

Union School Corporation Re-Opening Strategies 2021-22

Operational Policies and Procedures

General Health and Safety

- At school, masks will be optional for all students and staff.
- Due to federal mandates, all students of public schools are required to wear masks while riding the school bus.
- Students and staff should self-screen each morning before coming to school.
 - If you believe your child may be experiencing symptoms associated with COVID-19, please contact their school office.
 - There are many reasons a child may feel ill that are NOT related to COVID-19.
 - If your child is not feeling well and you have no reason to believe his or her symptoms are related to COVID-19, simply report your child sick and keep him or her home until symptoms are improving, and your child is fever free for 24 hours.

Vaccination

- Everyone 12 years of age and older is now eligible to get a COVID-19 vaccination.
- Vaccination is NOT required for students or staff.

Contact Tracing and Quarantines

- Currently, we will contact trace again this school year and will notify parents if their child has been in close proximity to a positive case of COVID-19 at school.
- Students will no longer be required to quarantine if they are a close contact. Instead, parents will be asked to monitor symptoms of their child. If a student who is a close contact develops symptoms of COVID-19, they may be required to quarantine at that time.
- Students who have a positive COVID-19 test will have to quarantine for 10 days.

Outside Visitors

- Visitors are welcome inside of our school buildings.
 - Masks will be optional for visitors.
 - Visitors must check in at the front office of their child's school before entering the school and comply with the policies of the school when and where visiting is allowed.
 - If you are considering visiting your child(ren)'s school for lunch, you will need to notify his or her school at least one day in advance.
 - Outside food is highly discouraged; you may be asked to eat lunch in an alternative setting if you bring in outside food.
 - Parents wishing to meet with a teacher or principal in-person should schedule an appointment in advance.

Class Parties/ Field Trips/ Convocations

- Class parties can be conducted by teachers. Parents and guardians may be allowed to participate in these in accordance with Board policy, each school's policy, and at the discretion of the principal and teacher. All snacks must be prepackaged.
- Field trips and convocations will resume; they will be approved on a case-by-case basis.

Food Service

- Breakfast and lunch will be free to all students in grades K-12.
 - Extras will continue to be available for purchase

Transportation

- Assigned seating will be enforced.
- Students will NOT be allowed to eat or drink while on the bus.

Illness and Attendance Policies

- Perfect and Excellent Attendance Awards for students will again be discontinued for the 2021-2022 school year.
- COVID-19-related absences will be counted as excused.

Water Availability

- Students can bring see-through water bottles to school, filled.
- Hands-free water filling stations are available to refill water bottles.

Cleaning

- Routines will continue to be in place to ensure regular cleaning of our school buildings.

Extracurricular Activities

- Extracurricular participation and attendance policies will be based upon guidance from the CDC, state and local health departments, Governor Holcomb's office, Indiana's Department of Education, and current conditions within our local schools.
 - We anticipate all extra-curricular activities will be in action for all students across the corporation.
 - Additionally, we anticipate being able to offer full capacity for spectators at extracurricular events.

Academic Policies and Procedures

In-Person School Days

As a school corporation, we intend to conduct school in-person throughout the duration of the 2021-2022 school year and to operate on our traditional start and end times. Elementary schools will operate from 8:00 a.m. to 2:50 p.m., and secondary schools will operate from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Assuming we are able to consistently conduct school in-person and do not need to make modifications to our start and end times, the guidelines below will be in place for in-person school days.

- In most cases, daily instruction will not be available to students in our online learning platform. Teachers will have discretion in regard to how much or how little they utilize this learning platform.
- Virtual instruction will still be an option this year for those wanting a 100% online option, but will only be offered through our INDLS partner schools. In order to insure consistency, students who opt for the virtual platform will not be able to transfer back in building until a quarter break (grades K-8) or semester break(grades 9-12).

We will begin offering a free latchkey program in the afternoon for students in grades K-6. Students who choose to participate in this program will need to be picked up no later than 6:00 p.m. to avoid any financial penalties. There will be no latchkey program before school. Full-day Latchkey will be offered on scheduled eLearning days as determined by our school calendar.