



# **COVID Response Plan 2021-22**

Tuesday February 22, 2022

# **New IDOH Guidance for Schools - 2/17/22**



# A Time of Transition

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- While universal case investigation and contact tracing during the initial phase of the pandemic was justified as the phases of the pandemic evolve, public health experts agree this degree of response is no longer optimal
- Indiana's cases and hospitalizations have fallen significantly in recent weeks as we move past the Omicron surge
- Although COVID-19 is not going away, we have tools available today that we didn't have two years ago, including vaccines and therapies
- As a result, we are making significant changes to our COVID-19 response operations that impact schools and local health departments

# What This Means for Schools

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## Effective Feb. 23:

- IDOH no longer recommends contact tracing and quarantining in schools; LHDs in conjunction with their schools may elect to continue.
- If schools are made aware of a positive case, sharing the potential exposure with students/families can emphasize the importance of observation for symptoms associated with COVID-19
- Schools do not need to report any COVID-19 case information to IDOH, school dashboard will be discontinued
- Schools should continue to isolate positive individuals for at least 5 days per CDC
- Schools should continue to assist their LHD with exposure notification when there is a cluster of positive COVID-19 cases or an outbreak. Schools should notify their LHD when absenteeism reaches 10 percent for COVID-like illness or when schools are concerned about the level of illness.
- A negative test or doctor's note is no longer required to return to school. As with other illnesses, students should not return to school unless they are fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication and their symptoms are resolving.

# Key Changes to MCAS Plan

- ❑ **Masks:** Face masks **optional at school** for all MCAS students and staff. Masks still **required on school buses**, per Federal law.
- ❑ **Positive Cases:** No change. Isolate for 5 days. Return to school on day 6 if fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications, as long as symptoms are improving. (Encourage masking at all times days 6-10.)
- ❑ **Contact Tracing:** MCAS will no longer be contact tracing or reporting positive cases to the Indiana Department of Health. Discontinue updating MCAS dashboard.
- ❑ **Symptoms:** MCAS will exclude individuals from school if they are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. They may return when they are fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications and their symptoms have improved. (A test result or doctor's note no longer required.)

# COVID-19 Screening for Parents

Every morning before you send your child to school please check for signs of illness:



FEVER 100.4\* OR CHILLS  
\*or school board policy  
if threshold is lower



SORE THROAT



COUGH\* OR SHORTNESS  
OF BREATH  
\*especially new onset, uncontrolled cough



DIARRHEA, NAUSEA OR  
VOMITING, ABDOMINAL PAIN



HEADACHE\*  
\*particularly new onset of severe  
headache, especially with fever



NEW LOSS OF TASTE  
OR SMELL

*\*May present with more than one symptom. This list does not include all possible symptoms.*

- 1 Does your child have any sign of illness above?
  - 2 Was your child in close contact (within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes over a 24-hour period) with anyone confirmed with COVID-19?
  - 3 If the answer is **YES** to any of the questions, **DO NOT** send your student to school. Instead, get your child tested for COVID-19 and isolate them until their test result is received.
  - 4 Please keep your student home until they meet the criteria to return to school.
- ➔ *If your child has trouble breathing, chest pain, new confusion, inability to wake or stay awake or bluish lips or face.*

**CALL 911!**