



10/19/20

Dear MCAS Families,

We had a successful first day “back to school” as we transitioned many of our students back to in-person classes, and others to new classrooms online or in our virtual academy. As I visited schools today, I was excited to see the enthusiasm of students and staff. Thank you for your patience as we address any remaining transportation and scheduling concerns -- we are working diligently to resolve those quickly.

Please know that MCAS is closely monitoring the community spread of COVID-19. We now have a [COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#) for our district, which will be updated each Friday to report cases in our district, at each school.

We also want to share with you some specific information about the actions we will take based on our Reopening 2020 Plan and Indiana’s “Back on Track” plan. (A copy of our [decision-making matrix is here](#) for your reference.)

As you may be aware, each Wednesday at 11:00 (Central Time) the State of Indiana announces color-coded status levels for each county in Indiana. Currently, Laporte County is at a **YELLOW** status.

Here is what each spread level means for MCAS:

BLUE - In-Person Traditional and MCAS Online maintain normal schedule

YELLOW - In-Person Traditional and MCAS Online maintain normal schedule

ORANGE - All students either In-Person Traditional, Hybrid, or MCAS Online. (If all students are online, this could still mean a hybrid schedule for Career-Tech and some MCHS students.)

RED - 100% online for all students.

For MCAS, “Orange” gives flexibility in operations. This means that our district will determine MCAS operations based on a number of factors. Those factors include (but are not limited to): the level of COVID spread in schools; COVID cases and positivity rate in Michigan City and the region; clusters impacting the community COVID rate (for example prisons/nursing homes); student absence and quarantine trends; the availability of supplies and readiness of facilities; and our ability to adequately staff all schools and programs.

Based on these factors and the announcement that the state makes each Wednesday, this could impact our operations **beginning the following Monday.**

LaPorte County (and counties across Indiana) has seen a spike in COVID cases over the past week. Based on this information, it is possible that Indiana will move to an “Orange” status on Wednesday, October 21. **If this happens, we will alert all families regarding any changes to our operations.**

We will keep all families informed as we move forward. Expect to hear from us again Wednesday evening, after we have an update from the State of Indiana on COVID spread in LaPorte County.

NOTE: Currently, we are experiencing a shortage of substitute teachers. When staff must quarantine or are caregivers of those who must quarantine, this greatly affects our ability to operate.

Please follow this link for information on becoming a [substitute teacher or substitute paraprofessional](#).

Substitute Teacher Job Requirements:

- Any college degree and/or a minimum of 30 college credit hours

Paraprofessional Job Requirements:

- High School Diploma or GED

Sincerely,
Dr. Barbara Eason-Watkins
Superintendent