

## **Area 30 Career Center Re-entry Information**

After July 1, 2021, local school boards will be responsible for implementing whatever measures and restrictions deemed necessary and prudent to address the impact and spread of COVID-19 for their buildings, facilities, and grounds, including transportation. Education governing bodies are encouraged to follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) and Local Health Department guidance. Updates to this document will be posted on Area 30 Career Center's website [www.area30.k12.in.us](http://www.area30.k12.in.us)

## **Visitors & Field Trips**

Area 30 will not permit any visitors into the building until future notice. This includes family members and friends. Guest speakers will be permitted as long as it's in support of education functions and related to Area 30 programs. All guest speakers will be required to register and provide contact information.

Professional Development meetings will be allowed in the Community Room at Area 30 Career Center. Attendees will enter through Door 1 and/or Door 5 to maintain social distancing with Area 30 students and staff. All attendees will be required to register and provide contact information to the host of the meeting. The host will store the registration information and share it with Area 30 if needed for contact tracing.

Field trips will be limited and approved on an individual basis. Non-essential and non-program related field trips will not be approved. Parents/Guardians will be required to sign a field trip permission form.

## **Health Protocols**

It is essential for the school community to work together to prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19 in the school environment and in the community while still providing a quality education program. State statute provides public school districts the authority to exclude students who have a contagious disease such as COVID-19 or are liable to transmit it after exposure (IC 20-34-3-9). In addition, the local health department has the authority to exclude students from school and may order students and others to isolate or quarantine (IC 16-41-9-1.6). As such, school districts are encouraged to work closely with their local health departments.

### **Symptoms Impacting Consideration for Exclusion from School**

Students and employees will monitor symptoms to recognize the following COVID-19-related symptoms:

- A fever of 100.4 ° F or greater
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Diarrhea
- Congestion
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Fatigue

If a student or staff member has a fever for any reason, the staff or student must be fever-free, without the use of fever-reducing medications, for 24 hours before returning to school. Additionally, all staff and students with fevers or symptoms associated with COVID-19 are encouraged to seek medical attention for further evaluation and instructions.

## **Return to School After Exclusion**

Once a **student** is excluded from the school environment, they may return to Area 30 **only after being cleared by their sending school** for return to their sending school and Area 30. An Area 30 staff member will be able to return to work if they satisfy the recommendations of Area 30 in accordance with the CDC recommendations.

**Untested persons** who have not received a test proving or disproving the presence of COVID-19 but experience symptoms may return if the following three conditions are met:

- They have not had a fever for at least 24 hours (that is one full day of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers);
- Other symptoms have improved (for example, cough or shortness of breath have improved); and
- At least 11 calendar days have passed since your symptoms first appeared.
- Person of interest and anyone who lives in the same household should quarantine while waiting on test results.

The state website (<https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/2524.htm>) has a list of over 200 testing facilities, their location, and hours of operation. This list is updated frequently.

## **Not Tested With Alternate Explanation- Symptomatic**

Any student or employee who has not been COVID tested, but has an alternate explanation (strep, influenza, etc. as determined by a provider) may return to school after 24 hours resolution of fever **AND** note (including email and fax) from the provider stating the individual has an alternate diagnosis and the provider believes it's appropriate for the patient to return to school.

## **Medical Inquiries**

Federal law typically limits the type of medical inquiries that can be made, but given the nature of the pandemic more leeway has been given to districts/schools in this circumstance to make additional medical inquiries of staff and students than would otherwise be allowed.

- If a parent tells the district/school that a student is ill, the district/school may ask the parent whether the student is exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19.
- If an employee calls in sick or appears ill, the district/school can inquire as to whether the employee is experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms.
- If a person is obviously ill, the district/school may make additional inquiries and may exclude the person from school property.

Even without symptoms, if an **unvaccinated** student or employee has recently had contact with a person with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19, has someone in their home being tested for COVID-19, or has recently traveled out of state, to or from somewhere considered to be a "hot spot" by the CDC, the district/school may exclude the student or employee from school attendance.

## **Wearing Masks & other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

Masks are not currently required while in attendance at Area 30. Because Area 30 serves five different school corporations, it is important to know that masks may be required in the future. Area 30 staff and students are welcome to wear masks at any time in the building if that is their preference.

## **Clinical Space COVID-19 Symptomatic**

Any student experiencing COVID-19 symptoms will be provided a mask and monitored in the front office until a parent can pick up the student. A record will be kept of all students sent home with COVID-19 symptoms.

## **Confirmed Case of COVID-19 on School Property**

When there is confirmation that a person infected with COVID-19 was on school property, Area 30 Career Center will immediately contact the local health department and our five member school corporation superintendents. Unless extenuating circumstances exist, Area 30 Career Center will work with the Putnam County Health Department to assess factors such as the likelihood of exposure to employees and students in the building, the number of cases in the community, and other factors that will determine building closure. **It is the responsibility of the local health department to contact the person confirmed with COVID-19, inform direct contacts of their possible exposure, and provide instructions to those involved with the confirmed case, including siblings and other household members regarding self-quarantine and exclusions.** *The individual who tested positive will not be identified in communications to the school community at large but may need to be selectively identified for contact tracing by the local health department.* If a closure is determined necessary, Area 30 Career Center will consult with the local health department to determine the status of school activities.

