

FORT WAYNE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



WE ARE YOUR SCHOOLS

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SUPERINTENDENT

COVID-19 UPDATE
Board of School Trustees
August 9, 2021

COVID-19 Recent Changes

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More on Delta

Danger from Delta

- Transmissibility:
 - spreads more than twice as easily from one person to another, compared to earlier strains
 - secondary infections from breakthroughs: 3.3 people for delta, 1.1 for non-delta
- Infectivity:
 - studies show fully vaccinated people can spread delta variant
 - accounts for more breakthrough cases than other strains: viral load 1000x greater than alpha
- Widespread:
 - accounts for 91% of sequenced specimens in Indiana
 - responsible for outbreaks in long-term care settings, suspected other outbreaks in Indiana
 - surged to become the predominant variant –from <1% in May to 83% of cases nationally in July
 - 400% increase in cases nationally



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3



IDOH Summary of New Guidance

CDC Guidance Key Takeaways (July 9 and 27 updates)

- Students benefit from in-person learning, and safely returning to in-person schools in the fall 2021 is a priority
- Vaccination is the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Promoting vaccination for those eligible can help schools safely return to in-person learning as well as extracurricular activities and sports
- CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms, combined with indoor mask wearing by people who are not fully vaccinated, to reduce transmission risk
- When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, such as when schools cannot fully re-open while maintaining these distances, it is especially important to layer multiple other prevention strategies, such as indoor masking



<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

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4



Estimated Student Vaccination for COVID-19

Grade	fully vaccinated	enrollment	NOT fully vaccinated	%	1 shot	Addition % potential
12	93	1685	1592	5%		
11	90	1849	1759	5%		
10	72	1840	1768	4%		
9	72	1930	1858	4%		
8	72	1996	1924	4%		
7	97	1966	1869	5%		
6	93	2330	2237	4%		
Total for those eligible	589	13596	13007	4%	990	7%



Mask Guidance

- July 19, 2021 - American Academy of Pediatrics updated its guidance for schools, stating that they strongly recommended that all individuals wear masks in a K-12 setting.
- July 27, 2021 - CDC updated its mask guidance to say the same and added a strong recommendation that all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, mask indoors in areas with substantial or high community spread, or if they are immunocompromised or at increased risk of serious disease.
- July 29, 2021 – Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) updated its school guidance on masking to align.

