

PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER 14-2021  
PURSUANT TO INDIANA CODE § 16-20-1-24  
AND CHAPTER 7, ARTICLE 5 OF THE CODE OF THE HEALTH  
AND HOSPITAL CORPORATION OF MARION COUNTY

Marion County continues to experience COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, which left unchecked pose a risk to our community. It is more important than ever to follow guidance from local, state, and federal officials on how to stop the spread of the virus. To ensure that social distancing measures vital to the mitigation of the pandemic remain in place, I order the following, **effective 8:00 AM on June 8, 2021**, applicable to all schools in Marion County, and remaining in force until superseded or rescinded.

1. For high schools (Grades 9-12):
  - a. All classrooms must be arranged to allow for at least three (3) feet of social distancing between each student.
  - b. If social distancing of at least three (3) feet cannot be maintained between students, the school must move to on-line only or hybrid (combination of on-line and in-person) student instruction so that the total number of students on campus at any one time will allow for at least three (3) feet of social distancing between each student.
2. Hybrid (combination of on-line and in-person) instruction requires that the number of students in the school building be limited by the ability to provide three (3) feet social distancing between students.

Elementary Schools (K-5) and Middle Schools/Junior High Schools (6-8) may conduct all student instruction in person. Students must remain socially distanced at least three (3) feet within the classroom.

3. If a school includes more than K-8 in a single building, classes K-8 must social distance at least three (3) feet between students within the classroom for all classes to continue without a hybrid or on-line model. Grades 9-12 must maintain a social distance of at least three (3) feet between students within the classroom. Otherwise, Grades 9 and higher will require a hybrid or on-line model at the school in addition to the in-person K-8 classes.

4. For schools with any portion of instruction being conducted in person:
  - a. Passing periods must be staggered.
  - b. School meals must be served in the classroom, or students must be in cohorts in the cafeteria with the cafeteria being disinfected after each cohort.
  - c. Band, orchestra, and choir groups must limit the duration of practice and performance to no more than 45 minutes. Bands and orchestras must have a minimum spacing between string and percussion instruments of 60 (i.e. 6x10) square feet per instrument (with masks or face coverings) and wind instruments of 100 (i.e. 10x10) square feet per instrument with a preference for outside or an inside space that is filled to no greater than 50% capacity. Choirs must not be larger than 12 singers with a distance of at least 100 (i.e., 10x10) square feet per singer (with masks or face coverings) with a preference for outside or an inside space that is filled to no greater than 25% capacity and a minimum distance of 20 feet from any audience.
  - d. All teacher lounges and breakrooms must be closed unless all persons who enter these areas are fully vaccinated.
  - e. Access to student lockers must be limited to prevent students from congregating.
  - f. Permanent seating charts must be maintained in each classroom to aid with contact-tracing efforts.
  - g. Students in Grade 3 and above, and all staff, must wear a mask or face covering that covers the nose and mouth at all times unless fully vaccinated or except when eating or drinking. At the direction of the instructor, students may briefly remove his, or her, mask or face covering on an intermittent basis.
  - h. Masks and face coverings may be removed during indoor recess for not more than 10 minutes, provided social distancing can be achieved. Masks are not required for outdoor recess, providing that social distancing can be maintained.
  - i. School bus drivers and all students who ride a school bus must wear a mask or face covering that covers the nose and mouth at all times. Bus seating should keep children who do not share the same household spaced three (3) to six (6) feet apart whenever feasible. (CDC

guidelines recommend at least six (6) feet when feasible.) Seats must be assigned. School bus windows should be opened to increase cross-ventilation when weather permits. Transportation by personal vehicle is encouraged.

5. All schools must report COVID-19 positive cases, for both staff and students, to the Marion County Public Health Department (“MCPHD”) within one (1) business day of learning of a positive case. The report must indicate whether the student or staff was attending school in-person or virtually.