As soon as Area 30 Career Center becomes aware of a student or employee who has been exposed to or has been diagnosed with COVID-19, the custodial staff will be informed, so that impacted buildings or bus areas, furnishings, and equipment are thoroughly disinfected. If possible, based upon student and staff presence, the custodial staff will wait 6 hours or as long as possible prior to disinfecting. However, if that is not possible or school is in session, the cleaning will occur immediately.

- **Who needs to quarantine?**
  - **Vaccinated** close contacts **do not** have to quarantine, but should monitor for symptoms and isolate if symptoms develop.
  - **Unvaccinated** individuals who are identified as close contacts **must quarantine**.
  
- **What counts as a close contact?**
  - If all students are masked and facing forward in the classroom, only **unvaccinated** individuals within **3 feet** of a person diagnosed with COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24 hour period.
  - If all students are not masked and facing forward in the classroom, all **unvaccinated** individuals within **6 feet** of a person diagnosed with COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24 hour period.

## **Preventative Measures**

The priority for preventing the spread of disease in the school setting is to insist that sick employees and students stay home and recommend that they receive a COVID-19 vaccination. Additionally, students and employees should remain home if someone in the household has COVID-19 symptoms or is being tested for COVID-19. If an unvaccinated student or staff member has been exposed to COVID-19, they should stay home. It is possible for some people to be infected with COVID-19, but show no signs of illness even though they are contagious and can spread the disease to others. It is also unknown how contagious people are the day or two before they begin to exhibit illness symptoms. Thus, these employees or students may be present at school, will show no signs of illness, but be capable of transmitting the disease to others. In these situations, the three most important mitigation strategies are social distancing, frequent handwashing, and appropriate PPE.

- **Quarantine** - keeps someone who might have been exposed to the virus away from others.
- **Isolation** - separates people who are infected with the virus away from people who are not infected.

## **Social Distancing in the School Environment**

The following are measures that Area 30 Career Center will take to increase social distancing while still maintaining a level of in-person classroom instruction. These protocols may evolve as they are implemented, and more information is obtained about COVID-19.

- COVID-19 has required us to reorganize assemblies, field trips, registrations, orientations, and other large gatherings.
- Students will face forward and be at least 3 feet apart in the classroom.
- Students will be required to remain seated in assigned seats.
- Classes will also avoid or minimize the sharing of supplies and equipment when possible. Textbooks will not be shared by students.
- All water fountains will remain turned off. A bottle filling station will be available to all students & staff. Students may bring bottled water to the classroom.
- Cafeteria will have a traditional setup and students will continue to be separated by their home school.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided in all classrooms to be used upon entering and leaving the classroom.
- No breakroom furniture will be available to prevent social gathering of students.
- Directional flow of building traffic will be maintained during arrival, dismissal and student lunch transition throughout the building to facilitate social distancing in the hallways.
- IDOE mandated drills will be practiced as in the past. These include tornado, fire, and lockdown drills.
- If a student is unable to attend Area 30 as a result of COVID-19, all reasonable measures will be taken to ensure academic needs are met.
- There will be no use of attendance awards or perfect attendance incentives for students. We want to work collaboratively with parents and students in an effort to reduce the spread of colds and virus related symptoms that may be symptoms of COVID-19. If your child is sick, please keep them home and notify the school of the absence. A doctor's note will not be necessary for each absence but may be requested if symptoms are COVID-19 related to return.

### **Nutrition service procedures to minimize exposure:**

Meals may be served in classrooms or in alternative areas in an effort to reduce cafeteria capacity if necessary. Prior to any meal service, all students will utilize hand washing or sanitizing to ensure safe eating practices. If your student brings their lunch please send bagged or boxed meals with all necessary utensils, condiments, napkins, etc.

We will implement the following precautions:

- Disposable napkins and silverware will be provided.
- Food-sharing is prohibited.
- Online deposits are encouraged, checks and cash will be taken in the office at scheduled times. There will be **NO** cash transactions in the lunch line.
- Hand sanitizer will be available upon entry to the cafeteria and at each line.

### **Home School Closures versus Area 30 Closure**

Area 30 Career Center will remain open even if only one home school is in attendance. All other students will be in attendance via eLearning or virtual meetings. If all home schools switch to eLearning, Area 30 will also switch to eLearning for students. Area 30 would remain open to staff unless ordered by the Local or State Health Dept. to shut down completely.

**July 20, 2021**

*This action plan outlines initial steps to be taken for the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year. As the COVID-19 situation develops and more information and guidelines become available from the CDC and other authorities, the practical application of these initial steps may change or additional precautions and mitigation factors may be added.*