



Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools

COVID-19 Return to In-Person Instruction (IPI) Plan

Board Approved: June 10, 2021

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Introduction

As part of the requirement to receive federal COVID-19 stimulus money, a school corporation must present a Return in In-Person Instruction (IPI) Plan to the board for board approval. The plan must be submitted to the Indiana Department of Education by June 15, 2021.

Per Governor Holcomb's Executive Order 21-15 dated May 25, 2021, "as of July 1, 2021, local school boards and/or the relevant governing bodies of all public and private K-12 educational 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 ground to include transportation."

Based on Dearborn County Department of Health guidance, when there is a prolonged period of moderate to high community spread, the administration may consider continuing traditional school in grades K-5, while providing a hybrid model for grades 6-12 with strict social distancing.

We will continue to provide full-time online learning. The Sunman-Dearborn Online Academy (S-DOA) is a robust, fully online option for any parent or student. Parents may choose to enroll in online learning for the entire school year. S-DOA is recommended for parents of children with underlying health conditions, or children of parents who have an underlying health condition, or children of parents who work in essential healthcare facilities and other essential careers. Online learning will be provided and supported by Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools staff.

Just as the school system is flexible, parents will need to be flexible as well. As the COVID-19 is a rapidly changing pandemic, our protocols and procedures will need to change to meet the needs of our students.

Appendix A - Cleaning and Sanitizing Procedures

Routine cleaning and disinfecting are an important part of reducing the risk of exposure to COVID-19. Normal routine cleaning with soap and water alone can reduce risk of exposure and is a necessary step before you disinfect surfaces.

Daily Cleaning

All classroom, common area, and office surfaces (desks, tables, chairs, whiteboards, etc) will first be cleaned with soap and water, then disinfected using an EPA-approved disinfectant. Parents can request a list of disinfectants by contacting Mr. Brandon Burress, Director of Support Services at bburress@sunmandearborn.k12.in.us.

School Clinic

School nurses will disinfect their general work after each student using a provided disinfectant wipe, when feasible. Custodians will clean and disinfect all office areas each evening. All office surfaces (desks, tables, chairs, etc) will first be cleaned with soap and water, then disinfected using an EPA-approved disinfectant.

Water Fountains

Students may bring their own filled water bottle with a sealable lid or up to two (2) purchased bottles of water to school. Students will take the water bottle home daily for sanitation. Disposable cups will be provided. Drinking fountains will be unavailable at this unless it contains a bottle filler station.

School Buses

All school-owned and contracted buses will be cleaned and sanitized each school day using an EPA-approved disinfectant.

Appendix B - Health Protocols - Students and Staff

COVID-19 Symptoms and Student and Staff Requiring Exclusion from School

Any staff member or student who is fully vaccinated is exempt from exclusion protocols listed below. Face masks and face coverings are no longer required at school or on school provided transportation but are permitted.

The following are COVID-19-related symptoms:

- A fever of 100.4° F or greater
- Sore throat
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever
- Loss of taste or smell

All staff will be trained to recognize COVID-19 related symptoms. Information on COVID-19 related symptoms will be shared and updated with students and parents.

Students and staff will be excluded from school if they test positive for COVID-19, have a fever of 100.4 or higher, **or** exhibit an abnormal or severe case of one or more of the other symptoms of COVID-19 if the symptoms are not otherwise explained and documented.

Students are not permitted at school if they exhibit any of these symptoms not otherwise explained and documented. Parents are required to notify the school immediately as outlined in Appendix C.

Staff are not permitted to report to school if they exhibit any of these symptoms not otherwise explained and documented. In addition, both students and staff are not permitted at school if a member of the household is COVID-19 positive.

Return to School/Work After Exclusion

Once a student or employee is excluded from the school environment, they may return if they satisfy the recommendations of the CDC and ISDH. Currently those guidelines are:

Untested

Persons who have not received a test proving or disproving the presence of COVID-19 but experience symptoms may return if the following conditions are met:

- The individual has not had a fever for at least 72 hours (three full days of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers); **and**
- Other symptoms have improved (for example, when cough or shortness of breath have improved); **and**
- At least ten (10) calendar days have passed since the symptoms first appeared; **or**
- The individual has not had a fever for at least twenty-four (24) hours; **and**
- A note from the provider stating the individual has an alternate diagnosis and the provider believes it's appropriate for the patient to return to school.

Tested Positive - Symptomatic

Persons who experienced symptoms and have 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); **and**
- Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved); **and**
- At least ten (10) calendar days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

Tested Negative - Symptomatic

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

- The individual has not had a fever for at least 24 hours (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); **or**
- A note from the provider stating the individual has an alternate diagnosis and the provider believes it's appropriate for the patient to return to school.

Tested Positive- Asymptomatic

Persons who have not experienced symptoms but have tested positive for COVID-19 may return to school if the following conditions are met:

- At least ten (10) calendar days have passed since the day of the test.
- If a person becomes symptomatic, they must follow the "Tested Positive - Symptomatic" protocol from the day they become symptomatic.

July 9, 2021 Update:

As approved by the Dearborn County Department of Health, any student or staff determined to be a close contact in the school setting **WILL NOT** be excluded from school **OR** extracurricular activities. As with all COVID-19 protocols, exclusion protocols could change if community spread increases.

