PTSC Parent FAQ

Question	Answer
REVISED GUIDANCE THAT SUPERSEDES **ALL** FAQ ANSWERS BELOW THIS SECTION (Beginning with Questions added after July 6, 2020)	
August 14, 2020	
Why is it that sometimes people keep testing positive, even after having COVID-19 for 10 days? Should they stay quarantined?	From the Porter County Department of Health: We have had some questions about repeat Covid-19 testing and returning to school/work. The current CDC guidelines after testing positive are 10 days isolation from symptom onset, or 10 days after test date (if asymptomatic) so long as the individual is fever free for 24 hours (The loss of taste and smell may last longer though). As long as students and employees have met the isolation timeline and are symptom free, they may return to school or work. However, if an individual is outside the 10 day window, and symptoms have resolved, a portion of the population may continue to test positive if repeat tests are administered. Tests during this time have not been associated with contagious levels of viral load. Therefore, if the time frame of isolation is met and symptoms are resolved, the individual may return to work or school, despite a positive retest. We are seeing people having positive PCR test results up to three months after their first positive test. In layman terms, individuals may have what is called viral shedding, showing a positive result weeks to months later, but are not considered contagious.
August 11, 2020	
Hi. We have 3 kids in the schools. What if one is displaying these symptoms? Do they all have to stay home? Looking for clarification.	Great question. Here's what the Indiana State Department of Health says: So according to that guidance, the questions are: 1. Has your child who is experiencing symptoms been isolated from all other family members? 2. If the child who has symptoms has been isolated, and the other children have not been

	near the child with symptoms, then they can continue to go to school.
	3. If your family has not been able to isolate the child with symptoms, then your family should all quarantine (and not attend school). Obviously, you will want to consult your child's pediatrician for their guidance on next steps.

July 22, 2020	
Porter County Health Department Mask Guidance	● Letter from Dr. Stamp, Porter County Health Department, on Masks: https://www.porterco.org/DocumentCenter/View/9279/July-17-Letter-From-Dr-Stamp-To-Porter-County-School-Superintendents ● Due to this guidance from the PCHD, masks will now be worn at all times except when PTSC staff members indicate it is time for a mask break. These breaks may occur: 　○ At silent times in the classroom 　○ While students are eating breakfast or lunch 　○ If students are participating in a class outdoors, spaced 6 feet apart, as directed by the teacher 　○ At recess while using social distancing 　○ In PE while using social distancing ● If you would like to switch to eLearning now due to this information, please email your child's principal to make the change
Indiana Guidance on Eating Meals	● With consideration of Governor Holcomb's Executive Order (https://www.in.gov/gov/files/Executive%20Order%2020-32%20(Stage%204).pdf) which is now still active as Indiana has not fully reordered, we are having to make some changes to where students will eat meals. 　○ Students who wish to purchase meals from our cafeteria may still do so 　○ Meals will be eaten at satellite locations 　○ This may be outdoors when weather permits
Indiana State Department of Health Screening Guidance	The Indiana State Department of Health has provided guidance for screening each day for staff and students. Here is our new screening process that is to be completed by each staff member and each student prior to coming to school:

COVID-19 Screening for Parents

Every morning before you send your child to school please check the following:

1 Your student does **NOT** have a fever greater than 100.4 degrees *(may be lower based on your school's policy)* OR lower if your child is not feeling well.

2 Other signs of illness such as:

CONGESTION OR RUNNY NOSE

FEVER 100.4*
*or school board policy if threshold is lower

COUGH

SHORTNESS OF BREATH OR DIFFICULTY BREATHING

DIARRHEA

HEADACHE

NAUSEA OR VOMITING

SORE THROAT

MUSCLE PAIN AND FATIGUE

CHILLS

NEW LOSS OF TASTE OR SMELL

3 Were you in close contact (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) with anyone confirmed with COVID-19 within the last two weeks?

→ If the answer is **YES** to any of the questions, **DO NOT** send your student to school. Instead, begin quarantine of your child and contact your healthcare provider. Strongly consider COVID-19 testing.

Updated:7/8/20

Indiana State Department of Health

Indiana State Department of Health Guidance on Exclusion from School and When to Return to School	We have revised our Return to Learn Plan to reflect the latest Guidance from the Indiana Department of Health about when students/staff should be excluded from school and when students/staff should return to school. You will want to read this page carefully as we will all be referring to it often this year! You can find it in a larger version in our Return to Learn Plan on our website at: https://www.ptsc.k12.in.us/student-health/covid-19/

