



# Northeast School Corporation

## SCHOOL PLAN 2021-22

Updated September 7, 2021

As of July 1, 2021, local school boards of public K-12 education institutions will be responsible for implementing whatever measures and restrictions deemed necessary and prudent to address the impact and spread of COVID-19 for their buildings, facilities and grounds, to include transportation. Educational governing bodies are encouraged to review recommendations from the CDC guidance, Indiana Department of Health, Local Departments of Health and the Indiana Department of Education.

### Face Covering/Masks

- All students and staff are **required** to wear masks inside the school buildings except when 6 ft of social distancing can be established, eating, drinking, and during strenuous activity.
- Masks must also be worn for non athletes during inside sporting events, i.e. volleyball and basketball.
- This mandate will be **reevaluated on September 30, 2021**.
- Per the Federal mandate, face coverings/masks are still REQUIRED of students and staff while being transported on all school buses.

### Contact Tracing/Attendance/Quarantining

- September 1, 2021, Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb gave Executive Order 21-24. The new executive order is in an effort to reduce the number of quarantined students who are missing instruction through contact tracing. The new executive order has revised guidance **that eliminates the requirement of a close contact to quarantine IF the person testing positive is wearing a mask AND all close contacts are wearing masks. Simply put: When everyone is wearing a mask – NO ONE must quarantine.**
- *Any student or staff currently in quarantine will need to complete it before returning to school.*
- NESC will follow IDOE attendance guidelines for students who are absent due to a COVID-19 related reason.
- Determine contact tracing requirements in conjunction with guidance from the Indiana Department of Health.

- NESCS will follow the most current Indiana State Department of Health isolation and quarantine requirements.
- If a student/staff is subject to quarantine due to contact tracing and **everyone was masked**, for example at school, the quarantine period is for one of the following:
  - Can return on Day 11 with no symptoms and enhanced precautions (masking all day and eating lunch separately and if an athlete - wear mask at all times while NOT actively performing or actively playing)
  - Can return on Day 15 with no symptoms and no restrictions
  - Can return on Day 8 with a negative PCR test on Day 5, 6 or 7 with enhanced precautions (masking all day and eating lunch separately and if an athlete - wear mask at all times while NOT actively performing or actively playing)
- If a student/staff is subject to quarantine due to contact tracing and **someone was unmasked**, for example athletics or church or a birthday party, the quarantine period is for one of the following:
  - Can return on Day 11 with no symptoms and enhanced precautions (masking all day and eating lunch separately and if an athlete - wear mask at all times on days 11-14)
  - Can return on Day 15 with no symptoms and no restrictions
  - Can return on Day 8 with a negative PCR test on Day 5, 6 or 7 with enhanced precautions (masking all day and eating lunch separately and if an athlete - wear mask at all times on days 11-14)
- Students/Staff that are fully vaccinated do not have to quarantine if no Covid symptoms are present.
- Home Covid test kits that you can purchase at the pharmacy, are not official results and DO NOT get you out of quarantining.
- Antibody testing (serology testing) is also not allowed to get you out of quarantining.
- Students & Staff that do get tested MUST quarantine until they receive their test results.

### School Day

- In-person instruction will be provided 5 days a week in Grades K-12.
- Virtual learning will be an option through the T-Bird Academy. This will be available for Grades KG-12. Students must apply for the T-Bird Academy. All applications must be approved by the building principal. Virtual students will be able to participate in extra or co-curricular activities and are committing to this platform for a minimum of one 9 weeks.

### Supporting Teaching and Learning

- Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as:
  - ✓ Providing hand sanitizer for students and staff.
  - ✓ Conducting cleaning of classrooms and high touch surfaces daily.
- Establish an academic baseline:
  - ✓ Use formative assessments (NWEA).
  - ✓ Conduct meetings with teachers to analyze data and see where students are academically.
- Discuss the shared experience

- ✓ Implementation of Ripple Effects to provide Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Resources.
- ✓ Use of SAEBRS to target high risk students.
- Target interventions and supports:
  - ✓ Provide additional instructional supports to:
    - Students at-risk of not graduating on time.
    - Students with disabilities.
    - Students who had poor attendance in the 2020-2021 school year due to COVID-19 related reasons.
    - Other students identified as being behind academically or “at-risk” by teachers and/or parents.
- Classrooms will be organized to maximize available space for student seating.

### **Bus Transportation**

- Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventive measures such as:
  - ✓ **Per the Federal mandate, face coverings/masks will be REQUIRED of students and staff while being transported on all school buses.**
  - ✓ Students who ride a NESC bus will be issued an **assigned** seat or zone. There will be no same day afternoon bus changes permitted.
  - ✓ Students will only be allowed to ride the bus that he or she is assigned to. Therefore, we will not allow students to ride home with a friend. This will help with contact tracing if needed.

