

LCSC COVID-19 UPDATES

September 11, 2021

Dear LCSC Community,

I am sending this message to provide an update on our COVID-19 response practices, new requirements, and share data.

SCHOOL BOARD ACTION – MASK REQUIREMENT September 15 through October 22

Last evening, the LCSC Board of School Trustees voted to implement a mask requirement for students, visitors and staff beginning September 15, 2021 through October 22, 2021. (LSCS faculty and staff will receive information from principals and supervisors regarding application in your work setting)

The Board, in its motion, directed the administration to develop guidelines for this requirement to address students and staff requiring accommodations related to special medical, mental health, or cognitive needs. **We encourage parents of students with special needs to communicate with your child's Teacher of Record and administration.**

Below are general guidelines regarding masks:

- Masks can be either manufactured or homemade.
- Masks can be reusable or disposable.
- Masks can have inner filter pockets.
- Clear masks or cloth masks with a clear plastic panel may be used to facilitate communication with people who are hearing impaired or others who need to see a speaker's mouth to understand speech.
- Medical masks and N-95 respirators fulfill the requirements
- A properly worn mask should completely cover the nose and mouth.
- If gaiters are worn, they should have two layers of fabric or be folded to make two layers.
- Mask should be a solid piece of material without slits, exhalation valves, or punctures.

The Board will review our COVID-19 data and any updates to the ISDOH guidelines and requirements at their October 19 meeting to determine if the requirement will be extended.

COVID-19 DATA

Below is a comparison of COVID-19 data reported on August 13, 2021 (end of week one) and September 10, 2021.

NOTE: The data below is taken from the totals submitted by the school nurses on the date indicated below. The data is not cumulative between two points in time. The data is real-time from one moment in time. Students are exiting and returning due to COVID-19 protocols daily. The real-time data provides parents a snapshot of the number of student exclusions on a specific day.

Category	August 13 (end of week one)	September 10
Total student positive cases	3	17
LHS student positive cases	2	9
LMS student positive cases	1	4
Elementary positive cases	0	4
Harney Positive Cases	0	1
Perry-Worth Positive Cases	1	1
Central Positive Cases	0	1
Hattie B. Stokes Positive Cases	0	1
Total excluded close-contacts	22	152
LHS excluded and close-contacts	8	73
LMS excluded and close contacts	9	37
Elementary excluded close contacts	5	42
Harney excluded close contacts	4	13
Perry-Worth excluded close contacts	1	7
Central Excluded close contacts	0	10
Hattie B. Stokes excluded close contacts	0	12
Total excluded symptomatic students	44	104
LHS symptomatic and excluded	15	47
LMS symptomatic and excluded	6	28
Elementary symptomatic and excluded	23	29
Harney symptomatic excluded	9	17
Perry-Worth symptomatic excluded	4	4
Central symptomatic excluded	2	2
Hattie B. Stokes symptomatic excluded	8	6

I have attached to this message a couple of informational documents.

One document includes some data and information the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDOH) provided to schools prior and applicable to the recent Governor's Order allowing the ISDOH to modify quarantine requirements. In this document, the ISDOH provides research-based evidence for the modifications.

The second document is an infographic that shares the close contact and quarantine requirements when individuals are masked verses not masked.

It is important to note that if the Governor's Executive Order expires on September 30, LCSC should expect to see a decline in quarantined students compared to dates prior to September 15. This is because the contact tracing distance between two masked individuals is three (3) feet. The distance is six (6) feet for unmasked individuals. Therefore, we are cutting in half the number of possible close contacts due to distance.

It is also important to note that quarantines may still be required during the current LCSC mask requirement timeline and duration of the Governor's Executive Order. Students will not be masked while eating, during activities such as choir and band, and other activities such as physical education while indoors.

You may view statewide and county by county COVID-19 data, including school data by visiting the [Indiana COVID-19 Dashboard and Map](#).

LCSC TRANSPORTATION REMINDER

Families using LCSC bus transportation are reminded that the Indiana Department of Education Director of Transportation, the Federal Transportation Safety Administration, and the Indiana Department of Health has determined masks or face coverings **must be worn on school buses and school transportation. Students must follow this requirement in order to continue the use of LCSC bus transportation.**

- The Indiana Department of Education provided this guidance on July 14, 2021 and the Indiana Department of Health re-stated this requirement to all schools July 19, 2021
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/face-masks-public-transportation.html>

SUMMARY

We encourage everyone to review the most current information provided by the [Boone County Health Department](#) and the [Indiana State Department of Health](#). All public health agencies recommend the use of masks and face-coverings while indoors in public spaces.

The district will continue to frequently clean high-touch surfaces, including the use of UV-C light source sanitizing devices and additional air filtration. Plexiglass barriers will remain installed. Students and staff are encouraged to bring hand sanitizer and/or visit sanitizing stations regularly. The district will continue to review precautions regarding meal services, visitors, and classroom guidelines in consultation with the Boone County Health Department.

You may find our latest information at our [COVID-19 Resource Page](#).

I would like to take final a moment to thank the many parents and relatives of our students, staff members, and community members for taking time to contact the School Board and me over the past several days. All dialogue has been cordial, professional, and productive. We take to heart all viewpoints and rely on our medical experts and current information to make decisions. It is clear that we all agree that our students need to be in school and in-person learning is the best learning environment. We also clearly agree that providing in-person instruction must be done in a manner that places student and staff health and safety first. We are #tigerstogether.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Dr. Jon Milleman
Superintendent

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