	Health Department/PTSC Self-Screen Process
	Current Statistics for Porter County (7.09.2020) — 985 confirmed cases, 828 recovered in Porter County and 31 confirmed cases, 27 recovered in Porter Township Source: https://www.porterco.org/1638/Dashboard-for-DESKTOP-DEVICES
	Individual Screening Measures before leaving home for students and staff (if ANY of these signs of illness are present, DO NOT go to school. Quarantine and contact your healthcare provider): — Signs of Illness: A fever of 100.4° F or greater ● Cough ● Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing ● Chills ● Diarrhea ● Muscle pain and fatigue ● Headache ● Sore throat ● New loss of taste or smell ● Congestion or runny nose ● Nausea or vomiting ● Test positive for COVID-19 ● Close contact (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) with anyone confirmed with COVID-19 within the last two weeks
	Return to school after having any sign of illness above with no alternative explanation and NO COVID 19 swab test: — No fever for at least 72 hours (that is three full days of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers); AND ● Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved); AND ● At least 10 calendar days have passed since your symptoms first appeared. ● Any individual who is symptomatic for infection should stay home and consult their primary care provider or seek testing. The state website www.coronavirus.in.gov has a list of over 200 testing facilities, their location and hours of operation.
	Not tested with alternate explanation (strep, influenza, as defined by doctor) — May return to school after 24 hours fever free without fever-reducing medications AND a note (including email and fax) from doctor stating the individual has an alternate diagnosis and the provider believes it is appropriate for the patient to return to school.
	Return to school after having any sign of illness above and testing negative (swab) for COVID 19: — Individuals who have had symptoms but test negative for COVID-19 may return when they have gone ten calendar days from the first day symptoms appeared AND 72 hours fever free without fever-reducing medications AND with improvement of symptoms. The individual can return to school if tested negative AND with a note from the doctor stating they believe the patient to have an alternate diagnosis and it's appropriate for the patient to return to school.
	Return to school after having any sign of illness above and testing POSITIVE (swab) for COVID-19 with symptoms: — First: Notify your school immediately of any positive test. Individuals who experienced symptoms and have been tested by swab for COVID-19 may return to school if the following conditions are met: ● 72 hours fever free without fever-reducing medications; AND ● Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved); AND ● At least 10 calendar days have passed since symptoms first appeared
	Return to school testing POSITIVE (swab) for COVID-19 asymptomatic: — Individuals who have not had symptoms but test positive (swab) for COVID-19 may return when they have gone ten calendar days past their test without symptoms and preferably have been released by a healthcare provider. If symptoms develop, then follow tested positive with symptoms.
	If someone in your home is being tested (swab) for COVID-19 due to direct contact to a known positive case or signs of COVID-19: — Individuals should remain home for 72 hours if someone is being tested (swab) for COVID-19 due to direct contact to a known positive case or due to testing because they have signs of COVID-19. If test results for the household member are negative the individual may return if symptom free.
	If someone in your home has tested positive (swab) for COVID-19: — If an individual in one's home has COVID-19 or is isolated because of COVID-19, those in the household should also stay home for a minimum of 14 days if a close contact. This could be longer if the individual develops signs of illness.
	Contact Tracing — Local Health Department will work to determine who has been in close proximity (closer than 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) to trace for exposure. PTSC will maintain seating charts for classrooms, bus, and cafeteria.
	Direct Contact of a Known Positive Case — Students or staff in direct contact with a known positive case will remain home quarantined 14 days from the date of last direct contact with the person who tested positive even if the student has an alternate diagnosis for symptoms before returning to school. Individual must remain symptom free. If individual develops symptoms, then refer to the symptomatic scenarios.

Documentation from Individual's Doctor	If you have a pre-existing medical condition (like asthma, headaches) that may mimic the symptoms of illness but be otherwise explained, please make sure you have documentation on file with the nurse at school from your provider that states the diagnosis and symptoms that are experienced. This will help us as we navigate this year.
Meals Available for Students Participating in eLearning	Meal pickup will be available. The parent will preorder 5 breakfast and 5 lunches for a once a week pickup. These meals will be charged to the students lunch account according to their

	Free/Reduced/Full Pay status. More information will be coming to families of eLearning students.
One Thing I've Learned...	We can put all these things in place in our plan. We can do our part to protect each Wolf and the Pack when we come to school. But if we are not doing our part in our lives outside of school (washing our hands, social distancing, wearing masks), it will be a challenge to remain on green with brick and mortar learning and maintain a vibrant economy. We are in this together!
Questions Added after July 6, 2020	
In the green, traditional phase, when exactly will students need to wear masks?	The general answer is that students will wear a mask when social distancing is not possible. The health department has helped us define this as well, including when they think it's OK to take off a mask. Let's try walking through a typical school day: ● Students get on the bus: wear a mask ● Students are dropped off at school: wear a mask ● Students walk through halls: wear a mask ● Students outside at PE: may not need to wear a mask (this assumes there is some distance between them) ● Students outside at recess: may not need to wear a mask (this assumes there is some distance between them) ● Students seated, facing forward in the classroom learning: do not need to wear a mask ● Students working with teacher in the classroom: wear a mask ● Students working in small groups in the classroom: wear a mask ● Students engaged in active participation activity (or lab) in the classroom: wear a mask ● Students in line to get lunch: wear a mask ● Students eating lunch: do not wear a mask ● Students head home on bus: wear a mask ● Students head out to be picked up: wear a mask
Will students would all be required to face the same direction and not facing each other to help minimize spread since they obviously can't wear masks when eating?	It depends on the location and the table design at the building. Each administrator is working to design cafeteria seating. (Many of the tables are round)

