North Newton's Path to Re-Entry (Revised 9-28-21)

The North Newton School Corporation understands that a return to instruction in some form or fashion is what is best for our students. Additionally, our first priority is the safety and health of our students and staff during this COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, this plan helps to reinforce specific provisions and considerations that have been, and continue to be undertaken to help ensure that the health and safety needs of our staff and students are addressed to the best of our ability.

Over the past twelve months, much has been learned about COVID-19 and our abilities to pivot in many areas to keep school open and running. All staff should be commended on their adherence to guidelines, in reinforcing protective measures and following the North Newton Path to Re-Entry.

Administrators in the district have been quite adept and skilled in quarantining students and staff, conducing testing, contact tracing and doing everything within their power to keep school open. These lessons learned will serve us well as we look to return for the 2021-2022 school year.
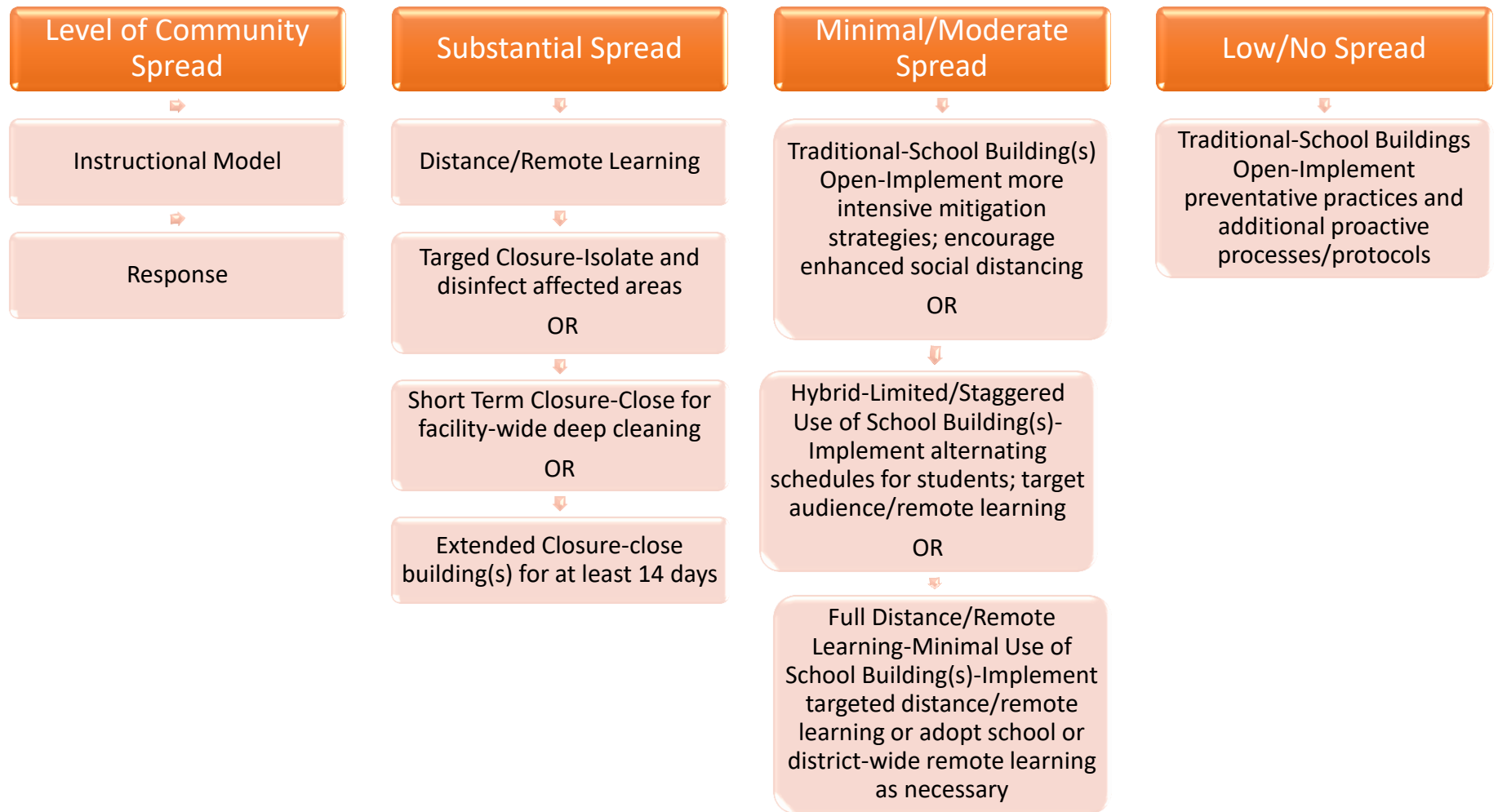
Based upon parent and staff feedback, and information received from Governor Eric Holcomb, CDC guidelines and recommendations, and the Newton County Health Department, the North Newton School Corporation will continue in-person instruction as scheduled starting Friday, August 13, 2021 with increased precautions in place PENDING Low/No Spread of the COVID-19 disease. Should infections in our county, area or state increase, we will proceed to the second phase of our plan as noted for minimal/moderate spread. Information from state and local experts will continue to be the driving force behind all decisions to conduct school and the models that are utilized.

