

ADAMS CENTRAL COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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RE-ENTRY INFORMATION COVID-19 HEALTH & SAFETY



**Legacy *Growth *Faith *Vision*

Adams Central Community Schools

HEALTHY OPERATIONS PLAN

- *Public Hearing July 13th, 2021, 6:30 P.M.
- *School Board Approval July 13th, 2021, 7:00 P.M.
- *School Board Executive Session Review August 23, 2021, 6:00 P.M.
- *School Board Approval Nov. 9th, 2021, 7:00 P.M.
- *School Board Approval March 8th, 2022, 7:00 P.M.
- *Public Hearing July 12th, 2022, 6:45 P.M.
- *School Board Approval July 12th, 2022, 7:00 P.M.
- *School Board Approval Nov. 8th, 2022



Inspiring and Empowering Students to Succeed

INTRODUCTION

Adams Central Community Schools (ACCS) reopened school for students on Friday, August 14th, 2020. ACCS also resumed summer athletic activities in accordance with the IHSAA and the Indiana Department of Education IN-C.L.A.S.S. guidance documents. Adams Central teachers returned in full capacity on Tuesday, August 11, 2020.

Additionally, throughout the 2020-21 school year, school-level and corporation-level procedures to mitigate/prevent the spread of COVID-19 were developed by strategic planning teams.

*The 2020-21 Re-entry Plan can be found at <https://www.accs.k12.in.us/page/covid>.

Beginning July 1, 2021, Governor Holcomb gave local school boards the responsibility of determining what safety measures will be put in place to address the impact and spread of COVID-19 for their districts. ACCS will adhere to practices that support a safe and healthy school environment for all students, staff, teachers, community members, and school visitors to the **greatest extent practicable**.

On February 17, 2022 the Indiana Department of Health notified schools of the following main changes to COVID-19 requirements (to take effect on Feb. 23, 2022):

- A. IDOH no longer recommends contact tracing and quarantining in schools.**
- B. Schools do not need to report any COVID-19 case information to the IDOH and the State School Dashboard will be discontinued.**
- C. A negative test or doctor's note is no longer required to return to school.**

SUPPORTING SAFE AND HEALTHY SCHOOL OPERATIONS

ACCS will continue to focus on measures of cleaning and sanitizing procedures that we have learned have a positive impact on the health of our entire AC family.

COVID-19 is mostly spread by respiratory droplets released when people talk, cough, or sneeze. It is thought that the virus may spread to hands from a contaminated surface and then to the nose or mouth, causing infection.

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Inspiring and Empowering Students to Succeed

Health screening measures should begin at home prior to the start of each school day for both students and staff. Individuals should consider staying at home if they exhibit the following symptoms **that cannot be otherwise explained. Individuals with fever concerns must always stay at home until they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of medicine that reduces fevers.**

- Fever of 100 Degrees or Higher
- Persistent Cough
- Shortness of Breath or Difficulty Breathing
- Chills/Repeated Shaking
- Muscle Pain
- Headaches
- Sore Throat
- New Loss of Taste or Smell
- Congestion or Runny Nose
- Nausea, Vomiting and/or Diarrhea

The following information represents updated recommendations from the IDOH as of Thursday, February 17, 2022:

What's Not Changing

- Online maps for testing, vaccination and treatment will continue
- Mobile clinics continue
- Continue to reach out to bactoschool@isdh.in.gov with K-12 or higher education questions
- Schools using BinaxNOW for in-school testing can continue to order
 - Through March 30 and may request enough to get through the end of the year
 - As part of the CLIA waiver any school that continues testing is required to report the results into the testing portal
- Federal supported testing programs (CDC, Battelle) will continue as planned and will also report results into the testing portal



A Time of Transition

- While universal case investigation and contact tracing during the initial phase of the pandemic was justified as the phases of the pandemic evolve, public health experts agree this degree of response is no longer optimal
- Indiana's cases and hospitalizations have fallen significantly in recent weeks as we move past the Omicron surge
- Although COVID-19 is not going away, we have tools available today that we didn't have two years ago, including vaccines and therapies
- As a result, we are making significant changes to our COVID-19 response operations that impact schools and local health departments



Empowering the Public

- Focus on public education and messaging as we move toward endemic status
 - Educate on importance of vaccination, health strategies, protecting others who might be vulnerable
- Individuals who suspect a COVID-19 infection should
 - Get tested
 - Isolate to protect others (stay home when sick)
 - Rapidly notify their close contacts if they are positive
 - Seek healthcare if at higher risk



Contact Tracing Update

- IDOH recommends a shift from universal contact tracing, case investigation and exposure notification to a cluster or outbreak-based model
- Our centralized contact tracing center has shifted to a guidance and information center: <https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/quarantine-and-isolation-guidance-center/>
- No longer making outbound calls. Will end text messages to positive cases on March 1.
- Individuals have responsibility for notifying their close contacts, can use www.tellyourcontacts.org to send confidential texts or emails
- Consider increased mitigation strategies in congregate/special environments when clusters or outbreaks occur that are associated with new variants



What This Means for Schools

Effective Feb. 23:

- IDOH no longer recommends contact tracing and quarantining in schools; LHDs in conjunction with their schools may elect to continue.
- If schools are made aware of a positive case, sharing the potential exposure with students/families can emphasize the importance of observation for symptoms associated with COVID-19
- Schools do not need to report any COVID-19 case information to IDOH, school dashboard will be discontinued
- Schools should continue to isolate positive individuals for at least 5 days per CDC
- Schools should continue to assist their LHD with exposure notification when there is a cluster of positive COVID-19 cases or an outbreak. Schools should notify their LHD when absenteeism reaches 10 percent for COVID-like illness or when schools are concerned about the level of illness.
- A negative test or doctor's note is no longer required to return to school. As with other illnesses, students should not return to school unless they are fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication and their symptoms are resolving.



K-12 Isolation Guidance

If an individual tests positive:

- Should stay home and isolate from other people for at least 5 full days (day 0 is the first day of symptoms or the date of the day of the positive viral test for asymptomatic persons)
- People who are in isolation may return to school on day 6 as long as fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications and symptoms have improved
- They should wear a mask when around others at home, in public and at school for an additional 5 days (days 6-10)
- People who are confirmed to have COVID-19 regardless of their vaccination status or symptoms should isolate.



<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html>

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