Transportation: Can I switch to a bus after a couple of weeks?	The choice to either transport or ride the bus is made by semester. As we are scheduling routes and making seating charts, it will be difficult to make constant changes to these.
Can friends ride the bus home with my child?	No. As we are needing to keep a seating chart on the bus and will use that to spread students out as much as possible, we cannot accommodate additional students on the bus.
Can middle school students ride home on the elementary bus?	No. As we are needing to keep a seating chart on the bus and will use that to spread students out as much as possible, we cannot accommodate additional students on the bus.
Can elementary school students ride to school on the middle school bus?	No. As we are needing to keep a seating chart on the bus and will use that to spread students out as much as possible, we cannot accommodate additional students on the bus.
Will there still be an SRO at the Complex and an SRO at BGHS (that also goes to PLE)?	Yes! We will maintain our SRO presence in our schools and believe this is vital to school safety!
Is it a good idea to begin to have my child practice wearing a mask?	Absolutely! The more you can practice this now the easier it will be for your child when school starts. The more you make this a normal, accepted practice (like wearing a seatbelt), the more your children will understand this is part of life right now. Here's a link to a video that was made by a doctor to help some of our vulnerable population get used to wearing masks: https://youtu.be/v_Q6OI_ij-o
All PTSC Schools	
Can students bring textbooks back and forth from school?	Yes.
Who will provide masks to students and staff? Will we be required to purchase/make our own?	Students will receive 3 masks through a student fee. Additionally, Governor Holcomb is providing one mask for each student. This mask is free of charge and will be kept at school should your child need to change a mask during the day (and then sent home for you to launder). Staff will receive a mask through PTSC.
How will students check out books in all 4 schools?	Library time and library books will still be available for checkout. According to CDC library best practices, the virus does not live on paper for longer than 24 hours. Returned books may sit for a day before being checked in and returned to circulation.
When would parents know what schedule their child is on for Plan B? How will that be determined per classroom?	As soon as the decision is made that we must move to plan B, schedules will be made. We will work to keep families on the same schedule and from there balance numbers in each classroom. As soon as we can assign all families to a schedule, we will communicate that to parents so they have as much time as possible to prepare.

Should the waivers be suspended until further notice to encourage ill students to stay home? What about attendance and punitive measures?	Student handbooks will be revised regarding attendance. Punitive measures for excused absences will be removed along with attendance incentive programs that may encourage a student to attend school if they are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19.
How will we monitor subs before they come into the building?	Substitute teachers will be required to follow the self-screening procedures set forth in the PTSC Return to Learn Plan prior to entering a building.
Will there still be KidStop?	Yes, this will run just as it has in the past with their own precautions in place as structured by the Boys and Girls Club.
How will lunch be handled? Will they have to sit 6 feet apart?	In our cafeteria spaces we are working to provide expanded eating areas, additional tables, seating charts, and alternative eating areas. We will space students out to the best of our ability. We will make sure students have time to eat.
My child is in the special needs class. Will they have a different protocol? Also how would this work for children who are unable to understand fully and vocalize their symptoms?	Special education teachers will be providing the same services as other teachers. If we are in red and students cannot be in the building, they will have access to the teacher and instruction in a virtual classroom. The school setting may change, but the student will have instruction as he/she would have if in the building. Virtual speech and related services are also available. Additional needs should be addressed with the special education teacher and also can be addressed through a case conference as needed.
While this is not a health concern, is there an additional drop off plan in the mornings with more kids likely being brought to school by parents with long drop off lines.	Our buildings are going to be flexible with families that are transporting students to multiple buildings. Please communicate as needed with the building principal. There may be new procedures (especially at the Complex we are changing things to accommodate additional drop offs and pickups). Additionally, we will be flexible as we know that students may be arriving late due to the logistics of dropping off. Please work with your building administrator and they are ready to work with you. Tardies due to this new drop off scenario will not be penalized.
Will the class sizes be the same?	That will depend on how many students are online and how many are traditional. We have not reduced staffing, like other corporations anticipating a drop in funding for the next budget year. Thankfully our funding will hold this fall, but we anticipate a cut for our next budget.
Are masks going to be required in the school settings?	Please see the plan. At green, masks are required when social distancing cannot be maintained. At yellow, masks are required.
We have a wedding out of town in September. Will there be protocols in place for traveling? More specifically, if my daughter goes with, will she need to quarantine before returning to in	At this time we have not developed these, but it may be coming. Some states are requiring residents to quarantine at home after traveling to certain states.

