

ADAMS CENTRAL COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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RE-ENTRY INFORMATION COVID-19 HEALTH & SAFETY



**Legacy *Growth *Faith *Vision*

Adams Central Community Schools HEALTHY OPERATIONS PLAN

*Public Hearing July 13th, 2021 (6:30pm)

*School Board Approval July 13th, 2021



Inspiring and Empowering Students to Succeed

INTRODUCTION

Adams Central Community Schools (ACCS) reopened school for students on Friday, August 14th, 2020. ACCS also resumed summer athletic activities in accordance with the IHSA and the Indiana Department of Education IN-C.L.A.S.S. guidance documents. Adams Central teachers returned in full capacity on Tuesday, August 11, 2020.

Additionally, throughout the 2020-21 school year, school-level and corporation-level procedures to mitigate/prevent the spread of COVID-19 were developed by strategic planning teams.

*The 2020-21 Re-entry Plan can be found at <https://www.accs.k12.in.us/page/covid>.

Beginning July 1, 2021, Governor Holcomb gave local school boards the responsibility of determining what safety measures will be put in place to address the impact and spread of COVID-19 for their districts. ACCS will adhere to practices that support a safe and healthy school environment for all students, staff, teachers, community members, and school visitors to the **greatest extent practicable**.

Please note that this is a living document subject to changes based on the COVID-19 community and county positivity rates as well as any additional requirements, mandates, or directives we may be given from our government and/or health care officials.

The Indiana COVID-19 Data Analysis report and County Information may be found at <https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/2393.htm>.

SUPPORTING SAFE AND HEALTHY SCHOOL OPERATIONS

ACCS will continue to implement many of our enhanced cleaning and sanitizing procedures that we have learned have a positive impact on the health of our entire AC family. Our goal is to continue best practice for healthy learning environments.

COVID-19 is mostly spread by respiratory droplets released when people talk, cough, or sneeze. It is thought that the virus may spread to hands from a contaminated surface and then to the nose or mouth, causing infection. Fortunately, there are a number of actions school administrators can take to help lower the risk of COVID-19 exposure and spread during school sessions and activities.

- a) Promote self-screening (prevent sick people from attending school)
- b) Promote proper hygiene practices
- c) Implement effective corporation and bus cleaning systems



- d) Implement safe riding and seating protocols for student bus riders as well as the grouping of siblings in same seating when possible
- e) Students and staff will be spaced apart as allowed by school facilities
- f) Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as handwashing, covering coughs, and invite students, staff, teachers, and school visitors to wear face coverings
- g) Provide hand soap and sanitizer (approved for COVID-19)
- h) Post signage throughout the corporation of COVID-19 symptoms, preventable measures, and good hygiene practices
- i) Clean/disinfect frequently touched surfaces multiple times throughout the school day and/or after each use
- j) Allow students and staff to bring sanitizer and face masks/coverings (not required) to use from home
- k) Ensure ventilation systems operate properly
- l) Sanitize schools prior to the return of students and staff each day to prevent and/or mitigate the spread of COVID-19

Health screening measures should begin at home prior to the start of each school day for both students and staff. Individuals are expected to stay home if they exhibit any of the following symptoms **that cannot be other wised explained. Individuals with fever concerns must always stay at home until they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of medicine that reduces fevers.**

- Fever of 100 Degrees or Higher
- Persistent Cough
- Shortness of Breath or Difficulty Breathing
- Chills/Repeated Shaking
- Muscle Pain
- Headaches
- Sore Throat
- New Loss of Taste or Smell
- Congestion or Runny Nose
- Nausea, Vomiting and/or Diarrhea

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Maintaining Best Practices for Teaching and Learning!

ACCS continues to believe that onsite, in-person, collaborative learning environments provide the best learning outcomes and social/emotional development for students and staff.