It is recommended to the North Newton School Board of Trustees, that all students K-12 return to all in-person instruction and no Virtual Learning to be offered.

The Indiana Department of Health has recently given schools latitude to implement mask requirements which allow close contacts of positive individuals to monitor for symptoms if everyone is masked (9-3-21 ISHD guidance).   To avoid significant numbers of students and staff to quarantine, North Newton will implement the following:

If a building reaches 1% positive for COVID-19, masks will be required for everyone (vaccinated and un-vaccinated) in the building for at least 30 days from the last documented positive case that required contact tracing. Close contacts within 3 feet of positive case will be notified to

monitor for symptoms for 14 days. If symptoms develop, individuals will isolate and get tested, whether fully vaccinated or not. Applies to the classroom setting only. Does not apply to high-risk activities such as lunch, band, choir or extra-curriculars (ISHD 9-3-21).

Level of Community Spread	Substantial Spread	Minimal/Moderate Spread	Low/No Spread
Instructional Model	Distance/Remote Learning	Traditional-School Building(s) Open-Implement more intensive mitigation strategies; encourage enhanced social distancing OR	Traditional-School Buildings Open-Implement preventative practices and additional proactive processes/protocols
Response	Targed Closure-Isolate and disinfect affected areas OR	Hybrid-Limited/Staggered Use of School Building(s)-Implement alternating schedules for students; target audience/remote learning OR	
	Short Term Closure-Close for facility-wide deep cleaning OR	Full Distance/Remote Learning-Minimal Use of School Building(s)-Implement targeted distance/remote learning or adopt school or district-wide remote learning as necessary	
	Extended Closure-close building(s) for at least 14 days		

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Level of Community Spread (as determined by state and local health officials)	Substantial Spread RECOMMENDATIONS	Minimal/Moderate Spread RECOMMENDATIONS	Low/No Spread RECOMMENDATIONS
Practicing Prevention	**District/School Considerations:** • Use social media and other communications to inform parents, students, and staff about COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures, good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols • Encourage COVID-19 testing CDC Guidance • How to Protect Yourself and Others • COVID-19 Symptoms • COVID-19 and Children • Communication Tools CDC COVID-19 Self-Checker	**District/School Considerations:** • Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as handwashing, covering coughs, and face coverings • Provide hand soap and hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, paper towels, and no-touch trash cans in all bathrooms, classrooms, and frequently trafficked areas • Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread. COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols. • Clean/disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least daily and shared objects after each use • Provide masks and other appropriate PPE to staff • Allow students and staff to bring hand sanitizer and face masks/coverings to use from home • Take steps to ensure all water systems and features are safe • Turn off water fountains and provide	**District/School Considerations:** • Students and employees encouraged to self-screen before coming to school. • Students and employees exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 without being otherwise explained, are prohibited from coming to school, sent home immediately if they do so, according to ISDH guidelines • Students and employees should remain home if someone in the household has COVID-19 symptoms or is being tested for COVID-19. • Temperatures may be taken on random basis or in situations where there is reason to believe the person may be ill. • Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as handwashing, covering coughs, and face coverings • Provide hand soap and hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, paper towels, and no-touch trash cans in all bathrooms, classrooms, and frequently trafficked areas • Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread. COVID-19 symptoms,