class instruction?	
What are cohort groups?	In K-5, a cohort group is your class. So if you are in Mrs. Rippe's class, that is your cohort group. In 6-8, we are working to keep cohort groups as much as possible as in K-5. There might be students that have to change groups. Cohort groups are essential for contact tracing. It is extremely challenging to cohort group at the high school level, and why students will still rotate to the individual schedule of classes for that student.
Will kids be given "hand-washing breaks" from the teacher? Will the teachers enforce this?	Handwashing will be essential and stressed. Additionally, hand sanitizer will be provided throughout the building. Students who are old enough to manage hand sanitizer are welcome to bring a personal size one for their pocket if the parent so chooses.
It says they prefer online payment for lunch accounts to avoid contact. Will they be waiving the additional processing fee for online payments then?	Unfortunately we do not have a funding stream to cover those fees.
Should students wear masks while entering the building in the morning after being dropped off by parents or the bus until they arrive at the classroom?	Yes. On the green traditional schedule, masks are to be worn when social distancing cannot be maintained. (Yellow masks are always required)
Is it possible to enroll one child in eLearning while keeping another child in traditional? How do I go about doing so?	Yes. When you register you will select a pathway for each child. Registration starts Monday, July 13, 2020.
How will the seating be on the bus?	Students will be assigned seats. Siblings will sit together. We will spread students out the best we can. This is why we are recommending you to transport your students. At registration you will select if you are going to transport or need bus transportation. If you need bus transportation one way, please select that you need bus transportation as your child will be assigned a seat.
If a child is unwilling or having a hard time with a mask, what will happen?	We will provide mask education, including the right way to put on the mask and take off the mask. A great way to help your child is to start practicing now. Make this normal for them, just like wearing a seatbelt. Then when they arrive at school, this will just be part of life together when social distancing cannot be maintained.
What will this do to absenteeism rates?	The state knows that we will experience increased rates of student absence this year. That will mean parents are doing what is needed to protect all students. Our handbook is also being

	modified to reflect this. The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) tracks COVID cases. The Porter County Department of Health will also be working closely with us.
Would the registration be done online?	Yes. Registration opens online July 13, 2020. Watch for information from your school.
If we pick elearning are our kids still able to participate in sports?	At this time, yes. We take our guidance from the IDOE and IHSAA.
How can you space kids out in a classroom if there are over 25 kids in each class?	According to the Health Department, we are to space them to the best of our ability.
It's still early in the summer. Indiana isn't fully open until July 4th. What prompted this early decision to re-enter on green and is it possible this may change before school starts?	Parents communicated to us that the sooner we communicate the plan to them the better as many parents have many plans to put in place to accommodate our plan. We are monitoring COVID levels and will adjust the plan as needed.
Locker use - is it going to be allowed? How do the students practice social distancing when using locker?	At BGHS, lockers are available upon request. At BGMS, they are still evaluating the plan. BGHS students will be allowed to utilize a backpack if needed.
If students do not ride a bus to school, are they allowed to ride home or to BGHS for a sport practice/game?	If you need bus transportation to or from school, you need to select that at registration. Sporting transportation is separate from transportation to and from school.
Will someone be sanitizing/cleaning high traffic areas while school is in session?	Yes.
Will there still be band concerts?	A decision has not yet been made. Likely any performances will be recorded. More information will come in the future.
I read that the desks will be cleaned and sanitized while the students switch from class to class, who is responsible for that?	Each teacher will develop a process for this. Likely each student will use a wipe or a paper towel. The chemicals used are what the Indiana State Department of Health has said is a viable practice for completing this task by student or teacher.
Will you have hand sanitizer in every room?	Yes
How is band being handled, since masks are not able to be worn by many participants and there	The state band association has issued guidance we are evaluating. This may involve larger spaces, great social distancing, outdoor venues, and small groups actually playing. There are

will be plenty of band participants openly blowing into the surrounding air?	many options to increase safety in this area. This is true for choir as well.
PLE	
How will Preschool be affected with the E-Learning part? Also with Tuition, for Preschool, how will that be affected if my child all of a sudden has to stop going due to symptoms or has family members with symptoms/has COVID?	Preschool is ready for online in the event we move to yellow. This year tuition will be collected even if we are closed as there will be an online portion. If your child is absent due to illness of any kind, tuition is still collected just as always.
BGHS	
How would vocational work for online vs "traditional"?	Our Porter County Career and Technical Center has a new Director, Audra Peterson! She just started July 1, 2020 and is hard at work getting her plan together. Vocational will still be up and running this year!
Health Department Questions (most taken directly from ISHD FAQ)	
The nurse distributes daily medications in addition to having sick students come to her office. Is there a way that these students could be isolated from one another?	Each building will have an isolation area for students with suspected COVID. This will separate students who are coming to the nurse to get medication or for a bump from those with concerning symptoms that might be COVID.
Do you have a good reference for statistics on COVID-19 in children?	The Porter County Government page has great statistics based on Porter County (see Plan for link). Additionally, there are lots of statistics on the Indiana State Department of Health website. This is where we get much of our data.
Unfortunately, many parents send their child to school sick. What are the schools doing, if anything, to prevent this?	We will continue to educate, support, and encourage our families and staff members to do the right thing. This protects each student, staff member, and their families. This is essential to make this plan work. We must think of each other and take care of each other. We are in this together. If a student or staff member has symptoms, **they will be sent home.** Training will be provided to identify symptoms. Additionally, we are introducing the Wolf Pack Pledge and asking all families and staff members to take (and live) the pledge.