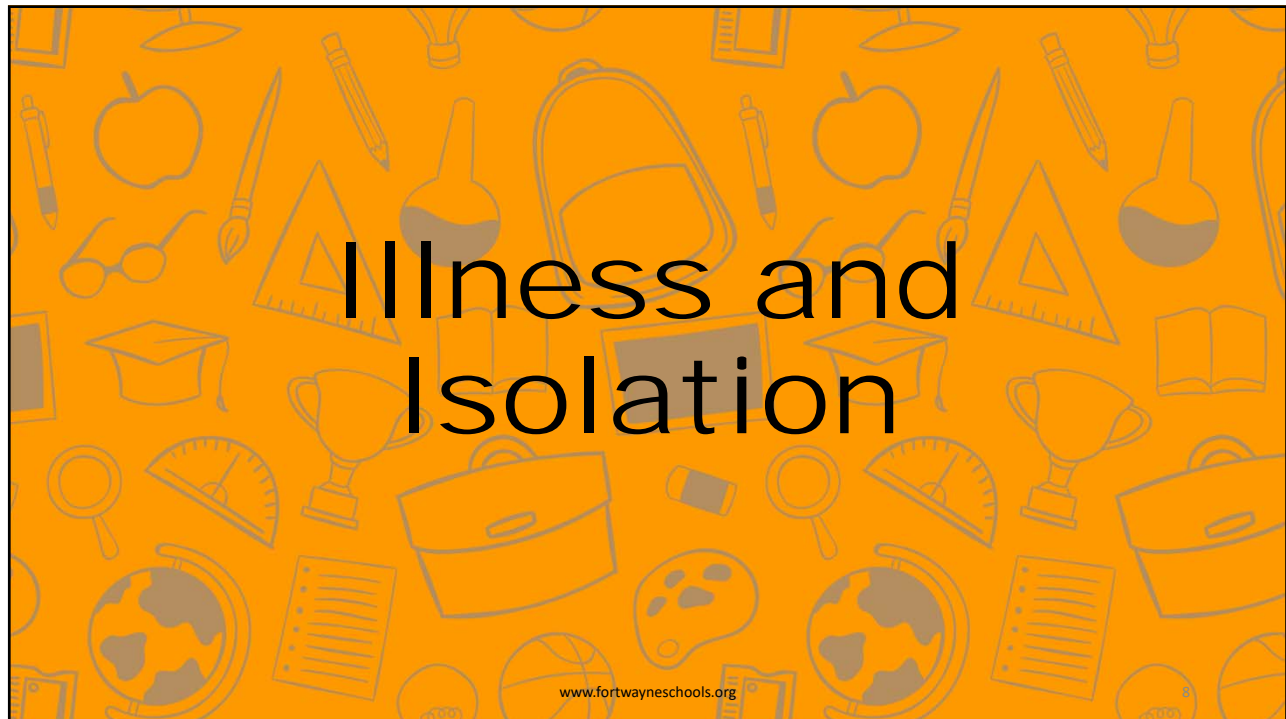


Mask Guidance

August 5, 2021 - Allen County Department of Health:

We recognize the difficult decisions that all of our schools in Allen County are facing regarding mask guidelines. Due to significant increases in local COVID cases, we strongly encourage all Allen County schools and school boards to follow the guidance of the CDC, IDOH and American Academy of Pediatrics by **requiring masks of all individuals in indoor settings.**

Masking remains a powerful tool to decrease the spread of COVID-19 and other viruses. While no single tool will work on its own, we believe using masks along with vaccination, social distancing, hand hygiene and regular cleaning of surfaces will likely decrease disruptions from infections and quarantines during the school year and reduce the risk of spread of disease in classrooms.





Daily COVID-19 Screening Tool for Students and Staff

Daily Parent Screening Tool

COVID-19 Screening for Parents
Every morning before you send your child to school please check for signs of illness:

<input type="checkbox"/>	 FEVER 100.4° OR HIGHER <small>or other fever illness over</small>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 SORE THROAT	<input type="checkbox"/>	 COUGH OR SHORTNESS OF BREATH <small>*Must be new, persistent cough</small>
<input type="checkbox"/>	 DIARRHEA, NAUSEA OR VOMITING, ABDOMINAL PAIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	 HEADACHE* <small>*Must be new and a new headache separate from</small>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 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 signs of illness above?
- 2 Were you 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, begin isolation of your child and contact your healthcare provider. Have you been tested for COVID-19? Only a positive test or provider diagnosis can confirm if someone has a current infection.
- 4 Please keep your student home until they meet the criteria.

If you have trouble breathing, chest pain, new confusion, inability to wake or stay awake or bluish lips or face **CALL 911!**

Parent can monitor child daily and should keep student home if symptoms of COVID – 19 or other illness are present