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		water dispensers or allow students and staff to bring water bottles from home • Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible, as long as this does not pose a safety or health risk to students or staff • Conduct deep cleaning of schools prior to students/staff returning; schedule additional cleanings during weekends or school holidays/breaks CDC Guidance • [Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Schools](#) • [Guidance for Reopening Buildings After Prolonged Shutdown](#)	preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols. • Clean/disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least daily and shared objects after each use • Allow students and staff to bring hand sanitizer and face masks/coverings to use from home • Require students and staff to wear masks (exceptions lunch, band, choir and extra-curricular) when the building positivity rate reaches 1% positive COVID for 30 days • Take steps to ensure all water systems and features are safe • Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible, as long as this does not pose a safety or health risk to students or staff • Conduct deep cleaning of schools prior to students/staff returning; schedule periodic cleanings during weekends or school holidays/breaks (to the extent practicable) • Use of water fountains continues to be monitored, provide water dispensers and allow students and staff to bring water bottles from home • Students and staff should use paper towels to turn off/on water CDC Guidance

			• [Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Schools](#) • [Guidance for Reopening Buildings After Prolonged Shutdown](#)

| **Transporting Students** | **School buildings are closed**; School buses used to provide WIFI access points in community for ELearning | **District/School Considerations:**
• Provide hand sanitizer for students and bus drivers
• Require students and staff to wear masks (exceptions lunch, band, choir and extra curricular) when the building positivity rate reaches 1% positive COVID for 30 days
• Screen students and bus drivers for symptoms of illness and utilize spaced seating (to the extent practicable)
• Scrutinize field trips and outings
• Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces on the bus at least daily
• Minimize congregation of children from different households by staggered dismissal and loading
• Students from same family sit together to greatest extent possible
• Students sit in assigned seats
• Students sit in same seats on morning and afternoon routes | **District/School Considerations:**
• Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as:
  o Masks are required on all buses (federal mandate)
    o Providing hand sanitizer for students and bus drivers
    o Masks are required on all buses (federal mandate)
    o Reviewing/limiting field trips as necessary (to areas of increased transmission)
    o Inspecting buses prior to students returning and as part of a regular rotation
    o Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces on the bus at least daily
    o Airing out buses when not in use
    o Students assigned to seats
    o Students sit in same seats on morning and afternoon routes
    o Students from same family sit together to greatest extent possible |
| **Entering School Buildings[3]** | **School buildings are closed**; only *essential staff* report in-person to carry out functions that are *absolutely necessary*. | **District/School Considerations:**
• Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread. COVID-19 symptoms, | **District/School Considerations:**
• Enforce standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as: |

District/School Considerations: • Remain vigilant and purposeful as they determine roles, responsibilities, and reporting requirements for staff, refraining from blanket reporting requirements • Leverage virtual tools and platforms wherever possible to conduct essential business and keep in-person reporting to an absolute minimum during school closures	preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols. • Follow protocol for students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms when they come to school • Mark spaced lines to enter the building and designate entrance and exit flow paths • Screen students and staff (to the extent practicable): 　○ Take temperatures ideally before entering buildings 　○ Isolate and send home if internal temperature over 100.4°F (38°C) 　○ Consider safety and privacy concerns (confidentiality should be maintained) 　○ Establish a protocol for visitors: calling front office before entering, screening visitors, requesting use of face coverings/masks, etc. Restrict nonessential visitors and volunteers. • Establish a protocol for student pick/drop up: staggered entry and release (by grade, class, or bus numbers), marked spacing for pickup	○ Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff ○ Limit unnecessary congregations of students and staff ○ Schedule restroom breaks to avoid overcrowding when possible ○ Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread. COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols ○ Adhere to protocol for students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms when they come to school ○ Adhere to protocol for visitors: calling front office before entering, screening visitors, requesting use of face coverings/masks if required, visitors evaluated when entering building classrooms, eating lunch with children, etc. American Health Care Association • [COVID-19 Screening Checklist for Visitors](#) Society for Human Resources Management (SHRM) • [Coronavirus Warning Poster for Entrances](#)

Serving Meals	**School buildings are closed.**	**District/School Considerations:**	**District/School Considerations:**
	District/School Considerations: • Grab and Go Meals may be available, depending on the federal government guidelines and permissions • If Grab and Go Meals are allowable, a survey will be disseminated for parents to sign up	• Encourage and carve out time for student hand washing before and after meal service • Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff • Use disposable utensils, etc. • Mark spaced lines to enter the cafeteria and serving lines (to the extent practicable); designate entrances and exit flow paths; stagger use • Conduct cleaning of cafeterias and high-touch surfaces throughout the school day • Students sit at 50% capacity at lunch tables when possible, tables spaced out throughout the lunch room. • Consider placing tables outside on nice weather days for students to eat outside	Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as: o Providing hand sanitizer for students and staff o Require students and staff to wear masks (exceptions lunch, band, choir and extra-curricular) when the building positivity rate reaches 1% positive COVID for 30 days o Conducting cleaning of cafeterias and high-touch surfaces throughout the school day o Stagger use and disinfect between use o Prohibit food sharing o Classroom party items should be commercially prepared and prepackaged o Lunch tables spaced out throughout the lunch room, students spaced out when possible o Consider placing tables outside on nice weather days for students to eat outside

