



# *Return to In-Person Instruction Plans*

*IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19*

**Updated: August 20, 2021**

**January 12, 2022**

**August 10, 2022**

**January 11, 2023**

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## Introduction

The Nettle Creek School Corporation shall be subject to all appropriate rules and regulations of the State of Indiana, the Department of Education, State and local health departments, and any Executive Orders signed by the Governor. In addition, all stakeholders within the Corporation are subject to such rules and procedures as may be promulgated by the Nettle Creek School Corporation's Board of School Trustees and the corporation's administrative staff.

This plan will serve as a living document that we will adjust as our circumstances change. We will continuously monitor local and regional COVID data, collaborate with other area schools and our local health department, and will adjust our plan accordingly.

# Social Distancing and COVID-19 Safeguards

## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

It is currently (January 11, 2023) recommended for staff and students to wear masks while attending class and/or school functions. We will continue to follow the guidelines and requirements of the state and local health department and other officials regarding PPE.

Masks are available for all employees.

Individuals who refuse to wear an appropriate face-covering assume the risk of possibly coming into contact with the airborne virus. If mask-wearing is required these individuals may be asked to leave the property.

## Student Drop-Off and Pick-Up

During a pandemic, any type of gathering increases the risk of individuals becoming infected. Although we will return to some of our past practices, we will work to establish a protocol to limit contact and risk to our staff and students.

## Guests and Visitors

The Corporation has the right to limit visitors to the buildings. If you plan to visit the buildings, please contact the building before your visit. We will monitor the local situation and adapt as needed.

Individuals, including parents and guardians, will need to receive permission before entering the main learning area of the buildings. Anyone entering the building must check-in at the main entrance area of each building. This area will have a health station including disposable masks and a hand sanitizer dispenser.

Law enforcement officers and first responders are welcome at any time to ensure the safety and security of students and staff.

## Deliveries, Mail, and Package Handling

As much as possible, packages will be delivered to a table at the main entrance of each school building. All items being delivered to a school building shall be handled by only adults; at no time should a student be asked to sort mail, deliver a package to a teacher, or shuttle items to students or from teachers.

# Screening and Reporting of COVID-19 Cases

## Reporting Requirements for COVID-19 Cases

If a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the school community occurs, the Corporation will follow the pre-established protocols including reporting the case to the Wayne County Health Department and the Indiana Department of Education.

## COVID-19 Testing Policy

The Corporation will not be providing COVID-19 tests for individuals. Individuals are responsible to schedule and pay for such testing if deemed necessary.

## Daily Screening Before Entry

Individuals (staff and students) are strongly encouraged to complete a COVID-19 self-screen each day before entering buildings. This includes a temperature check and determines if you have any of the common COVID-19 symptoms. More detailed information can be found in the Referral Screening During Day section, and training is available through the IDOE training portal.

## Referral Screening During Day

Any individuals who have a temperature of 100.5 degrees or higher, or answer “Yes” to the standard questions will be immediately moved to a quarantine area for further safety procedures.

Standard questions shall include:

1. Have you been coughing during the past day?
2. Have you had a sore throat during the past day?
3. Have you had shortness of breath during the past day?
4. Have you been around someone during the past day you know has COVID-19?
5. Has anyone in your household had the virus?

Proper documentation of individuals screened for COVID-19 must be documented by the school nurse. This could take the form of a paper and pencil chart or electronic means.

## Random Screening

The Corporation may take the temperature of students, staff, and visitors on school property on a random basis or in situations where there is reason to believe that the person may be ill. Touch-free thermometers will be used for this screening.

## Exclusion from School/Return to School

Students and staff shall be excluded from school if they test positive for COVID-19 or exhibit one or more of the symptoms of COVID-19. Indiana statute gives public school districts the authority to exclude students who have a contagious disease such as COVID-19 or are liable to transmit it after exposure (IC 20-34-3-9).

Once a student or employee is excluded from the school environment, they may return if they satisfy the recommendations of the CDC or local health department. This includes requiring the individual to remain at home for a minimum of 72 hours before returning to school.

## Actions Regarding Confirmed COVID-19 on Campus

Should there be a single confirmed case of COVID-19 in a school building, that building (or Corporation) will follow the guidance of the Wayne County Health Department (WCHD). Guidance from the WCHD and IHSAA will be used to determine athletic participation.

# Calendars and Schedules

## Proposed Amended Calendar

The 2022-2023 Corporation Calendar may be adjusted to ensure that all Federal, State, DOE, and CDC guidelines are followed. A copy of the corporation calendar can be found on the corporation website.

## Teaching Preparation

Teachers will prepare for in-person instruction only.

# Classroom and Teacher Considerations

The goal of the Nettle Creek School Corporation is to return to pre-COVID practices for curriculum writing, assessment, professional development, and staff evaluation.

## Individual Teacher Classroom Setup

Our hope at the Nettle Creek School Corporation is that we will be able to return to collaborative practices that allow students to share learning space. However, we also may have to consider COVID protocols. We will work with the Wayne County Health Department to determine if:

1. Student personal items (coats, hats, lunch boxes, etc.) must be kept separate.
2. Lockers will be used.
3. Sharing stations will be used.
4. All desks should be sanitized at least once a day.
5. Students will be allowed to share items (balls, paintbrushes, computers) without them first being sanitized.

## Restroom, Hygiene, and Hydration Facilities

All drinking fountains within the Corporation will be turned back on and restrooms will be utilized as normal. Filling stations can be used as needed. Students should be encouraged to bring their water bottles.

## High-Risk Individuals

Both students and staff who are in a high-risk category will have the right to ask for accommodations that will decrease the risk of contracting the illness.

If students have a medical plan overseen by a medical provider that will prevent them from returning to school, the corporation will work with the families to set up a 504 or medical intervention plan that addresses the needs of the students.

# Transportation Considerations

The school bus is often the student's first contact with the school in the morning and the last point of contact in the afternoon. Thus, the Nettle Creek School Corporation shall pay particular attention to protocols used in student transportation to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and protect both students and employees.

## Preparation, Cleaning, and Safeguards

1. Inspect all buses and transport vehicles for cleanliness and safety.
2. Employees may wear masks. Consideration should be given to whether additional PPE is necessary concerning cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing.
3. Physical barriers between the driver and passengers shall not be allowed as it violates Federal Transportation guidelines.

## Social Distancing and Bus Capacity

The Nettle Creek School Corporation understands the importance of school transportation for many families. With the limited space on school buses, we understand that social distancing will not be possible. It is recommended that during school bus transportation, all occupants wear masks. Students will be assigned seats and will be spread out as much as physically possible.