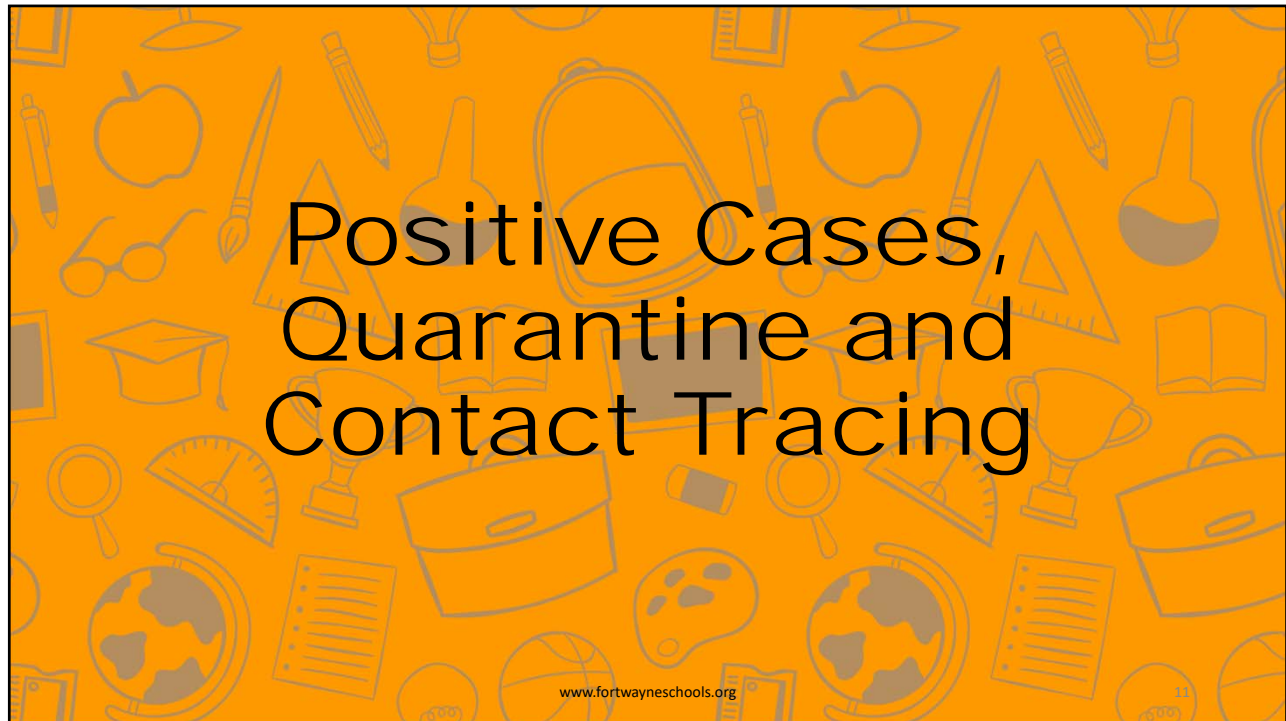
https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/20_Parent%20screening%202-8-21.pdf

18



What to Expect When You Are Sick

- If you are ill, you need to stay home and contact your school nurse to determine when you may return to school, practice, or competition. **This is for all students and staff regardless of their vaccination status.**
- You will be asked to get tested for COVID-19. Your school nurse can test you with parent permission, or they can help direct you to a testing site.
- If you do NOT get tested, you must isolate at home for at least 10 days and be fever free with improved symptoms 24 hours before your return.



Positive Case: Unvaccinated

Unvaccinated students and staff:

- When someone tests positive for COVID-19, UNVACCINATED close contacts must quarantine for 10-14 days.
 - *A close contact is someone that is closer than 6 feet for longer than 15 minutes. The 15 minutes is cumulative in over a 24-hour period. **You can use 3 feet if everyone in the classroom is fully masked (this cannot be applied anywhere else).***
- Early Return from quarantine is ONLY possible IF you have no symptoms AND you can carry out enhanced precautions until the 14-day quarantine is over
 - Mask 100% of the time including while participating in your sport
 - 6 feet from others at all times while indoors
 - 6 feet from others while eating
 - Frequent handwashing/sanitizing
 - Stay home and get tested if you get sick



Positive Case: Fully Vaccinated

Fully vaccinated students and staff:

- Do not have to quarantine, even if identified as a close contact of a positive case, as long as not exhibiting any symptoms of illness
- Must show proof of vaccination to be exempt from quarantine
- Required to mask 100% of the time
- Recommend a COVID-19 test between 3-5 days after exposure
- If symptoms develop, stay home and contact the school nurse for testing options



Multi-Layered Prevention Strategies

We need to be prepared for outbreaks as more students return to school and school related activities. To prevent large outbreaks and/or the need to quarantine:

- Get vaccinated as soon as eligible. See school nurse on how to find free vaccination sites.
- Stay home if sick and get tested for COVID-19.
- Follow all instructions and stay home if told to isolate or quarantine.
- Wear a mask indoors, regardless if vaccinated, until further notice.
- Stay social distanced from others as much as possible.
- Remember the clean hands in, clean hands out rule! Wash or sanitize your hands often and always before eating or touching your face.
- Disinfect shared equipment between users and frequently touched surfaces as much as possible.
- Practice outside whenever possible.