	Parent and Staff Wolf Pack Pledge
	For the strength of the Pack is the Wolf, and the strength of the Wolf is the Pack. Rudyard Kipling, The Jungle Book
	I pledge to protect all Porter Township School Corporation Wolves and our community. I will do this by: ● Screening each day before coming to work or school ● Staying home or keeping my child home when symptoms are present ● Not coming to work or sending my child with medication to mask potential COVID symptoms ● Carrying a mask at all times and wearing my mask when social distancing may not be possible ● Wash my hands or use hand sanitizer frequently ● Believe the best about people ● If I have an issue or concern, address it with the person directly
From Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH): In terms of sick policies—with the symptoms of COVID-19 being so broad (especially in younger children), should all symptoms be treated equally in terms of return to school after being called in or sent home sick? Would 72hrs be appropriate for symptoms such as fever, abdominal pain, vomiting, cough, etc.? It is difficult with coughs, due to the fact that coughs linger for some with other illnesses as well. COVID-19 Planning for Schools and Local Health Departments: Frequently Asked Questions Role of nurses: Role of Local Health Depa	If a student presents with symptoms consistent with COVID-19, that student should be sent home and presumed to have COVID until such time as a healthcare provider determines the illness is caused by something else and provides a note. Without a healthcare provider's note, the student would need to stay home for 10 days and be fever-free for 72 hours without use of fever-reducing medication.
How will absences be tracked?	PTSC has developed a new absence form for all parents to use. This can be filled out 24 hours per day and allows us to collect the information needed to help you and track our student health. This form will be required for all absence reporting. Simply submit this form and your child will be

	reported absent to the school. If you call in to the school, you will be asked the questions on the form (symptoms). Please make sure to report first thing in the morning if your child is going to be absent.
From ISDH: If we have a teacher (or student) who has a sore throat but believes it is allergy-related, do they need to stay home until symptom free? Are we supposed to treat headache, with no other symptoms, as a potential COVID-19 case? Isolate in the separate COVID clinic space? COVID-19 Planning for Schools and Local Health Departments: Frequently Asked Questions Role of nurses: Role of Local Health Depa	COVID-19 usually involves multiple symptoms. If you have an employee/student with a known allergy who is experiencing drainage and a sore throat as a result, with no other symptoms, or a headache with no other symptoms in an individual who is known to suffer migraines, you do not need to treat them as if they have COVID. **From PTSC:** Please make sure to have doctors note for you that you have allergies, migraines, or other conditions that might look like a COVID symptom and have that on file with your nurse at your school.
From ISDH: What type of precautions should be in place to protect the school nurse? Should a Plexiglas shield be installed around our desks? Should we have N95's available, and when would we wear them (for example, during nebulizer treatments only?). COVID-19 Planning for Schools and Local Health Departments: Frequently Asked Questions Role of nurses: Role of Local Health Depa	ISDH is recommending that nebulizer treatments not be given in the school environment. If nebulizer treatments are given, then the nurse would need an N-95 mask and the room would be contaminated and would need to sit idle for a period of time and then be thoroughly cleaned. If no aerosol-producing treatments are being performed, surgical grade masks and gloves would be sufficient, with a gown on hand in case there is a need. If you have students with asthma, please ask parents to obtain an Albuterol inhaler, spacer and mask (the mask is for the littlest ones) if needed for use in the school clinic.
From ISDH: What daily documentation do we need to chart in our health records? Daily temperatures? For all staff and students entering the building? COVID-19 Planning for Schools and Local Health Departments: Frequently Asked Questions Role of nurses: Role of Local Health Depa	Daily temperature checks as students and staff enter the building could create more congestion that does not allow for social distancing, which is why we recommend self-screening at home before leaving for school. We do not recommend having bus drivers or other school personnel performing daily temperature checks on everyone because it creates logjams in which healthy individuals could inadvertently be exposed and could contribute to other safety hazards. We recommend home screening so that individuals are taking their temperature and checking for symptoms daily before leaving for school. Home screenings that include temperature checks and answering questions that screen for the symptoms of COVID-19 are supported by the CDC.
From ISDH: When the school nurse sends students or staff home with a cough and fever (or symptoms related to COVID-19), should they be	Any student exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 should be sent home and presumed to have COVID until that student presents documentation of another illness from a healthcare provider. Without that documentation, the student would need to be excluded for 10 days and be fever free

