was not related to COVID-19” or “Cleared to return to School.” No diagnosis should be listed, as that is a HIPAA violation.

Symptomatic according to the above definition and tested NEGATIVE for COVID-19 and NOT a close contact of a COVID-19 positive person:

- The individual must be 24 hours fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medication and show improvement of symptoms, unless advised otherwise by a healthcare provider. The individual does not need an alternate diagnosis.
- Close contacts do not need to quarantine.

Symptomatic and tested POSITIVE for COVID-19 (whether or not a close contact):

- The individual must isolate at home for at least 10 days, be 24 hours fever-free without the use of fever reducing medications and show improvement of symptoms.

- Siblings, household contacts and other close contacts need to quarantine for 10 days after the last exposure to the positive person.
- Repeat testing is NOT recommended for deciding when people can return to work or school.

Symptomatic and NOT tested for COVID-19 and IS a known close contact of a COVID-19 case:

- The individual must quarantine for 10 days after the last contact with the COVID-19 positive person. If the exposure is to a household member and the case cannot properly isolate away from others at home, the last date of contact may be the last day of isolation for the case.
- The individual must also isolate at home for at least 10 days, be 24 hours fever-free without the use of fever reducing medications and show improvement of symptoms.
- The criteria for both must be met prior to the person returning to school.
- Siblings, household members and other close contacts must quarantine.

Symptomatic and tested NEGATIVE and IS a known close contact of a COVID-19 positive person:

- The individual must quarantine for 10 days after the last contact with the COVID-19 positive person. If the exposure is to a household member and the case cannot properly isolate away from others at home, the last date of contact may be the last day of isolation for the case.
- The individual must be 24 hours fever free without the use of fever-reducing medications. An alternate diagnosis is not required.
- The criteria of both need to be met before returning to school.

NO symptoms and was NOT tested for COVID-19:

- May attend school.

NO symptoms and tested NEGATIVE for COVID-19 and IS NOT a known close contact of a COVID-19 positive person:

- May attend school.

NO symptoms and tested POSITIVE for COVID-19 and whether or not a close contact of a COVID-19 positive person:

- Must isolate at home for 10 days after the date the sample was collected.
- Siblings, household members, and other close contacts must quarantine for 10 days from the last date of exposure before returning to school. If the exposure is a household member and the case cannot properly isolate away from others at home, the last date of contact may be the last date of isolation for the case.

NO symptoms and not tested for COVID-19 and IS a known close contact of a COVID-19 positive person:

- Must quarantine for 10 days from the last date of exposure before returning to school. If the exposure is a household member and the case cannot properly isolate away from others at home, the last date of contact may be the last date of isolation for the case.

NO symptoms and tested negative for COVID-19 and IS a known close contact of a COVID-19 positive person;

- Must quarantine for 10 days from the last date of exposure before returning to school. If the exposure is a household member and the case cannot properly isolate away from others at home, the last date of contact may be the last date of isolation for the case.

School Supplies

All efforts will be made to not share school supplies.

School Visitors

We will not be allowing most visitors into school during the school day to start the year off. This does include arrival and guardians visiting for lunch. Individuals that are providing services for students such as Aspire or Meridian Health, will be required to complete the intake form found [here](#).

Screening

We ask that all guardians screen students for the below Covid-19 symptoms before school daily. If a student has a symptom, please refer to the *Returning to School After Exclusion* section of this document.

- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever
- Chills, muscle pain, body aches, or fatigue
- A fever of 100 degrees or greater
- New uncontrolled cough or shortness of breath
- Sore throat
- Loss of taste or smell
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain

We are taking temperatures as students enter the building. If a student has an escalated temperature, he or she will be taken to the nurse to confirm the temperature.

Special Education

Staff will continue following IEP accommodations, goals, and services for both traditional and eLearning.

Transportation

We are continuing to run bus routes this school year. Students will be assigned to one bus in the AM and one bus in the PM after registration and will only be allowed to ride those buses. Daily changes and bus passes will not be allowed. This helps in our plan to reduce the number of students per bus and better allows for social distancing. As a reminder, students are able to

be car riders if that is an option for your family. Bike racks are available for all students that choose to ride bikes to school. Bike locks are available for students at EIS and EJSHS in the front office. Students that want to skateboard to school may do so but skateboards must be stored in the front office during the school day. Below is a list of changes the Transportation Department has implemented during the pandemic.

Transportation Department Changes
Assigned seats
Buses will be sanitized after morning and afternoon runs
Masks will be provided for students and will be required (federal mandate)

Tutoring

ECSC received a grant from the IDOE in partnership with JobSource to provide after school tutoring for the next two school years. Student selection, dates, times, and additional information will be released soon.

Water

Drinking fountains will be off limits during the pandemic. Students are encouraged to bring water from home in clear bottles. Water bottles will be available during breakfast and lunch for students. We also have water bottle filling stations available in all buildings.