



Porter Township School Corporation

COVID-19 Impact on Schools  
 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)  
 Updated regularly within the document

Question	Answer
<p><b>Q: What is the masking policy?</b></p>	<p>Masks are required for everyone regardless of vaccination status indoors. Masks are not required outdoors.</p>
<p><b>Q: My child tested positive for COVID-19. Now what?</b></p>	<p>Please contact your school. We will help walk you through your next steps. Here are instructions from the Indiana State Department of Health: <a href="https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/20_Family%20isolation_COVID-19_8-10-20.pdf">https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/20_Family%20isolation_COVID-19_8-10-20.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Q: My child has gotten tested. Do they still have to have a PCR?</b></p>	<p>From the Indiana State Department of Health:</p> <p>“The Indiana Department of Health has updated its guidance on COVID-19 testing. Confirmatory PCR tests are <b>no longer required</b> for antigen tests performed in a clinical setting. Either a PCR or an antigen test result performed in a clinical setting will suffice for testing for COVID-19 for both asymptomatic and symptomatic individuals.</p> <p>This <b>does not apply</b> to anyone who lives in a congregate setting, such as long-term care facilities, correctional and detention facilities, homeless shelters and other group shelters. These congregate settings should still follow CDC’s outlined <a href="https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/COVID-19%20Confirmatory%20Testing%20After%20Antigen%20Test.pdf">protocols for antigen testing</a>.</p> <p><a href="https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/COVID-19%20Confirmatory%20Testing%20After%20Antigen%20Test.pdf">https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/COVID-19%20Confirmatory%20Testing%20After%20Antigen%20Test.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Q: What is BinaxNOW Rapid testing?</b></p>	<p>BinaxNow is a voluntary K-12 COVID-19 testing program for in-person students and staff. This program uses Abbott Laboratories BinaxNOW tests provided by the Indiana State Department of Health. They are securing these tests through federal funding. Tests are available under an EUA.</p> <p>We will only test with signed parent consent. If you are willing to provide consent for us to administer this test on your child or yourself (if student age 18 or older), there will be a form provided to you to complete for testing.</p> <p>Collecting a specimen for testing involves using a swab, similar to a Q-Tip, placed inside the tip of the nose. The results will be provided within 15 minutes of the test.</p>

	<p>This program is <b>entirely optional</b> for students and staff.</p> <p>The goal is to help keep students in school learning.</p>
<b>Q: How do we get a BinaxNow test?</b>	Please contact your school nurse and they will arrange a time and send you the permission form.
<b>Q: My child is a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case, and not vaccinated. Now what?</b>	<p>Within 3 feet for more than 15 minutes will have parent notification. Students can attend school, monitor for symptoms just like always.</p> <p>Outside of school--Indiana State Department of Health advises wearing a mask in high risk situations and avoiding people who are high risk of COVID (immunocompromised and those with ages greater than 65)</p>
<b>Q: My child is fully vaccinated, what happens if they are identified as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case?</b>	<p>Fully vaccinated individuals are not required to quarantine as long as they are asymptomatic. If a fully vaccinated person becomes symptomatic, they will need to quarantine. Find more guidance from the CDC here: <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html</a></p>
<b>Q: Are you still social distancing?</b>	<p>Yes, we still encourage social distancing. The CDC still recommends 3 feet. We are working to encourage 3 feet of distance in all possible areas. You can read more from the CDC here: <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html</a></p>
<b>Q: Are you still providing hand sanitizer and opportunities to wash hands?</b>	Yes. Hand sanitizer is still available along with opportunities to use soap and water.
<b>Q: What about cleaning in the buildings?</b>	Yes, we are still cleaning high-touch surfaces and cleaning well each night.
<b>Q: What about cleaning in the bus?</b>	High-touch surfaces are the area of focus on the bus.
<b>Q: What about other mitigation steps?</b>	<p>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette is still very important as is ventilation. We work to exchange the air in the building multiple times per hour and keep air moving in the classrooms. Additionally we ask that all parents and staff screen each morning prior to coming to school and stay home if there are any signs of illness. You can find the screening tool here:</p>