excluded for 72 hours only or should they be excluded for 10 days after the start of symptoms as a presumed case of COVID19? How do schools handle students that are absent and the parent reports that the student has a fever and cough (or symptoms related to COVID-19)? When should these students be allowed to return to school?	for 72 hours without use of medication. COVID-19 Planning for Schools and Local Health Departments: Frequently Asked Questions Role of nurses: Role of Local Health Depa
From ISDH: Who decides if an individual school is to close for 2-5 days? Can part of a school, instead of the whole school, be closed? COVID-19 Planning for Schools and Local Health Departments: Frequently Asked Questions Role of nurses: Role of Local Health Depa	Decisions on whether part of a school or an entire school will need to close will be made in consultation with the local health department as part of the contact tracing and case investigation. These decisions will depend on how the students were cohorted and the movements of the ill individual. The CDC says schools MAY need to close for 2 to 5 days, but the case investigation will ultimately determine the most appropriate actions.
From ISDH: Do students have to constantly wear face masks? When can they remove them? Can they sit on the student's desk? Is it ok for the student to handle the mask multiple times during the day to take it off and on? COVID-19 Planning for Schools and Local Health Departments: Frequently Asked Questions Role of nurses: Role of Local Health Depa	Students are encouraged to wear face masks throughout the day, with exceptions for lunch and situations in which they can socially distance, are outdoors or are in PE class. However, if all the students are facing the same direction and are socially distanced, then taking them off during class to have a break from wearing them could be considered. Also, younger students who are in class and all the desks are facing forward while they are seated at their desk may be allowed to take their mask off while they read, do paperwork or receive instruction.
From ISDH: Are there guidelines for students who due to health needs or their disability, will not be able to wear a mask? COVID-19 Planning for Schools and Local Health Departments: Frequently Asked Questions Role of nurses: Role of Local Health Depa	In these cases, parents should talk with their healthcare provider about whether returning to inperson school is medically appropriate. Face shields would also be an option in such instances.
From ISDH: Are face shields an acceptable form of PPE as an alternative to face masks for teachers or students? COVID-19 Planning for Schools and Local Health Departments: Frequently Asked Questions Role of nurses: Role of Local Health Depa	The best protection is a face covering that fits tightly over your nose and mouth. However, face shields may be appropriate for young children or others who cannot or won't wear a mask and for hearing-impaired individuals who need to be able to read lips, or for speech therapists so that children can see their mouths.

From ISDH: How will the school be notified of positive cases? Can the school accept a verbal positive test result from a parent, or does it need to be confirmed by the health department? COVID-19 Planning for Schools and Local Health Departments: Frequently Asked Questions Role of nurses: Role of Local Health Depa	Parents are encouraged to notify the school immediately upon learning of a positive COVID test; the school is encouraged to accept a verbal positive result and immediately notify the local health department so that appropriate infection-control actions can begin. The Indiana State Department of Health will lead contact tracing and investigation efforts in consultation with the local health department to ensure that close contacts are identified quickly. The local health department can confirm the lab result.
From ISDH: Who is responsible for letting people know that they are considered a close contact and need to self-quarantine for 14 days? COVID-19 Planning for Schools and Local Health Departments: Frequently Asked Questions Role of nurses: Role of Local Health Depa	The Indiana State Department of Health will lead contact tracing and case investigation in consultation with the local health department. This is why it's critical that schools immediately contact their local health department upon learning of a positive COVID case among the student body or staff.
From ISDH: What information can schools share with local health departments when they are notified of a positive case? What information can local health departments share with schools regarding a positive case? COVID-19 Planning for Schools and Local Health Departments: Frequently Asked Questions Role of nurses: Role of Local Health Depa	Per IC 16-41-8-1, local health departments can share information to the extent necessary to stop the spread of disease. For example, if they need to provide information to help with contract tracing, such as talking to the teacher to see what other students might be a close contact, they can share the ill student's name. Schools would be urged to fully cooperate in contact tracing to mitigate the risk of exposure. The minimum amount of information necessary should be shared; for instance, if an entire class were to be considered a close contact, the local health department may only need to indicate the class, not a specific student. Under these circumstances the other parents will be informed that their child has been deemed a close contact of someone in their class without naming the child directly. Many students and family will figure out who the positive individual is, but the school would not be encouraged to provide that information.
From ISDH: With the wide range of symptoms being reported, how can the school nurse determine who needs to go home and/or be further evaluated? In talking with some PCPs, even they acknowledge the difficulty. And when we send a student home, are we to then screen the other students and teacher from his class? COVID-19 Planning for Schools and Local Health Departments: Frequently Asked Questions Role of nurses: Role of Local Health Depa	As noted previously, assume a student or staff member with symptoms of COVID-19 is positive until proven otherwise. All individuals in close contact of the ill individual should be advised to monitor for symptoms; however, quarantine for those close contacts would not be required unless the original ill individual tests positive.