6. For all K-12 extracurricular and co-curricular activities

a. Overall Attendance:

(Based on the state’s color-coded system to inform Hoosiers about the status of COVID-19 in each county across Indiana. The Indiana Department of Health (“IDH”) will continue to update each county’s status under the color-code system at least weekly.)

i. Counties designated as Blue, Yellow and Orange:

Notwithstanding the attendance limits on social gatherings and events and upon approval by the local health department, overall attendance at an extracurricular or co-curricular activity must not exceed 25% of capacity at the event location.

ii. Counties designated as Red: Notwithstanding the attendance limits on social gatherings and events, attendance shall be limited to participants, support personnel and student’s parents, guardians, siblings, and other minor children of parent or guardian of students.

7. All club and recreational sports league events

a. Overall Attendance:

(Based on the state’s color-coded system to inform Hoosiers about the status of COVID-19 in each county across Indiana. IDH will continue to update each county’s status under the color-code system at least weekly.)

i. Counties designated as Blue, Yellow and Orange:

Notwithstanding the attendance limits on social gatherings and events and upon approval by the local health department, overall attendance at an extracurricular or co-curricular activity must not exceed 25% of capacity at the event location.

- ii. Counties designated as Red: Notwithstanding the attendance limits on social gatherings and events, attendance shall be limited to participants, support personnel and student's parents, guardians, siblings, and other minor children of parent or guardian of students.
8. It is recommended that all schools provide opportunities for students and staff who are at high-risk for serious illness from COVID-19, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention, to opt out of in-person interaction with other individuals during school hours in compliance with ADA and FFCRA and other federal and state laws and regulations.
9. MCPHD recommends that **individuals who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 isolate for a minimum of 10 days**. Isolation should begin the day their symptoms started or the day their test was collected, if asymptomatic. They should also be fever free without fever reducing medications and have an improvement in symptoms for 24 hours before ending the isolation period. If these stipulations cannot be met, the student or staff member cannot end isolation after day 10 and must isolate for 14 days. In these cases, students may not participate in athletics or extra-curricular activities if these activities require them to remove their masks or face coverings. MCPHD is not currently recommending the 7-day testing option from the CDC. However, that option may be available in special circumstances where other safeguards are in place.
10. Close Contact Tracing: For grades K-12, those asymptomatic individuals exposed to COVID-19 or identified as a close contact need not quarantine so long as they have maintained social distancing of three (3) or more feet and masks or face coverings were worn at all times. Parents or guardians of students who are in classrooms that have positive cases should be informed that their child was in a classroom with a positive case.

All students and staff, whether wearing a mask/face covering or not, who are within three (3) feet of an infected person in K-12 for an accumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset must quarantine for at least 10 days after exposure of contact unless vaccinated.

**Individuals who must quarantine** can end quarantine after 10 days without further testing as long as that individual has had no symptoms for

the duration of the 10 day quarantine period and has not had symptoms for the last 24 hours. The individual would also have to wear a mask at all times, except when eating or drinking, and maintain a social distance of 6 feet from other individuals, for days 11 through 14 after being released from quarantine. If these stipulations cannot be met, the individual cannot end quarantine after day 10 and must quarantine for 14 days.

Individuals who meet the three criteria below will no longer be required to quarantine following an exposure to someone with COVID-19:

- Are fully vaccinated (i.e.,  $\geq 2$  weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or  $\geq 2$  weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine);
- Are within 3 months of a diagnosis of COVID 19; or
- Have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure.

11. MCPHD will continue to monitor COVID-19 data and will make additional recommendations or Orders as needed based on that data.

12. If any faculty, staff, or student is fully vaccinated, they do not need to wear a mask or social distance.

This Order is issued pursuant to Indiana Code § 16-20-1-24 and Chapter 7, Article 5 of the Code of The Health and Hospital Corporation of Marion County.

All other Public Health Orders remain in effect, except as contradicted by this Order. Unless otherwise specified in this Public Health Order 14-2021, the restrictions imposed by Governor Holcomb's Executive Orders apply.

*Virginia A. Caine, M.D.*

Virginia A. Caine, M.D.  
Director and Chief Medical Officer

Issue Date: June 8, 2021