



# Kankakee Valley

## COVID FAQ - 10/1/21

Kankakee Valley School Corporation has combined several documents to develop this frequently asked questions and answers relating to COVID.

### **1. Why must schools follow the Indiana Department of Health Regulations?**

Governor Holcomb has provided schools with two options:

1. No mask mandate and follow the IDOH/CDC guidelines for contact tracing and quarantining.
2. Enforce a mask-mandate for students and staff where quarantine by close contacts is not required.

These are the only legal options available to us. We are aware that some schools have chosen to make their own rules or not follow any rules at all. This is not something that KVSC will entertain, as it is breaking the law and could have serious legal ramifications down the road.

School Statute:

The statute provided below requires schools to comply with the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) regulation.

IC 20-26-5-6 Applicability of laws governing state agencies

Sec. 6. All powers delegated to the governing body of a school corporation under section 1 or 4 of this chapter are subject to all laws subjecting the school corporation to regulation by a state agency, including the secretary of education, the state board of accounts, state police department, fire prevention, and building safety commission, department of local government finance, environmental rules board, state school bus committee, state department of health, and any local governmental agency to which the state has been delegated a specific authority in matters other than educational matters and other than finance, including plan commissions, zoning boards, and boards concerned with health and safety.

If you, as a parent or community member, disagree with the Governor's Executive Orders and/or the Indiana Department of Health Regulations, you should contact the [Governor's office](#), [Indiana Department of Health](#), [your congressman](#), and/or [your senator](#).

### **2. Why does the MS and HS have a mask requirement?**

Students in the middle school and high school have lost the most amount of instructional days because of the legal requirement of quarantining.

The goal is to have students in school on a daily basis so daily learning will take place.

COVID DATA- Total number of instructional days missed due to COVID + or Quarantines:

- DeMotte Elementary - 571 days of instruction
- Wheatfield Elementary - 316 days of instruction
- Kankakee Valley Intermediate - 603 instructional days
- Kankakee Valley Middle - 1,994 instructional days
- Kankakee Valley High - 1,575 instructional days

Students in grades 6-12 will continue to wear masks in the classroom setting through Friday, October 29, 2021. Starting Monday, November 1, 2021, students in grades K-12 will have the option to wear masks.

### **3. How are close contacts determined per the IDOH?**

Close Contact Definitions and Guidance

If EVERYONE (including vaccinated individuals) is masked and someone is a positive case, close contacts within three feet are notified to monitor for symptoms for 14 days. The close contacts in the classroom setting are not required to quarantine unless symptoms develop.

Anyone unmasked (positive case and/or close contacts unmasked) must quarantine. A close contact is defined as any individual within 6 feet of an infected person (laboratory confirmed or probable case) for a total of 15 minutes or more within a 24-hour period. They must quarantine with one of the three options:

- 14 days after the date of last exposure;
- 10 days after the date of last exposure, following additional precautions for days 11-14;  
or
- 7 days after the date of last exposure with a negative PCR test result occurring on day 5 or later, following additional precautions for days 8-14.

\*Unless fully vaccinated (documented) or have been ill with COVID-19 within the previous three months and recovered, and with any symptoms (documented).

Contact tracing is not necessary for any outdoor activity.

### **4. Who must quarantine per the Indiana Department of Health?**

Quarantine must be used for unvaccinated students, teachers, and staff who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.

Close contacts, identified through contact tracing, should quarantine unless they are fully vaccinated, or have tested positive in the last 3 months, and do not have any symptoms.

Students, teachers, and staff who are in quarantine should stay home and follow the direction of the local public health department about when it is safe for them to be around others.

All fully vaccinated individuals who remain asymptomatic (even if a close contact) do not need to quarantine but should monitor for symptoms throughout the 14 days following their exposure.

## **5. What is a Return to School Plan?**

The Return to School Plan must include specific information that addresses how it will maintain student and staff health and safety and how it will ensure continuity of services for academic and social-emotional needs, as well as how it meets CDC guidance, to the greatest extent practicable. The [Return to School Plan](#) is posted on the KV web-site.

## **6. Why is the Return to School Plan building specific?**

Kankakee Valley School Corporation has five (5) buildings with students that are spread across the district. The number of positive cases and the number of students that are legally required to quarantine may vary from building to building. We have found that an elementary positive has far fewer close contacts and quarantines compared to the middle school and high school. Therefore, if there is a high number of positives, close contacts, and quarantines in the middle school it has very little impact on the elementary students.

## **7. What is CARES/ESSER Funds?**

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, or CARES Act, provided an economic stimulus to individuals, businesses, and schools. Although the CARES Act released additional supports indirectly to students, families, and educators through SNAP, Head Start, childcare, and so on, this document will focus upon the two funding streams dedicated to schools. These are the 18002 Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER) and 18003 Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER).

