



*Achieving our Personal Best in Pursuit of Excellence*

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Community School Corporation of Southern Hancock County  
P.O. Box 508, 4711 South 500 West  
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July 28, 2021

CSCSHC families,

In this email, you will find additional details regarding our COVID-19 plan for the 2021-22 school year. Our goal is to keep our students safe and keep them in school as much as possible. In-person learning is important. Our team is making every effort to create a safe environment for students to attend school while also working to keep them in school. You can help us by keeping your sick students home. If your student presents any [symptoms of COVID-19](#), do not send them to school.

As we shared last week, the district [received requirements regarding contact tracing and quarantining](#) from the Indiana Department of Health and Hancock County Health Department. Pursuant to IC 16-41-2-1, all mandates listed in the linked document above must be followed by all Indiana schools.

These plans are subject to change based on the status of COVID-19 in our community or new requirements from the Hancock County Health Department, Indiana Department of Health, and/or Governor Eric Holcomb. As always, we will comply with all mandates and requirements as required by Indiana law.

## **Masks**

As of August 23, 2021, masks are required inside all CSCSHC schools. Significant absences due to contact tracing have caused the district to require masks to reduce the threshold for contact tracing.

Moving forward, we will periodically review face covering procedures based on the COVID-19 climate. We will return to an optional face covering procedure when the current surge diminishes. Our team will evaluate this in September.

Per federal regulations from the US Department of Transportation, masks are still required on all school buses for all schools in the United States. Our district is required by law to comply with this regulation. Students and staff will wear a face covering on the bus at all times. After exiting the bus, face coverings may be removed.

## **Positive COVID-19 Tests**

Members of our school community who test positive for COVID-19 must stay home from school. This is critical to stopping the spread of the virus at school. The health department has recommended a time period of ten days. All students and staff members who test positive will be required to stay home for ten days from the first onset of symptoms.

In an effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and all other illnesses, students who display COVID-19 symptoms at school will be sent home until symptoms are resolved. When this occurs, the school nurse will share information about when your student can return to school. We encourage all parents to monitor their students for symptoms of all illnesses, including COVID-19. If your student is ill, please keep them home from school.

## **Contact Tracing and Quarantining**

Pursuant to [the requirements released by the Indiana Department of Health](#), our district is required to contact trace and quarantine close contacts of students who test positive for COVID-19.



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Close contacts must quarantine for a period of 14 days. Students who have been vaccinated do not need to be quarantined. Students who are not vaccinated must still quarantine for 14 days pursuant to the [IDOH requirements](#).

### **COVID-19 Notifications**

Notifications will be sent only to those families who are identified as close contacts. Information on each school's COVID-19 cases is available on the [Indiana Department of Health's dashboard](#).

### **Vaccinations**

Since the COVID-19 vaccine has not been required at the state or local level, our district will not require a student to receive the COVID-19 vaccine to attend school in 2021-22.

### **Cleaning Procedures**

Our custodial staff will continue with heightened cleaning procedures to keep our schools clean and sanitary.

Each school's principal is creating building plans for lunch, unified arts, and other spaces where students gather.

### **Social Distancing and Classroom Environment**

While each classroom's specific environment will be determined by the teacher, we are leaving a number of social distancing measures in place to reduce the number of students quarantined by close contact. Small group intervention time will be provided for students. Seating charts will be kept in classrooms and cafeterias in order to accurately contact trace positive cases of COVID-19.

### **Visitors to the Buildings**

Visitors to our buildings will be by appointment only. If you need to drop off or pick up an item, please call the office and they will direct you on how to proceed with their specific building procedure.

If you need to pick your child up from school early, please call the office ahead of time so that your child is waiting for you at the assigned time.

At this time, parents may not visit with their child in our cafeterias. When parents drop their child off at school during normal student arrival times, we ask all parents to remain in their cars.

### **School/Classroom Volunteers**

Classroom volunteers must be pre-arranged with the teacher for an assigned amount of time to complete a task.

All classroom and school volunteers must complete the background check process prior to volunteering in the classroom or school.



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### **Extracurricular Activities**

All clubs, groups, extra and co-curricular groups may meet as normal. Each group's sponsors or coaches will be responsible for seating charts and contact tracing of these groups.