From ISDH: Can you please clarify if the schools should require a provider's note to return to school? [COVID-19 Planning for Schools and Local Health Departments: Frequently Asked Questions Role of nurses: Role of Local Health Depa](#)	If a student or staff member has symptoms of COVID-19, they should be presumed to be positive and quarantine for 10 days and until they are 72 hours fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medications unless they have a provider's note that determines the symptoms were caused by something other than COVID-19, the student is fever-free for 24 hours, and the provider feels it is appropriate for the student to return to school.
From ISDH: If we are unable to social distance with 6 feet between desks in classrooms, but all students are facing the same direction, can students not wear masks except during movement? [COVID-19 Planning for Schools and Local Health Departments: Frequently Asked Questions Role of nurses: Role of Local Health Depa](#)	We encourage the use of masks and highly recommend that students remain 6 feet apart. However, we recognize that it may not be possible in some classrooms. In addition, younger students especially may need to have a break from their masks. This would be the most acceptable time or situation for them to remove them unless they were outside, which is even better
From ISDH: Does the state recommend staff and students be tested regularly? [COVID-19 Planning for Schools and Local Health Departments: Frequently Asked Questions Role of nurses: Role of Local Health Depa](#)	We do NOT recommend regular testing, because it's just a snapshot in time. You can test negative today and be positive tomorrow. We do recommend that all students and school employees be educated about the symptoms of COVID-19 before school starts, and that they self-screen for symptoms each day before coming to school. We also recommend that schools know of testing sites in the area to refer students and staff.
From ISDH: If a student is identified as a close contact of another student who has tested positive and the close contact is asymptomatic, can they be tested and if negative be allowed to return to school earlier than the 14-day quarantine? [COVID-19 Planning for Schools and Local Health Departments: Frequently Asked Questions Role of nurses: Role of Local Health Depa](#)	No, because the test may have been a false negative. We recommend that the student continue to quarantine for 14 days.
Where can I find more information as a parent including how to talk to my child about COVID?	The ISDH has a great FAQ for parents. You can find it here: [What Parents Need to Know about COVID-19](#)
Tracking Symptoms/Absences	
If my child has a cough from a common cold, but is required to stay home, do they have the option	Yes.

to complete absent days with Elearning?	
Will children visibly showing signs of sickness whatever the illness may be, be sent home? Uncontrollable cough, constant sneezing, blowing nose etc?	Yes. We have the right to exclude children from school.
What about kids with asthma and having to wear a mask?	Please work with your medical provider. If they determine a face mask cannot be worn by your child and instead your child should wear a face shield, they will provide documentation so we can make that accommodation due to your child's specific health needs.
Let's pretend a student has symptoms of COVID-19 and is staying home. Some testing centers have taken 3 days or more to make an appointment for testing. Then up to 5 days for results. A student with COVID-19 may miss 2 weeks of school or more. What is the plan to help students stay on track with their education? E-learning? Or parents to pick up assignments?	eLearning will be available for students who are absent.
If I have more than one child and one of them has symptoms of COVID-19, do they all need to stay home?	Please see the Return to Learn Plan for specifics regarding someone in your home having symptoms of COVID.
What if you suspect a child has COVID, but the parents opt to not have them tested? Who decides then on when that child should return?	Please see the plan for specifics on when students may return without a COVID test. COVID testing, if negative, will allow students to return much sooner.
eLearning	
If a parent feels that their child is not safe during "sick times" in the building (high incidents of flu/colds), can they opt to change to elearning until they feel the building is safer and then let their child come back?	eLearning is not an in and out option as we are making staffing decisions based on enrollment. eLearning will be offered as a pathway all school year. eLearning can be chosen in semester increments. If you start out as traditional, it is an option to move to eLearning for the rest of the semester.

	If you start out eLearning or switch to eLearning, you will need to complete the semester in eLearning.
My question is, will virtual learning include being logged in and with a live teacher all day or is it more like one hour each day? If it's not daily, will it only be a couple of days of virtual meetings? Will assignments need to be completed each day or will they have the week to finish everything?	eLearning will be specific to each teacher. One day there may be a live instructional session where you join the class at a specific time. Another day the instruction from the teacher may be recorded. Please note that access to the teacher and all live sessions will be during the school day online. Recordings of those sessions may be provided for additional or later viewing. Each teacher will determine when assignments are due as some may be projects that take longer and others may be an assignment for the day. The goal is that this is like participating in class, only at home.
I would like to know more regarding the meetings (will they be required to attend meetings daily for each class), will they need to be checked in for a certain length of time or is it just to do the assignments and then they will be done? Will there be additional work (I.e. homework).	All eLearning sessions are required, although there may be an opportunity to watch a recording at a later time. It is not an option to not attend. This is not just the posting of assignments online, this is instruction from a teacher. Yes, there will be homework, just as a traditional classroom.
What is the deadline to choose e-learning?	You will chose at registration on July 13, 2020.
What is the district doing to ensure students are receiving appropriate grade-level instruction through e-learning that is consistent with the classroom?	We are making improvements to our eLearning program as we shift to extended eLearning. This is why we are providing instruction from a teacher that is what is being taught in class.
What is the target amount of time students should be spending completing e-learning each day?	eLearning times should mirror an instructional day. Of course the time it takes to complete work varies from student to student, so it will take some students more time than others just as it does in the classroom and at home.
How are the teachers working together to make e-learning as hands-on and engaging as brick and mortar instruction? Will teachers be doubling both e-learning and in-class instruction or will there be a designated e-learning teacher?	We are making decisions on our eLearning teachers after we receive our registration data.
With the elearning option, will there be extended deadlines for children, like midnight or the following day at noon, like we did last year?	Each teacher will set timelines for dates due. It is reasonable to expect that work for eLearning will be due the next day, unless it is a larger project.