ESSER II is a second stimulus and emergency COVID relief funding stream authorized as part of the CRRSA Act that was enacted on December 27, 2020.

ESSER III is a third stimulus and emergency COVID relief funding stream authorized as part of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act that was enacted in March 2021.

Funding is based on the school districts proportional share of the Title I allocation.

## **8. What are the requirement to receive CARES/ESSER Funds?**

The CARES Funds may be used for a variety of reasons a few examples are to purchase supplies for sanitizing or cleaning and a variety of items to assist with student achievement.

A few examples of ESSER II funds to reduce learning loss or improve the quality of items in a school. A few examples that ESSER III funds are being used to address learning loss, improve the quality of school, pay individuals for extra work beyond normal scope of employment as a result of COVID.

Schools had to receive approval from the Indiana Department of Education on each expense item as it fit into the purpose. ESSER III Funds required public input. Public input was received at KVSC via a survey in May 2021. A Return to School Plan must be developed and posted on line. Public input was provided in the development of the plan.

There is not a requirement to wear a mask or be vaccinated to receive the funds.

**9. Does Kankakee Valley School Corporation require students to have a COVID vaccine to attend school?**

No, KVSC is not requiring students or staff to have a COVID vaccine to attend school. Per Indiana Code KVSC must follow the [Indiana 2021-2022 required school immunizations](#). The COVID vaccine is NOT listed in the document.

**10. Does the Kankakee Valley School Corporation custodial staff clean and disinfect high touched areas?**

Yes, Targeted cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched hard, non-porous surfaces, such as counters, tabletops, stair rails, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, drinking fountains, and any other surfaces that are visibly necessary.

Hand sanitizer will be available near most exterior doors, all classrooms, and all buses. Students and families will be provided with best practices for hygiene during the school day and upon arriving at home.

Hand sanitizer is available before and after the use of the lunch finger scanners at the middle school and high school.

**11. What are the IDOH Directions being followed?**

- [https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/21\\_Decision%20Trees\\_7-26.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/21_Decision%20Trees_7-26.pdf)
- [https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/21\\_Decision%20Tree\\_School%20Quarantine\\_8-31.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/21_Decision%20Tree_School%20Quarantine_8-31.pdf)
- [https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/21\\_WearAMaskStayInSchool\\_8-31.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/21_WearAMaskStayInSchool_8-31.pdf)
- [https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/21\\_Decision%20Trees%208-24.pdf](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/21_Decision%20Trees%208-24.pdf)

**12. What is the difference between the number of people quarantined when wearing a mask and not wearing a mask?**

Below is data collected from confirmed positive cases and identified school-related close contacts from a one-week situation in September. Data from home-tests are not included, only those from clinical tests.

Week of 9/19/21-9/25/21 KVHS was notified of 4 students who tested positive. See Below for the results

Masks On	# of Students that tested Positive	# Quarantined	Masks Off	# of Students that tested Positive	# Quarantined
	4	Actual- 3 students		4	approx- 125 students

### **13. Has KVSC had any situations when quarantined students have tested positive?**

Below is data from September. Overall, we believe that approximately 16 cases have been related to one another in some manner.

#### **COVID DATA for KVMS 2021-2022 (Aug. 23-Sept 3)**

6th Grade- 3 positives, not linked to each other

7th Grade- 15 positives linked to each other

- Some were already quarantined & some tested positive at the same time, but they all had exposure to one or multiple positives.
- 13 students, 1 teacher and 1 substitute teacher.

8th Grade- 3 positives

- 2 students were not directly linked to each other
- 1 student was on both of the other 8th graders quarantine lists

### **14. Why is there a food shortage?**

As school food service programs are returning to normal service and menus, we are facing unprecedented issues with the supply chain that will cause us to alter our posted menus with little to no notice. We are working closely with our distributors and manufacturers to secure both the food and supply items needed to support our program.

While it is our intention to serve the posted menu each day at every school, supply issues will not make this possible throughout the school year until supply chain issues are rectified. We will always attempt to substitute the scheduled menu item with another that is as similar as possible to the extent we are able to do so.

Please know that we will always provide wholesome meals each and every day. We are also doing our best to continue to provide meals to those students who have special dietary needs.

### **15. What is the school corporation doing about mental health of students wearing masks?**

KVSC is prepared to support a wide range of mental health needs at school. This includes recognizing signs of anxiety or distress. Guidance counselors or social workers are available to students and parents in each school. School counselors and social workers provide mental health support while assisting with the social and emotional needs of students during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **16. What is the COVID Hotline number?**

The COVID-19 hotline number is 219-987-8815. As a reminder, we ask families to please notify the school nurse or hotline when they have decided to test their student or when they have received results from a COVID-19 test.