2. Providing Educational Access to All Students!

Virtual learning opportunities WILL NOT be an option EXCEPT:

- For those students confirmed to be positive for the virus or identified through contact tracing.
- For those students with an IEP or 504 (or who with documentation have been identified as potentially eligible for an IEP or 504 under Article 7 or IDEA) whose LRE is found by a case conference committee decision to be separate from peers and/or outside of regular school.

In these situations, ACCS is committed to providing continuity of learning to the best extent possible through a combination of options which may include virtual learning.

In general, ACCS WILL NOT offer virtual learning as an alternative school option for students for the 2021-22 School Year.

3. Reducing/Containing COVID-19 Spread and Avoiding Mass Quarantines/School Closure!

In order to ensure the ability to maintain onsite programming, ACCS may implement more targeted protective measures in order to mitigate viral spreads. ACCS will continue to base discussions on possible COVID-19 school closures on a total student quarantine rate of 15% of the school corporation, individual school building, or specific grade level.

Additional restrictions will be based on the Adams County COVID-19 infection color codes:

BLUE = No visitor restriction during the day or for ECA events.

YELLOW/ORANGE = School-day visitors may be limited and ECA attendance may be restricted to 50%-75% capacity.

RED = School-day visitors will be restricted and ECA attendance may be restricted to as low as 25% capacity.

This document is considered a living document that is subject to change as new information, requirements, and COVID-19 trend data are released.



HAND HYGIENE PRACTICES

- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds whenever hands are visibly soiled and in the following situations:
 - Before and after meals and snacks
 - Before and after recess
 - Before and after sharing supplies or equipment
 - After going to the restroom
- Build time into daily routines to incorporate hand washing
- Consider making hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol available for everyone near frequently touched surfaces, doors, shared equipment, and where soap and water are not readily available
- Promote hand hygiene throughout the school by placing visual cues



GENERAL CLEANING PRACTICES

- **Follow a daily cleaning schedule for routine cleaning**
- **Clean high touch surfaces and objects more frequently**
- **Limit sharing of high touch objects that are difficult to regularly clean** and wash hands before and after using if sharing items
- **Sanitize** surfaces when food is involved, including before and after food prep and eating meals and snacks
- **Disinfect in areas** such as:
 - Nurse clinic and isolation room
 - In space occupied by people at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19 (i.e., SPED classrooms)

Note: If there has been a sick person or someone who tested positive for COVID-19 in the facility within the last 24 hours, you should clean AND disinfect the space.



<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/clean-disinfect-hygiene.html>



HEALTHY WATER SYSTEMS OPERATIONS

- Students and staff are invited to bring school approved water bottles/containers to school each day.
- Filtered water bottle re-fill systems will be available throughout the school day and during after school events.
- Drinking fountain faucets will be restricted for use until further notice.

SCHOOL CLINIC PRACTICES

- Situations involving concerns of COVID-19 will be isolated to a specific clinic area to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- School health professionals will wear appropriate PPE when providing health care services in situations COVID-19 is a concern.
- Regular cleaning/disinfecting of all school clinic areas will take place throughout each school day.
- When parental consent is provided a rapid covid test may be administered in order to assist in the determination the timeline of a student or staff quarantine.
- When potentially infectious individuals are or have recently been in the Nurse's Clinic, the nurse may require anyone entering the clinic to mask as a precaution.

NURSING CONSIDERATIONS

Nursing Considerations **Symptoms of COVID-19 illness**

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

- If an individual becomes symptomatic while at school, isolate them until they can be transported home
- Encourage COVID testing or other evaluation for COVID infection if symptoms suspicious for COVID - 19
- Determine vaccination status of symptomatic individuals
- Report positive cases according through the K-12 Gateway portal
- Symptom list is not all-inclusive and symptom list should also be used when assessing students for other infectious illness



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QUARANTINE AND ISOLATION CLARIFICATION

Quarantine and Isolation

- **Quarantine** should be used for students, teachers, and staff who might have been exposed to COVID-19. Close contacts, identified through contact tracing, should quarantine unless they are fully vaccinated, or have tested positive in the last 3 months, and do not have any symptoms.
 - Students, teachers, and staff who are in quarantine should stay home and follow the direction of the local public health department about when it is safe for them to be around others.
- **Isolation** should be used for individuals with COVID – 19 illness to separate them from those who are not infected (even at home).
 - At home, anyone sick or infectious should separate from others, stay in a specific “sick room” and use a separate bathroom if available.
 - Stay home for at least 10 days following the onset of symptoms or a positive test result. Individuals may return after 10 days as long as symptoms are improving, and they are fever free for at least 24 hours without use of fever reducing medications.

