

2021-2022 School Year Updated COVID-19 Recommendations and Requirements

School City of Hammond's primary goal is to have a safe and productive school year. The new Delta variant has altered the previous guidelines. To accomplish this goal the following recommendations are being made based on the most recent CDC and Indiana Department of Health guidelines and the fact that Lake County has been deemed a high community transmission area.

Employees

- All employees should wear mask regardless of their vaccination status
- Unvaccinated employees *must* wear a mask at all times when in a SCH building.
 - Face shields are not an acceptable face covering.
- Vaccinated employees *should* wear a mask when in close contact with other employees and all students and when in common areas.

Visitors/Volunteers

- All visitors and volunteers must wear a mask at all times regardless of their vaccination status.
- Volunteers are requested to show proof of vaccination status. This is needed to assist with contact tracing in the event of a positive case.
- Volunteers must abide by the same guidelines as employees and students.

Students

- All students *must* wear a mask at all times except for meals and outdoor recess. Mask breaks will be allowed at the discretion of the teacher or administrator.
- Vaccinated students *must* provide proof to the health office. This is necessary for contact tracing.
- Mask must cover the nose and mouth.
 - Vented masks, face shields, and gaiters are not acceptable.
 - There are no medical exemptions accepted. Accommodations will be considered when necessary.

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Athletic Department

- All athletes and coaching staff must wear a mask at all times regardless of vaccination status unless actively participating on the field or court.
 - Masks must be worn in locker rooms and at courtside.
- All staff regardless of vaccine status must wear a mask when in close contact with athletes.
- Athletes that test positive for COVID-19 *must* have a medical release and a negative test to resume sport activities. Cardiac clearance is highly recommended. The athlete must quarantine for 10-14 days. The Director of Health Services will determine the return date.
- The Director of Health Services will contact the parent of a positive case.
- Any athletic staff that test positive *must* have a negative test to resume coaching and participate in sports.
 - Must quarantine for 10 days and notify the Director of Health Services to resume coaching.
- Practice and sporting events *must* be on hold for any notification of a positive case until a decision is made by the Director of Health Services.
- Close contacts will be quarantined at the discretion of the Director of Health Services based on CDC and the ISDH guidelines.
- Under no circumstances should an athlete be allowed to practice or participate in a sporting event if they are a known close contact or positive case.
- Questions or concerns should be directed to the Director of Health Services.

Reporting of Positive Cases for Employees

- Employees that test positive must contact the Director of Health Services for a return to work date.
- Any employee that tests positive must quarantine for at least 10 days and be symptom free without medication prior to returning to work.
 - Approval to return to work will be provided by the Director of Health Services.
- Administrator or Director of the employee will be notified of the return to work date.

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Reporting of Close Contacts for Employees

- Any employee that is a known close contact must notify the Health Services Department for recommendation.
- Close contacts that are unvaccinated must quarantine for 10 days and be symptom free.
 - It is recommended that a PCR test is done 3-5 days after the date of exposure.
- Vaccinated employees do not have to quarantine unless they are having symptoms of illness.
 - They should monitor for symptoms of COVID for 14 days from the date of exposure, be tested for 3-5 days after exposure with a PCR test, and wear a mask for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result.
- Employees that have had COVID-19 Virus within the past 90 days and are symptom free do not have to quarantine. Proof of COVID-19 virus is necessary. They should wear a mask for 14 days in public indoor settings.

Reporting of COVID-19 Vaccination

- COVID-19 Vaccination cards or certificates should be submitted to the Health Services Department in your assigned work buildings.
 - Transportation and Grounds and Maintenance employees should submit their cards to the Director of Health Services at the Administration Center.
- Falsification of vaccination status can result in disciplinary actions.
- Falsifying a vaccine card or certification is a criminal act.

All recommendations are based on guidelines from the CDC and the Indiana Department of Health. Guidelines will be updated as current information is received.