

August 6, 2021

Welcome back Union County College Corner Joint School District Families! Just last year, I sent a message notifying you of how we were preparing our schools to operate during the unknown COVID-19 pandemic. We were not even sure if we would be able to start school in person. A month ago, I thought that we had left that behind and that we would be able to get back to the focus of learning for all students in our buildings.

Unfortunately, we are still seeing the spread of COVID-19 in our state and in our community. In fact, just this past week we learned that some of our students have tested positive and will not be able to start school in person this year. While this is frustrating for everyone, we will do our best to work together to continue to provide the best learning environment possible for our students.

The following will explain some of the protocols we will have in place. Before you review the information, be aware, that has always been the case during the pandemic, this information and these protocols can and probably will change at some point. When they do change, we will communicate this information to you. Our schools and the Union County Health Department work closely and meet frequently to review information from the CDC, Indiana State Department of Health, and the cases in our county and make decisions that are not only the best for our students but we feel that our best for all the families, community, and the entire county.

Protocols for the start of the 2021-22 school year:

- Masks will be required on the school bus. Masks will be required for all students who are on a school bus regardless of vaccination status. This includes field trips and extracurricular activities that use the bus. The CDC released guidelines over the summer stating that masks should be required for transportation including school buses.
- Masks are strongly recommended in schools and buildings, but not required. At this time, we are following the CDC recommendation released on August 4 stating that masks are recommended for anyone in a building regardless of vaccination status. This means that masks are an option for all students, staff, and visitors. However, wearing a mask will reduce the chance of quarantine.

We will continue to practice measures such as intentional social distancing of three to six feet when possible throughout the day, frequent hand washing, and continued cleaning and sanitizing practices that benefited our schools last year. However, with these practices we have already seen some schools who have had to quarantine numerous students due to a positive student attending school. We want to stress to families to continue to do your part and monitor your child's symptoms daily using the [screening checklist](#), keep them home when they exhibit symptoms and notify the school office and/or nurse.



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Thank you for sending your children to school and working with us. We will continue to create a safe learning environment while still providing opportunities for students to engage, learn, and grow.

Thank you and we will see your children in a few days!

*Aron Borowiak*

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Superintendent