		District/School Considerations:	District/School Considerations:

Transitioning	**School buildings are closed.**	• Limit mixing between groups (to the extent practicable)
		• For class changes and other transitions throughout the school day:
		   o Provide additional time for transitions (utilizing state seat time waiver to extend transition period)
		   o Designate areas of the hallway (i.e. lanes) as flow paths to keep students separated students to minimize congregation of students
		   o Plan staggered class (ex: by hall, odd/even room numbers, grade/ discipline) changes to decrease number of students in hallways at one time
		   o Have the same group of students stay with the same staff (all day for young children and as much as feasible for older children)
			• Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as:
			   o Require students and staff to wear masks (exceptions lunch, band, choir and extra-curricular) when the building positivity rate reaches 1% positive COVID for 30 days
			   o Encourage social distancing to greatest extent possible
			   o Conducting cleaning of hallways and high-touch surfaces throughout the school day

		District/School Considerations:	District/School Considerations:

Conducting Large Group Gatherings	**School building are closed.** Abide by the maximum number of people allowed to congregate as defined by the Governor's current statewide Executive Order	• Abide by the maximum number of people allowed to congregate as defined by the Governor's current statewide Executive Order
		• Discourage the congregation of students in parking lots, hallways, and common areas
		• Stagger the schedule for large group
			• Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as:
			   o Providing hand sanitizer for students and staff
			   o Require students and staff to wear masks (exceptions lunch, band, choir and extra-curricular)

		gatherings (i.e. recess and school meals) • Identify and utilize large spaces (i.e. gymnasiums, auditoriums, outside spaces – as weather permits) for social distancing	when the building positivity rate reaches 1% positive COVID for 30 days ○ Limiting unnecessary congregations of students and staff ○ Continued review regarding use of assemblies, large gatherings; increased space between participants
Supporting Teaching and Learning	**School buildings are closed.** **District/School Considerations:** • Implement a robust Distance Learning Plan • Distribute printed instructional packets/ materials and district/school communications along with meals; designate and communicate collection/drop off points Resources • Educator's Guide to Safe and Effective Video Conferencing (Education Week)	**District/School Considerations:** • Survey families to gauge which students may want to conduct their schooling virtually for the 2020-2021 school year Traditional Instructional Model • Use the master schedule to balance class numbers as much as possible – remove unused desks and furniture in classrooms; maximize social distancing (to the extent practicable) • Limit physical interaction through partner or group work • Establish distance between the teacher's desk/board and students' desks • Identify and utilize large spaces (i.e. gymnasiums, auditoriums, outside spaces – as weather permits) for social distancing	**District/School Considerations:** • Practicing social distancing to the greatest extent possible given parameters • Increase space between students during in-person instruction when practical • Frequent and regularly scheduled restroom breaks which allow for frequent hand washing are stressed • Rearrange desks to increase space between students when practical • Require assigned seats as needed • Evaluate activities that combine classes or grade levels • Require students and staff to wear masks (exceptions lunch, band, choir and extra-curricular) when the building positivity rate reaches 1% positive COVID for 30 days • Visitors to classroom monitored for

		Hybrid Instructional Models	symptoms

		• *Hybrid models should only be implemented if absolutely necessary and after factoring in additional logistical requirements/costs as well as childcare requirements placed on working families and unnecessary burden on staff.*	• Students maintain own school supplies to greatest extent possible, minimize sharing of high touch materials
			• Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as:
			o Providing hand sanitizer for students and staff
			o Conducting cleaning of classrooms and high-touch surfaces each day
			• Establish an academic baseline:
			o Administer formative assessments toward the start of the school year
			  o Conduct meetings with teachers to identify where students are academically
			• Discuss the shared experience:
			o
			    o Helping Children Cope with Changes
			    o Talking to Children about COVID-19
			    o Teaching Through a Pandemic

| Supporting Teaching and Learning *(cont.)* | Professional Learning for Teachers

American School Counselor Association •
  School Counseling During COVID-19: Online Lessons and Resources

School Library Media Specialists
  · School Media Specialists Can Help During Crisis (School Library Journal)
  · https://www.doe.in.gov/covid-19/resources | • *daily routines and social interactions to address their individual learning needs.*
A/B schedules
  • *Alternating Days:* students would be divided into 2 groups, likely geographically. Groups would alternate face-to-face and virtual instruction during the week.
  • *Alternating Weeks*: Group A Students – Week 1 and Group B Students Week 2;
    o *Half Days:* AM/PM

