



COVID Frequently Asked Questions From The Community

If you still have questions or concerns, please contact us at (219) 391-4100.

Q: Will students attend school in-person five days a week?

A: Yes. Families who have students with special medical concerns should contact their child's school. Should the health department advise a temporary closure or we have concerns with our ability to properly staff our buildings, we may adjust the school schedule as needed.

Q: What is the significance of a four-color plan?

A: The colors in our Back to School Plan align with the state and county color system to signify the spread of COVID-19. This plan allows us to make adjustments when needed while providing our students, staff, and families with the information needed to formulate contingency plans.

Q: On which "color" or "tier" will East Chicago Public Schools begin the school year?

A: It depends. If community spread is low or nonexistent, we will begin in the blue or yellow tiers. If community spread is high, we may need to begin in the orange or red tiers.

Q: Will late start continue to occur every Wednesday of each month?

A: Yes. This time has been beneficial for our staff and students, and it will continue into the 2021-2022 school year.

Q: What are the cleaning and hygiene protocols in the schools?

A: We will continue to consistently disinfect all surfaces and common touch points (door handles, light switches, cafeteria tables, etc.) throughout the school. Hand sanitizer will be available in classrooms, hallways, and common areas (library, cafeteria, main office, etc.), and students will have the opportunity to wash and sanitize their hands throughout the school day.

Q: Can I still choose to self-transport my child to and from school each day?

A: Yes.



Q: Will students be required to wear masks on the school bus?

A: Yes. School bus operators, including operations by public school districts, and their passengers are required to wear masks as defined by the order issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention(CDC).

Q: Will students and staff still be contact traced and required to quarantine in the event of a positive case in a school?

A: Possibly. If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, school officials will continue to contact trace to determine who is identified as a "close contact." Those close contacts who have been vaccinated will not be required to quarantine. Close contacts who have not been vaccinated will need to quarantine according to these guidelines:

- Those who have tested on or after day 5 and received a negative result may return on DAY 7.
- Those who have not tested and are not experiencing symptoms may return on DAY 10.
- Those who have not tested and have experienced symptoms may return on DAY 14 providing any symptoms have improved and any fever has been gone for 24 hours without medication

Q: Will I need to call my child's school if they have been exposed to an individual with COVID-19 or have tested positive for COVID-19?

A: Yes. Your child's school nurse can provide you with quarantine information and we will determine next steps.

Q: Will students at the high school and middle schools be permitted to use their lockers?

A: High school students will not permitted to use their lockers at this time. Middle school students will be permitted. Please contact your school for additional information.

Q: Will visitors be permitted in the schools?

A: Yes, providing we remain within the blue and yellow tiers. Visitors may be limited if community spread becomes high. All visitors must adhere to the ECPS Return to School Plan as well as follow safety protocols. Please be prepared to check in at the main office and show your state-issued ID.

Q: Will students K-12 be able to participate in all extra-curricular and co-curricular events?

A: Yes. All groups will adhere to the items outlined in the ECPS Return to School Plan.

Q: Will spectators be permitted at extra-curricular and co-curricular events?

A: Yes, providing we remain within the blue and yellow tiers. Spectators may be limited if community spread becomes high. All spectators must adhere to the ECPS Return to School Plan and follow all health and safety protocols.