	<a href="https://www.ptsc.k12.in.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Screen-Shot-2021-08-05-at-3.09.44-PM.png">https://www.ptsc.k12.in.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Screen-Shot-2021-08-05-at-3.09.44-PM.png</a>
<p><b>Q: What laws govern what is required in school related to COVID?</b></p>	<p>Taken Directly from Indiana State Department of Health:  <a href="https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/school%20update%207.28.21.pdf">https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/school%20update%207.28.21.pdf</a>:          “In Indiana, communicable disease laws require individuals, schools, healthcare settings and others to comply with disease intervention activities, called control measures, to help stop the spread of disease. Pursuant to IC 16-41-2-1, the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) is required to publish a <a href="#">list</a> of reportable communicable diseases and their control measures on its website, and those diseases listed must be reported, investigated, and mitigated as appropriate. The <a href="#">control measures</a> for COVID-19 to be followed by schools are also posted on the IDOH website. These control measures include case and contact reporting, contact tracing, isolation of positive cases, and quarantining of close contacts as necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19.  <i>In addition to the health and safety reasons for following the CDC’s guidance, school districts that decide not to follow the CDC’s guidance should consult with their insurers and attorneys regarding risk assumption and liability coverage. Insurers may be unwilling to cover liabilities created as a result of failure to adhere to public health guidance.”</i></p> <p>Taken Directly from Indiana State Department of Health:  <a href="https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/updated%20school%20guidance%207.19.21.pdf">https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/updated%20school%20guidance%207.19.21.pdf</a></p> <p>“Per CDC order, individuals are required to wear masks on public transportation, including school buses, even if fully vaccinated. Information regarding this federal CDC order can be found <a href="#">here</a>.”</p> <p>Want to read more from the Indiana State Department of Health on the Statutes and Legal Authority? You can find it here:  <a href="https://www.in.gov/health/erc/files/COVID-19-Control-Measures-under-410-IAC-1.pdf">https://www.in.gov/health/erc/files/COVID-19-Control-Measures-under-410-IAC-1.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Q: Where is PTSC’s Continue to Learn Plan?</b></p>	<p>You can locate the plan on our website at:  <a href="https://www.ptsc.k12.in.us/student-health/covid-19/">https://www.ptsc.k12.in.us/student-health/covid-19/</a></p>
<p><b>Q: Where can I find information from the Indiana State Department of Health on vaccinations for my child?</b></p>	<p>Indiana State Department of Health Vaccine Information:  <a href="https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/21_Teen%20vaccine%20fact%20sheet_5-13.pdf">https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/21_Teen%20vaccine%20fact%20sheet_5-13.pdf</a></p>

<p><b>Q: Where can I find Governor Holcomb's Executive Order Issued September 1, 2021?</b></p>	<p>Governor Holcomb's Executive Order can be found here:  <a href="https://www.in.gov/gov/files/Executive-Order-21-24-Health-Based-Provisions-Continued.pdf">https://www.in.gov/gov/files/Executive-Order-21-24-Health-Based-Provisions-Continued.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Q: Where can I find the Indiana State Department of Health Quarantine Guidance?</b></p>	<p>School Quarantine Guidance:  <a href="https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/21_Decision%20Tree_School%20Quarantine_8-31.pdf">https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/21_Decision%20Tree_School%20Quarantine_8-31.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Q: Where can I read more about school scenarios under the new Executive Order?</b></p>	<p>COVID-19 School Scenarios:  <a href="https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/21_WearAMaskStayInSchool_8-31.pdf">https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/21_WearAMaskStayInSchool_8-31.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Q: Where can I read more about the Indiana State Department of Health COVID-19 Control Measures?</b></p>	<p>Indiana State Department of Health COVID-19 Control Measures:  <a href="https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/COVID-19%20Control%20Measures%20Under%20410%20IAC%2019-1-21.pdf">https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/COVID-19%20Control%20Measures%20Under%20410%20IAC%2019-1-21.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Q: What happens if a district does not follow the COVID-19 Control Measures?</b></p>	<p>According to the State Department of Health, "It is a Class B misdemeanor to fail to comply with the control measures. There may also be liability concerns for failure to comply."</p>
<p><b>Q: Has there been in-school transmission of COVID?</b></p>	<p>What we have seen thus far is that COVID is being transmitted in families, but we have not seen significant, if any, transmission within our school walls from direct contacts testing positive from an in-school exposure that is not a family member. (9/3/2021)</p>
<p><b>Q: What research is the Health Department (State and Local) using to support masking?</b></p>	<p>Here are the research links that have been sent out by the Health Department:  <a href="https://www.idsociety.org/covid-19-real-time-learning-network/infection-prevention/masks-and-face-coverings-for-the-public/">https://www.idsociety.org/covid-19-real-time-learning-network/infection-prevention/masks-and-face-coverings-for-the-public/</a>   <a href="https://www.aha.org/wearamask">https://www.aha.org/wearamask</a>   <a href="https://www.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/cloth-face-coverings/">https://www.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/cloth-face-coverings/</a>   <a href="https://www.harvard.edu/coronavirus/health-wellbeing/">https://www.harvard.edu/coronavirus/health-wellbeing/</a>   <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html</a>   <a href="https://abcsciencecollaborative.org/masking-in-schools-the-abc-science-collaborative-provides-clarity-on-questions/">https://abcsciencecollaborative.org/masking-in-schools-the-abc-science-collaborative-provides-clarity-on-questions/</a></p>

September 8, 2021