CLOSE CONTACT DEFINITIONS

Adams Central will practice procedure-based strategies to assist in the identification of close contracts when a positive COVID-19 case arises.

- An individual who was within 6 feet of a person diagnosed with COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.
- In situations where a person is wearing a mask the distance of 3 feet and 15 minutes will be used in the definition of close contact.
- All close contacts should be entered into the Gateway portal.



CLOSE CONTACT GUIDANCE FOR TESTING AND QUARANTINE

The information below provides general guidelines for returning to school/work following a positive COVID-19 test or being identified as a close contact.

- All fully vaccinated individuals or those who have tested positive in the last three months who remain asymptomatic (close contacts) do not need to quarantine but should closely monitor symptoms for 14 days.
- Asymptomatic close contact may return after Day 10.
- Asymptomatic close contact may return after Day 8 with negative PCR on day 5, 6, or 7 or negative on BinaxNOW in school on Day 8.
- Asymptomatic individuals testing positive for COVID-19 may return to school after 10 calendar days have passed from the date of the positive test.
- Symptomatic individuals testing positive for COVID-19 may return to school after 10 calendar days have passed from the time the first symptom appeared if:
 - Fever free for 24 hours without the use of medicine that reduces fever; and
 - Symptoms have improved.

Same family household experiencing positive COVID-19 test results will be addressed as follows:
(Student primarily resides in a household where another or other individuals test positive)

- a) Student(s) in a household experiencing one (1) positive COVID-19 test result may remain in school attendance if the individual who tested positive is appropriately isolated away from other members of the household.
- b) Student(s) in a household experiencing multiple positive COVID-19 test results will be required to quarantine as follows:
 - May return after 10 calendar days have passed from the date of the positive test result as long as the student(s) remains asymptomatic.

ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATIONS

General Health and Safety

- At school, masks will be optional for all students and staff.
- The CDC has an order requiring masks while using public transportation. As described in the US Department of Education COVID-19 Handbook, Volume 1, No disciplinary action should be taken against a student who does not have a mask (includes while on the school bus).



- Students and staff should self-screen each morning before coming to school.
- There are many reasons a child may feel ill that are NOT related to COVID-19.
 - If your child is not feeling well and you have no reason to believe his or her symptoms are related to COVID-19, simply report your child sick and keep him or her home until symptoms improve, and your child is fever free for 24 hours.

Outside Visitors

- Visitors are welcome inside our school buildings.
- Mask will be optional for visitors.
- Visitors must check in at the front office of each building before entering school and comply with the procedures and policies of each school building.
- It is preferred parents wishing to meet with school personnel schedule a meeting/appointment in advance.

Class Parties/Field Trips/Convocations

- Class parties can be conducted by teachers. Parents and guardians may be allowed to participate in these in accordance with Board policy, each school's policy, and at the discretion of the principal and teacher. All snacks must be prepackaged and include an ingredient list without exceptions.
- Field trips and convocations will resume; they will be approved on a case-by-case.

Food Service

- Lunch room procedures will resume to normal operating practices.

Water Availability

- Students may bring school approved water bottles to school.
- Hands free water filling stations are available to refill water bottles.

Extracurricular Activities

Extracurricular participation and attendance policies will be based upon guidance from the CDC, state and local health departments, Governor Holcomb's office, Indiana Department of Education, and current conditions within local schools and the county.



It is anticipated that all extra-curricular activities will resume as normal for students across the corporation. Additionally, we anticipate being able to offer full capacity for spectators at extracurricular events.

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