***Please note - Contact tracing and exclusion from school/work will only occur if required by the Indiana Department of Health or other authoritative body.**

Student/Staff Close Contact within School

Persons who have been in close contact (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) of someone **within the school setting** (classroom, lunch room, common areas, etc.) with confirmed COVID-19, up to 48 hours prior to being symptomatic or prior to the test date for asymptomatic, **are not** excluded from school. Parents of students and/or staff members will be notified and asked to monitor for symptoms. In addition, students and/or staff members identified as close contact within the school setting should follow quarantine protocols outside of school. Student/staff members **are** excluded from extracurricular activities. The student/staff member may return to extracurricular activities after at least ten (10) calendar days have passed since the date of close contact.

Student/Staff Close Contact Outside of School

Persons who have been in close contact (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) of someone with confirmed COVID-19, up to 48 hours prior to being symptomatic or prior to the test date for asymptomatic, may return to school if the following conditions are met:

- At least ten (10) calendar days have passed since the day of close contact; **or**
- At least seven (7) calendar days have passed since the day of the close contact; **and**
- The student/staff has received a negative COVID-19 test; **and**
- The test was administered on or after five (5) days of quarantine.
- If a person becomes symptomatic, they must follow the “Tested Positive - Symptomatic” protocol from the day they become symptomatic.

Per ISDH guidelines, all members of the same household are considered close contacts when any member of the same household is confirmed COVID-19 positive. In addition, during times of moderate or high community spread (as determined by the ISDH COVID-19 dashboard) school administration may exclude students from school when a member of the same household is symptomatic and awaiting COVID-19 test results.

For more information on the ISDH COVID-19 dashboard, go to <https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/2393.htm>.

Tested Positive- Impact on School Operations

With the assistance of Dearborn and/or Ripley County Health Department, school personnel or parents/guardians will be notified when their child has had prolonged, close proximity with an individual who tests positive for COVID-19. Healthcare professionals will determine the next steps for potentially exposed students or staff.

Student COVID-19 Symptoms Screening

All parents are required to self-screen students for COVID-19 symptoms each day prior to school. Students exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 without being otherwise explained and documented are **prohibited** from coming to school. If they do come to school, they will be sent home immediately. Parents will be responsible for immediate student pick up when a child has been excluded due COVID-19 symptoms.

Staff COVID-19 Symptoms Screening

All staff members are required to self-screen each day prior to school. Staff members exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 without being otherwise explained and documented are **prohibited** from coming to school.

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 schools in this circumstance to make additional medical inquiries of students than would otherwise be allowed.

- If a parent tells the school that a student is ill, the school will ask the parent whether the student is exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19.
- If a staff member calls in sick or appears ill, the school will inquire as to whether the staff member is experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms.
- If a student or staff member is obviously ill, the school will make additional inquiries and

may exclude the student from school.

Even without symptoms, if a student or staff member has recently had contact with a person with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19, had 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 school may exclude the student or staff member from the school building and recommend that they self-quarantine for fourteen (14) calendar days with the support of the Dearborn or Ripley County Health Department.

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 should remain home if someone in the household has COVID-19 symptoms or is being tested for COVID-19.

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. Students are required to wash their hands often and if soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol. The school will provide ample hand sanitizer throughout the building. The school will reinforce healthy habits regarding handwashing during key times and regularly scheduled breaks. Some of these key times include:

- Start of the school day
- Before eating
- After using the restroom
- After blowing nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After using shared equipment

Students will bring their own filled water bottle with a sealable lid or up to two (2) purchased bottles of water to school. Students will take the water bottle home daily for sanitation. Drinking fountains will be unavailable at this time unless it contains a bottle filler station.

Appendix C - Attendance Guidelines - Students

The biggest impact parents can have on preventing the spread of COVID-19 in the school and to limit exposure to others is to keep their child home when exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms. **This cannot be overstated.**

Student attendance policies have been adjusted to allow for extended absences for any student who is COVID-19 positive, exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, or has been in contact with someone COVID-19 positive or who is exhibiting COVID-19 positive. In addition to the existing excused absences, the following excused absences will be used:

- COVID-19 Positive
- COVID-19 Symptoms
- COVID-19 Close Contact

If your child is sick for any reason, please call the school. The school will ask whether the student is exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19. If a student is obviously ill, the school will make additional inquiries and may exclude the student from school.

Even without symptoms, if a student 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 school may exclude the student from the school building and recommend that they self-quarantine for fourteen (14) calendar days.

Please see Appendix B - Health Protocols - Students and Staff for more information on exclusion from school and return to school protocols.

Other attendance issues will be addressed through the Sunman-Dearborn Community School Corporation attendance policy found in the student handbook. *COVID-19 related absences are outside of the scope of the attendance policy in the student handbook.*

Appendix D - Letter from Dearborn County Health Official



Dearborn Co. Health Department

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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June 2, 2021

To: Dr. Andrew Jackson, Superintendent
1 Trojan Place, Suite B
St. Leon, Indiana 47012

I have reviewed the Covid-19 Return to In-Person Instruction (IPI) Plan and find it acceptable. The plan meets all the current state and county health requirement, and has the approval of the Dearborn County Health Officer.

Thank you for continued cooperation and willingness to work with us in this ongoing situation.

Sincerely,

Stephen C. Eliason, M.D.
Medical Director
Dearborn County Health Department