When we have a suspected/confirmed case	
If the school moves to red would it try to reopen? And if so, would it reopen back to yellow or green?	That decision will be made with the Porter County Health Department. Likely we will reopen on green. If the decision is made to move to yellow, it will be the model we use for an extended period of time.
If a student/staff is sent home from school with symptoms, how will the rest of the school day be handled? How do we clean where the child/staff has been before anyone else is exposed in the middle of the day?	Cleaning will be happening throughout the school day, every day. If we have a suspected case of COVID, and emergency cleaning may happen in those spaces prior to the end of the day.
If a student tests positive will the school be closed immediately?	Not necessarily. This decision will be made with the Porter County Health Department and depends heavily on how the student was cohorted and how contact tracing can be completed. It may be that some children are asked to stay home, a classroom, a grade level, one building, or perhaps the district. This will be a case by case decision.
Dr. Schmidt mentioned that we may have to go to yellow or red depending upon cases in our area and if there is transmission inside the schools. Can I get clarification on that? How will the school determine if students have passed it directly to each other?	A decision to move to yellow will be made with the Porter County Health Department based on their knowledge and data. Seating charts are kept and the Indiana State Department of Health has defined what a close contact is for contract tracing and who needs to quarantine (15 minutes of sustained contact in less than 6 feet)
How many cases must be reported for the school to move from green to yellow or yellow to red? Is it just countywide cases or cases in our district?	This is not a formula and there is no magic number. This will be based on Porter Township data. (At least that's the plan at this moment!)

Another way to think about it...

10 days · Student gets tested for COVID-19 at a testing event put on by a community organization. The student was symptom-free when he got the test. The test comes back positive. The student must *isolate* and stay symptom-free for 10 days after the date he took the test.

14 days · Student gets tested for COVID-19 at a testing event put on by a community organization. The student was symptom-free when she got the test. The test comes back positive. The student starts *isolating* for 10 days after the date she took the test. Four days into her *isolation*, she develops a fever and cough. She must now *isolate* at home for at least 10 days and 72 hours fever-free without fever-reducing medicine and with improvement in respiratory symptoms. The student ends up *isolating* at home for 14 days.

14 days · Student tests positive and has three siblings in the home or as close contacts who attend other schools. If the siblings have symptoms, they should be tested and report to that school if results are positive. Otherwise, siblings should *quarantine* for 14 days before returning to school. Contacts of the siblings are not considered a close contact unless the siblings test positive themselves.

10 days 72 hours · Student has a fever, cough, headache and loss of taste and smell. The student goes to get tested and the test is negative. There is at least a 30% chance of having a false negative test. Therefore, it would still be required that this student *isolate* at home for at least 10 days and 72 hours fever-free without medication and with reduction in respiratory symptoms.

24 hours · Student has a fever and sore throat and history of getting strep throat. Student sees her provider, who does a strep test and exam and believes the patient has strep throat and does not have COVID-19. The student may return to school after 24 hours fever-free with a note from her provider stating she may return to school.

10 days 72 hours · Student has fever, cough, shortness or breath, and loss of taste and smell. His parents do not want to get him tested for COVID-19. Highly recommend that the student get tested so that the proper contact tracing can be done. The student will need to *isolate* at home for at least 10 days and go 72 hours fever-free without use of medication and have a reduction in respiratory symptoms. Additionally, if the school is suspicious that the student has COVID-19, the school could do contact tracing and monitoring for others with symptoms..

Updated:6/26/20

Indiana State
Department of Health

PTSC Parent and Staff Wolf Pack Pledge

**For the strength of the Pack is the Wolf,
and the strength of the Wolf is the Pack.**
Rudyard Kipling, The Jungle Book

I pledge to protect all Porter Township School Corporation Wolves and our community. I will do this by:

- **Screening each day before coming to work or school**
- **Staying home or keeping my child home when symptoms are present**
- **Not coming to work or sending my child with medication to mask potential COVID symptoms**
- **Carrying a mask at all times and wearing my mask when social distancing may not be possible**
- **Wash my hands or use hand sanitizer frequently**
- **Believe the best about people**
- **If I have an issue or concern, address it with the person directly**