

July 27, 2020

Jasper County Health Department

Through meetings with the superintendents of the schools, Commissioner Culp and myself plans for school reopening have been reviewed. All parties have worked diligently to make schools as safe as possible for return. In light of Governor Holcomb's guidelines from July 22 and for the protection of all involved (including the lower grade teachers and students) masks will be required for ALL students and staff. Everyone entering the building will need to wear a mask. Masks have been shown to be safe and effective starting at age two. Masks will be required on buses as well. Please go to your school's website for more information on the plan. If, for any reason, your child is unable to comply with the mask mandate, you will need to consider e-learning options. Our goal is to educate our students in a safe environment.

We anticipate the start of school we will be at a minimum or moderate (yellow) risk level with a traditional in-school opening. We will be evaluating changes, cases, and recommendations daily.

Please do not send your child to school with a fever. Have your children wear masks before school starts to help them become comfortable with them. It will be particularly difficult on pre-K, K, and 1st graders to learn the culture of mask wearing. Educators will be helping to remind students of proper wear.

Special plans for athletes can be reviewed.

There will be mask breaks for eating while social distancing and through out the day when students can stay six feet apart.

Remember plans will be in flux as we watch the numbers.

Students who exhibit symptoms will be quarantined and sent home. Those with positive tests will follow instruction from their health care providers and the CDC. Contact tracing is presently done through the Indiana State Department of Health. The local health department will work with the school nurses to help notifying close contacts of positive cases.

Again, further information can be found on the school websites.

We will try to get back on track with school safely,

Marianne Nelson, MD
Jasper Counter Health Officer

