

# SCHOOL TOWN OF HIGHLAND

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July 19, 2021

The School Town of Highland's (STOH) return to in-person instruction on Wednesday, August 11, will constitute a return to 'normal' instruction or pre-pandemic instruction, as much as possible. This will be a five-day a week opportunity for all students, fulfilling the 180-day requirement mandated by Indiana law for a full instructional year. Our 2021-2022 Return to Instruction Plan has been developed accordingly.

The district has been monitoring updates and recommendations from the Governor's office, CDC and the State Department of Health. Our plan is based on those recommendations. We will continue to monitor these agencies and COVID spread within our school community and update our plan as needed.

1. For the 2021-22 school year, it is highly recommended that staff and students that are not fully vaccinated wear masks.
  - a. All employees and students 12 years and older are encouraged to get the COVID vaccination. (In order to expedite contact tracing which is reduced to three feet this year, employees and students may be asked to provide proof of vaccination to their schools. Those who show proof of vaccination will not be contact traced out of school unless they are symptomatic.)
2. Per Federal mandate, students and other passengers are **required** to wear masks while on school transportation.
3. Athletic and other program events will follow any reduced seating guidelines from the State. It is highly recommended that attendees that are not fully vaccinated wear masks.
4. Limited field trips may be allowed if they meet protocol guidelines.
5. School facility use by outside groups directly associated with STOH (example PTO) will be allowed on a limited basis. Check with building principals or Central Office.
6. Outside speakers will be limited and may be asked to show proof of vaccination or wear a mask.
7. Visitors to schools will be on a limited basis.
8. The following safeguards for students and employees will remain in place:
  - a. Hand sanitizer will be available in all classroom and common areas of the buildings.
  - b. Students and staff will be encouraged to wash their hands frequently.

c. Facilities will be cleaned and sanitized regularly. Day shift custodians will prioritize cleaning of all student and staff high traffic areas throughout the day.

9. Parents are encouraged to conduct a health screening each morning before sending their child to school or to a school sponsored event.
10. STOH will continue to reduce the number of students in large group settings (assemblies, presentations in the gym, etc.) when possible.
11. Staff and students who are fully vaccinated and have proof of vaccination will not be required to quarantine due to exposure situations unless they become symptomatic.
12. Providing students and staff with extra social and emotional support as they return to full in-person instruction this school year is extremely important. The district's Guidance Coordinator will assume the responsibility of SEL and work with our schools' guidance counselors and administrators to help implement related activities and strategies. The STOH will continue to monitor community spread but more importantly spread within our school buildings and will make changes to the plan, as necessary. Any changes or adjustments will be effectively done through phone messaging, email, social media and district/building websites. July 15, 2021