1 September, 2021

Floyd County Health Officer Communication

As some of you may be aware, Indiana Governor, Eric Holcomb announced a new Executive Order, 21-24, which will change how many students are quarantined. This Order is in effect from 2 September to 30 September 2021.

For school districts which currently have mask mandates in place: identified close contacts to a Covid-19 positive person will not need to be quarantined (provided both were masked) as long as they don’t show symptoms.

If either the close contact or the positive case are unmasked, and within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes, then the close contact MUST QUARANTINE for 14 days [no test, no mask on return if not required], 10 days [no test, return with mask], or 7 days [with return on day 8 with negative test on day 5,6,7]. Parents of those students identified as close contacts will be notified and asked to monitor their child(ren) for symptoms.

This new guidance will be implemented immediately statewide. Those currently in quarantine due to a close contact scenario where both students were wearing masks may return to school provided they continue to be asymptomatic, that is, do not show symptoms of Covid-19.

This new guidance from the Governor and the Indiana Department of Health will help reduce unnecessary absences for lower risk contacts, thereby getting us closer to the goal of maximizing in-classroom attendance. The benefits of school system-wide masking mandates are obvious under these new policies; I encourage schools not utilizing a masking requirement to reconsider. I also encourage parents of children not attending a mask required school to send their students with a mask, in order to potentially benefit from the new quarantine policy.

Tom Harris, MD, FACEP
Floyd County Health Officer
Asymptomatic Close Contact (student, teacher or staff)

Positive Case Isolates

COVID-19
School Quarantine Guidance

Face Covering Requirement

Everyone MASKED
(Positive case and close contacts MASKED)

Close contacts within 3 feet of positive case notified to monitor for symptoms for 14 days
(See masked close contact flyer)

If symptoms develop, quarantine and obtain testing whether fully vaccinated or not.

No Face Covering Requirement

Anyone UNMASKED
(Positive case and/or close contacts UNMASKED)

Close contacts within 6 feet of positive case must quarantine* with 1 of the below 3 options:
1. Quarantine 14 days (no test needed)
2. Quarantine 10 days (no test needed)
3. Quarantine for 7 days. Return day 8 with negative test on day 5, 6 or 7

* Unless fully vaccinated or have been ill with COVID-19 within the previous three months and recovered, and without any symptoms.

Note:
Applies to the classroom setting only. Does not apply to high-risk activities such as lunch, band, choir or extra-curriculars.
**COVID-19 School Scenarios**
Classroom setting only. Does not apply to lunch, band, choir or extra-curricular activities.

**MASK REQUIREMENT**
When a masked person tests positive and close contacts are wearing masks

**NO MASK REQUIREMENT**
When positive person and/or close contacts are not wearing masks

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**ISOLATE**

**NO QUARANTINE**

**SELF-MONITOR**

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**DEFINITIONS**

**CLOSE CONTACT:**
When both people are masked, in school setting close contact is when an individual is within 3 feet of a positive person for greater than 15 minutes.

When either person is unmasked, a close contact is when an individual has been within 6 feet of an infected person for greater than 15 minutes.

**SELF-MONITOR:**
Perform a self-check or be monitored twice daily for a fever of 100.4 F or above. If symptoms develop, even if you’re fully vaccinated, quarantine and obtain testing. **Coordinate with your healthcare provider and local public health department.**

**QUARANTINE:**
May be required when an individual has had a close contact. These individuals shall remove themselves from situations where others could be exposed/infected, and self-monitor for symptom development.

**ISOLATION:**
Required when individual has tested positive for COVID-19 or develops a fever of 100.4 F or above and/or one or more of the following symptoms: a sudden onset of a cough, sudden onset of shortness of breath, or sudden loss of taste or smell. Individuals should remove themselves or be removed from situations where others could be exposed/infected.