### **Meal Service**

- Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures.
  - ✓ Encourage students to wash hands before and after meal service. Providing hand sanitizer for students and staff.
  - ✓ Conducting cleaning of cafeterias and high-touch surfaces throughout the school day.
- All silverware and condiments will be on trays when served.
- Quarantined students and virtual students can order a meal online by using the “Virtual Meal” order form found under the “Menu” section on each school’s web page. We strongly encourage parents and students to use this form to ensure that meals are prepared and picked up with greater accountability for the food service program.
- Meals may be picked up at the school’s cafeteria door between 11:00 and 12:00 each day school is in session. Some changes may be necessary to accommodate to-go delivery and some menus may change due to availability and the shortages that we are experiencing in the food service industry.

### **USDA has approved free meals (breakfast and lunch) for all students for the 2021-22 school year.**

- ✓ Due to USDA waivers, breakfast and lunch are free for all students who choose a reimbursable tray. Students at NCHS have a Grab-n-Go option every morning.
- ✓ Free and reduced lunch applications are available at every school and the school services office. These are not needed for the breakfast and lunch program this year. **However, you must fill out an application to qualify for P-EBT and to ensure the**

**Corporation's participation in other programs. Contact Nancy Woodard at (812)397-5390 or [woodardn@nesc.k12.in.us](mailto:woodardn@nesc.k12.in.us) for more information.**

### **Transitioning (Hallway)**

- Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures.
  - ✓ Encourage students to limit congregating during passing periods or by lockers.
  - ✓ Conducting cleaning of hallways and high-touch surfaces throughout the school day.
  - ✓ Providing hand sanitizer for students and staff.

### **Entering School Buildings**

- Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventive measures.
  - ✓ Students and staff are required to wear their masks inside the school building.
  - ✓ Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff.
  - ✓ Continue established COVID-19 protocol for students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms when they come to school.
  - ✓ Visitors in schools will be limited. Parents, guardians, and family members will not be allowed to walk students to their classrooms or have lunch with their students.

### **Conducting Large Group Gatherings**

- Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures.
  - ✓ Providing hand sanitizer for students and staff.
  - ✓ Follow any Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA), Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA), or other extra-curricular/co-curricular governing bodies guidelines for performances, and practices.
  - ✓ Inside activities will require wearing face masks.

### **Vaccinations**

- Follow Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) guidance if COVID-19 becomes a required or recommended vaccine. **Currently, the COVID-19 vaccine is not listed as either a required or recommended vaccine.** Should that change, religious and medical exemptions will be followed like with all other vaccines.
- Provide parents/guardians with ISDH COVID-19 vaccination information for students.

### **Practicing Prevention**

- Parents will continue to self-screen their students before coming to school.
- Students and staff who are sick must be fever free without the use of fever-reducing medication for at least 24 hours to return to school.
- School clinics will have a separate space to treat symptomatic students.
- Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as hand washing, covering coughs, etc.
- Provide hand soap and hand sanitizer, paper towels, and no touch trash cans in all bathrooms, classrooms and frequently trafficked areas.

- Post signage to communicate how to stop the spread. Include COVID 19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and specific protocols.
- Clean/disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- Turn off the water fountains except for water filling stations and encourage students and staff to bring water bottles from home.
- Ensure ventilation systems operate properly through routine maintenance.
- Zoned recess
- No outside food brought in to be shared by students: (i.e. birthday parties)

### **Protecting Vulnerable Populations**

- All federal, state, and local guidelines will be followed as well as adherence to FERPA and HIPAA requirements. In addition, adherence to state and federal employment law and extended leave allowances and offering an Employee Assistance Program to all staff members.

### **NESC Covid-19 Sick Days**

- NESC does NOT have Covid-19 sick days for employees. However, if a NESC staff member has to quarantine due to being a school related close contact, please contact your principal or director for alternative assignments.

- ✓ Teacher Expectations – Google Meets
  - KG-6<sup>th</sup> Grade: morning meeting; reading groups; math groups and afternoon meeting for follow up questions and assignments
    - Email or call students that did not show
  - 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade: follow normal, bell schedule and stay on Google Meet with your class for the whole period.
    - Email or call students that did not show

### **Communication**

- A weekly COVID-19 update will be sent to parents via email that lists cases per school *if individuals are still required to report positive cases to each school.*

### **Remote Learning**

- If the number of students sick or the number of positive cases reaches 20% of the building population, that building would go to remote learning for 5 to 10 school days. Also, if the staff absence rate is high enough and we can't find enough staff to fill positions this may result in a Remote Learning Day. This means students would receive live instruction from their teacher in a Google Meet on the student's Chromebook.

**We can't stress this enough: Please stay home if sick and/or showing symptoms.**