

River Forest Community School Corporation

3250 Michigan Street

Hobart, Indiana 46342

Telephone: (219) 962-2909 Fax: (219) 962-4951

Mr. Kevin M. Trezak, Interim Superintendent

July 21, 2021

The River Forest Community School Corporation is making the following recommendations regarding COVID protocols and masks/face coverings for the 2021-22 school year. We will continue to monitor CDC and State/Local Health Department Guidelines and update these recommendations as appropriate.

1. The State mask mandate for schools ended on June 30, 2021; after June 30, 2021, masks will be **recommended, but not required** for staff in buildings.
2. Beginning the 2021-22 school year, **it will be recommended for staff and students to wear masks, but not required**. It is highly recommended for staff and students that are not fully vaccinated to wear masks.
3. All students will be required to wear masks while on school transportation – this is a federal and state mandate until September 13, 2021. If this guidance changes after this date, we will reassess this policy based on state and federal guidance and the severity of the pandemic.

On August 19, 2021, the TSA (Transportation Security Administration) extended the mask mandate, which includes school buses, through January 18, 2022. This mandate was set to expire in September, BUT, will now be extended. Since this is a federal mandate, River Forest Community School Corporation is obligated to continue to require masks on school busses until this date.

4. Lunches will be designed to allow for social distancing as much as possible.
5. Students in elementary levels will stay in cohort groups as much as possible.
6. Athletic and other program events will follow any reduced seating guidance that is in effect from the state CDC. Masks will be encouraged, but not required for events.
7. Limited fieldtrips will be allowed if they meet protocol guidelines.
8. School facility use by outside groups directly associated with RFCSC (example PTO) will be allowed on a limited basis.
9. Guests will be asked to make appointments where possible.
10. Outside speakers will be limited.
11. Parents will be asked to do a health screening each morning before sending their child to school or a school sponsored event.
12. RFCSC will continue to reduce the number of students in large group settings (assemblies, presentations in the gym, etc.).

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13. Unvaccinated staff and students will have to follow CDC guidelines for quarantining due to exposure situations.
14. Staff and students that are fully vaccinated will not be required to quarantine due to exposure situations unless they become symptomatic.