

**2021-2022**

# COVID-19 PLAN

**Updated 9/2/2021**

**(Return to School Guidance)**



PreK-12 Recommendations	FCSC will follow FCSC COVID -19 Guidance Matrix dated 8/31/21
School Status	In-person learning; regular daily schedule following FCSC COVID-19 Guidance Matrix dated 8/31/21
Health Screening	All staff/students/visitors self-screen prior to coming to school
Mask Status	Masks recommended, but optional unless mandated by the State of Indiana and/or the Board of School Trustees
Physical Distancing	Social distancing implemented as much as possible
Cafeteria	Lunch in cafeteria with social distancing in lines and while seated
Hand Sanitizing/Washing	Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette is encouraged; hand sanitizer available in all buildings
Cleaning	Increased cleaning and focus on high-touch surfaces recommended throughout the day in all buildings and departments
Contact Tracing/Quarantine	School officials will notify parents of close contact exposure; parents/staff are to contact school office when a known exposure occur; quarantine requirements will follow all state mandated guidelines.
Bus	Masks are required per CDC and ISDH requirements; students will be socially distanced as much as possible on school buses
Extra-Curricular Activities	Masks requirements will follow the mandates of the Governor's office and Indiana State Department of Health. Current mandate requires masks indoor only.

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## Exclusion (Isolation and/or Quarantine) from School/Work

Fayette County Schools will follow quarantine guidelines as mandated by the State of Indiana. In periods of low case spread and no state mandates, FCSC will not be requiring quarantine periods of time, but will notify parents of close contact when in a classroom. Based on guidance from the Fayette County Health Department, students and staff members may be excluded from school/work if they exhibit COVID-19 related symptoms. **Close contacts should self-monitor for symptoms and take extra precautions to socially distance.**

Students and staff members will be excluded from school/work if they test positive for COVID-19. Exclusionary timelines established by the Indiana Department of Health and/or Fayette County Health Department will be followed at all FCSC locations.

## Return to School After Exclusion







Once a student or employee is excluded from the school environment, they may return if they satisfy the recommendations of the Indiana State Department of Health and/or are released by a physician (medical documentation required).

## Self-Screening

Fayette County students, staff members and visitors need to [self-screen](#) before arriving at school/work each day. Students and employees exhibiting COVID-19 related symptoms without being otherwise explained should not attend school until they are released by a

### COVID-19 Screening for Parents


**Every morning before you send your child to school please check for signs of illness:**

<input type="checkbox"/>  <b>FEVER 100.4* OR CHILLS</b> <small>*or school board policy if threshold is lower</small>	<input type="checkbox"/>  <b>SORE THROAT</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>  <b>COUGH* OR SHORTNESS OF BREATH</b> <small>*especially new onset, uncontrolled cough</small>
<input type="checkbox"/>  <b>DIARRHEA, NAUSEA OR VOMITING, ABDOMINAL PAIN</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>  <b>HEADACHE*</b> <small>*particularly new onset of severe headache, especially with fever</small>	<input type="checkbox"/>  <b>NEW LOSS OF TASTE OR SMELL</b>

\*May present with more than one symptom. This list does not include all possible symptoms.

- 1** Does your child have any sign of illness above?
- 2** Were you in close contact (within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes over a 24-hour period) with anyone confirmed with COVID-19?
- 3** If the answer is **YES** to any of the questions, **DO NOT** send your student to school. Instead, begin isolation of your child and contact your healthcare provider. Have you been tested for COVID-19? Only a positive test or provider diagnosis can confirm if someone has a current infection.
- 4** Please keep your student home until they meet the criteria.

**➔ If you have trouble breathing, chest pain, new confusion, inability to wake or stay awake or bluish lips or face CALL 911!**

  
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healthcare provider and/or meet any isolation requirements established by the Indiana State Department of Health (unless they are fully vaccinated).

## Attendance

### Student Attendance

Fayette County School personnel will request specific symptom information when absences are reported along with COVID-19 diagnoses and/or potential COVID-19 exposure. Information obtained will be shared with our nursing staff.

### FCSC Staff Attendance

Employees who experience the onset of any COVID-19 symptoms at work should immediately notify a school health official or school administrator. Since COVID-19 vaccines are readily available, staff absences due to COVID-19 will be addressed through the use of the staff member's accumulated benefit days.

## Preventative Measures

### COVID Monitoring

As required by state mandates, positive cases of COVID-19 will be reported to the Indiana Department of Health and the Fayette County Health Department for reporting purposes, school closure guidance, and potential contact tracing efforts. FCSC will track attendance trends daily to determine any patterns of absence due to illness throughout the corporation.

In addition, Indiana law requires schools to track and monitor attendance to assist in the determination of a viral outbreak within the Fayette County School Corporation (512 IAC 1-2-2). Schools shall report to the local health department and the IDOE when the percentage of student absences from a school is equal to or greater than the threshold rate of twenty percent (20%) of the enrolled student population.

### Face Coverings

The Indiana Department of Health, as mandated on September 1, 2021, requires all individuals to wear face coverings when indoors to avoid required close-contact quarantining in K-12 school facilities. For Fayette County Schools when there are no State of Indiana mandates, face coverings will be recommended but are optional for all students, staff, and visitors.

