

August 12, 2021

Dear parents and guardians,

The Marion County Public Health Department is committed to helping ensure schools can operate safely during the 2021-2022 school year. To that end, we have worked with both public and private school leadership in Marion County to develop protocols and guidance that helps keeps kids safe while they learn in-person this fall.

What you need to know:

- Masks/face coverings: [the CDC recommends](#) masks are worn indoors for all students, teachers, and staff, regardless of vaccination status.
- Transportation: masks are required for students, bus drivers, and staff on any school-sponsored transportation by federal government mandate.
- Sanitizing: all high touch surfaces should be sanitized frequently. Hand sanitizer should continue to be available for students and staff.
- Isolation: individuals who test positive for COVID-19 should isolate for a minimum of ten days following the onset of symptoms, or from the test collection date, if asymptomatic.
- Quarantine: as mandated by Indiana State Law, individuals identified as a close contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case must quarantine for a minimum of ten days after the most recent exposure.

Vaccination remains our strongest tool against COVID-19, and masks provide an added layer of protection. I continue to urge all parents and guardians to bring their families to a nearby clinic or pharmacy and get themselves and their children ages 12 and over vaccinated today. You can find more information about the free, tested, and proven vaccines and how to access them at ourshot.in.gov.

We are tired of the virus, but it's not tired of us. As cases are increasing around the country, we should all be more careful about protecting ourselves and our community. The Marion County Public Health Department will continue to closely monitor local data, national trends, and action from the CDC as we continue efforts to keep our community safe.

Questions? Contact the Marion County Public Health Department: 317-221-2000.

Sincerely,



Virginia A. Caine, M.D.
Director and Chief Medical Officer
Marion County Public Health Department