**Although families may supply their own face coverings, FCSC will have a limited supply of face coverings for all students and staff members. Cloth face coverings should be laundered at home regularly.**

### Hand Sanitizer Stations

Hand Sanitizer Stations will be available in all FCSC school buildings utilizing hand sanitizer approved for use to kill COVID-19.

### Hygiene

Hand washing and avoiding touching of the face, eyes, nose, or mouth are important steps a person can take to avoid becoming sick or spreading germs to others. If soap and water are not readily available, students and staff should use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol. Students should be reminded to avoid touching non-essential items and should not pick up items found on the floor.

## **Daily Operations**

### **Visitors**

Based on recommendations from public health officials, Fayette County Schools will only restrict nonessential visitors during a time of substantial spread within the schools or county. We will resume the use of volunteers and other guests in our buildings.

### **Special Education Case Conferences & 504 Committee Meetings**

Case Conference Committee (CCC) meetings and Section 504 meetings are deemed essential and require a parent/guardian to meet with the team on an as-needed basis. While we prefer in-person meetings, parents may request to participate in a CCC meeting or 504 meeting telephonically or via virtual meeting option. The decision to participate via an alternative format rests with the parent/guardian.

### **Field Trips**

Field trips provide memorable and educational experiences for students, and as such, Fayette County Schools will resume these learning opportunities for all FCSC students. Field trips will be postponed or cancelled when Fayette County is experiencing a substantial spread or the field trip location is experiencing a substantial spread. We will consult with our local health department for guidance regarding field trips when substantial spread occurs.

### **Hallways/Passing Periods/Transition Periods**

During substantial spread, visual cues for expected traffic flow may be used by Fayette County Schools. In addition, operational procedures at each school will be analyzed with the intent to reduce student transitions and close interactions during periods of substantial spread (if possible).

### **Safety Drills**

Safety drills are required by Indiana law (IC 20-34-3-20). As a result, the Fayette County School Corporation will continue to prepare and drill for potential emergencies.

### **Student Supplies**

During substantial spread, parents should make every effort to reduce the amount of materials, supplies, and personal belongings going to and from school each day. Staff members should be cognizant of this requirement and limit required school supplies to only essential items. In addition, FCSC staff members should make a concerted effort to reduce student exposure to high-touch, shared resources at school (art supplies, books, electronic devices, etc.). Supplies utilized by students which are owned by FCSC should be cleaned/sanitized on a regular basis.

### **Water Bottle Filling Stations**

Water bottle filling stations will be available in all FCSC schools. Filling stations will be cleaned/sanitized regularly. Water fountains will not be utilized during times of substantial spread, for use. Water fountains will be cleaned/sanitized as "high-touch" areas throughout the day. Individual water bottles are encouraged to be used by all students throughout the school day and required for all students participating in extracurricular activities.

### **Student Nutrition (Breakfast & Lunch)**

Some of the strategies that may be utilized during substantial spread include:

- Grab and go meals – eliminates self-serve food items and utilizes disposable utensils
- Assigned seating
- Visual cues placed throughout the cafeteria to control movement
- Prohibit food sharing

### **Transportation**

A Fayette County School Corporation school bus is a student's first contact with the school in the morning and the last point of contact in the afternoon. Fayette County Schools understands the importance of establishing safety protocols regarding student transportation.

### **Masks**

Per the CDC and Indiana State Board of health, mask will be required to be worn on all school buses by students and staff until the mask mandate expires.

### **Social Distancing**

The Transportation Department will attempt to social distance students when possible. (It is important to note that it may be difficult depending on the number of students on a bus.) All students will have assigned seating on the school bus. When possible, students will be seated with other members of the same household. Students will follow face covering requirements as outlined in the Fayette County Schools COVID-19 Response Plan.

### **Bus Cleaning & Sanitation**

All buses will be cleaned and/or sanitized each day using an FCSC approved cleaning and/or sanitizing agent.

### **Athletics**

Fayette County Schools anticipates that all athletic teams will meet on a regularly scheduled basis. Specific guidelines for each activity will be provided under the direction of the Athletic Department and/or Building Administrators. Coaches and sponsors will be responsible for following all safety protocols established.

Athletic programs will follow the same guidelines identified in the FCSC COVID-19 Return to School Plan for 2021-22 and follow any other state requirements as mandated by the state of Indiana or IHSAA.

### **Extra-Curricular Activities**

Fayette County Schools anticipates that all academic teams, clubs, etc. will meet on a regular scheduled basis. Specific guidelines for each activity will be shared by the coach/sponsor following the safety protocols established by the Building Administrators.

Extra-Curricular Activities will follow the same guidelines identified in the FCSC COVID- 19 Return to School plan for 2021-22 and any other state requirements as mandated by the state of Indiana or the Indiana Department of Education.

## **Facilities**

### **Cleaning & Sanitation**

All FCSC facilities will be cleaned/sanitized with cleaning supplies with the capability to kill COVID-19.

Daily disinfecting of high-touch surfaces in rooms will take place. High-touch areas include:

- Doorknobs
- Playground Equipment
- Restroom Sinks
- Toilets
- Light Switches
- Desks
- Pencil Sharpeners
- Media Centers
- Phones
- Walls
- Locker Rooms
- Water Fountains