Targeted Distance/Remote Learning
  o *Elementary Face-to-Face with Secondary Distance Learning:* Prioritize 6-12 or 9-12 for continuous distance learning while other students have access to face-to face instruction

  • | · Target interventions and supports:
 o Provide additional instructional supports to:
   ✦ students at-risk of not graduating on time
   ✦ students with disabilities
   ✦ students who struggled in the prior distance/remote learning environment (i.e. early grades, English Learners, etc.)
   ✦ other students identified as being behind academically by teachers and parents.
   o Identify essential concepts/skills grade levels and provide access to enrichment (fine arts, music, world language, computer science, AP/IB, dual enrollment, physical education/play, STEM/STEAM, etc.)
 · Address learning loss:
   o Provide extended learning opportunities through before/after school programs, Saturday school, etc.
 • Review/refine the digital learning plan
 • Integrate virtual learning practices:
   ✦ digitizing lessons
   ✦ requiring a certain number of online assignments for each grading period |

			o Provide virtual learning-specific professional learning for educators: ✦ Making the Shift to Online Teaching and Learning ✦ Supporting Students with Disabilities Online Return to School • Roadmap for School Operations and Instruction

| **Protecting Vulnerable Populations[1]**

[1] *Vulnerable Populations -- Elderly individuals and/or individuals with serious underlying health conditions, including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune system is compromised such as by chemotherapy for cancer and other conditions requiring such therapy.* | **School buildings are closed.**

District/School Considerations:
• Employ additional nurses, health care aides, and fulltime substitute employees

Society for Human Resources Management (SHRM)
• Employment FAQ
• What to Do When Scared Workers Don't Report to Work Due to COVID-19
• Where can I find government and other reliable resources for workplace issues related to the coronavirus?

National Association of School Nurses
• Role of school nurses, providing care, and participating in return to school planning | **District/School Considerations:**
• Survey at-risk staff members to gauge their intentions in returning to work while maintaining confidentiality consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other applicable federal and state privacy laws
• Survey families with vulnerable children to gauge their intentions in returning to a traditional school setting while maintaining confidentiality consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other applicable federal and state privacy laws
• Provide remote/distance learning opportunities for vulnerable student populations in consultation with parents and public health officials
• Adhere to FERPA and HIPPA requirements
• Adhere to state and federal employment law and extended leave allowances | **District/School Considerations:**
• Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as:
  o Maintain a point-of-contact with the local health department
  o Identify local COVID-19 testing sites; provide BinaxNOW testing when needed and necessary
  o Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff
  o Provide PPE to vulnerable students and staff as appropriate
  o Allow vulnerable students and staff to wear PPE throughout the school day (to the extent practicable)
  o Establish a process for regular check-ins with vulnerable students and staff |

When a Child, Staff Member, or Visitor Becomes Sick at School	**District/School Considerations:**	School administrators, school nurses, and other healthcare providers to identify an isolation room or area to separate anyone who exhibits COVID-like symptoms, while they are waiting for pickup. The room needs to be disinfected frequently and restricted to authorized staff/students.

- Establish procedures for safely transporting anyone who is sick home or to a healthcare facility.

- Notify local health officials, staff, and families immediately of a possible case while maintaining confidentiality consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other applicable federal and state privacy laws.

- Close off areas used by a sick person and do not use before cleaning and disinfection.

  - Advise sick staff members and children not to return until they have met state DPH criteria to discontinue home isolation Inform those who have had close contact to a person diagnosed with COVID-19 to stay home and follow state DPH guidance if symptoms develop. If a person does not have symptoms, follow appropriate state DPH guidance for home quarantine.

CDC Guidance

Symptoms of Coronavirus
What Healthcare Personnel Should Know About Caring for Patients with Confirmed or Possible COVID-19 Infection
Standard Precautions
Transmission-based Precautions

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Faculty and Staff Support	**District and School Considerations**:
	o Faculty and Staff are encouraged to update contact information, verify the health and safety of employee and employee families
	o Contact Karen Zackfia, Director of Business regarding applicable leaves of absence
	o Absence reasons will be tracked through Final Forms and AESOP. Staff will be asked to respond on leave requests if they experience any of the following: fever and/or chills, shortness of breath, cough, fatigue, muscle aches, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, nausea, vomiting. Student symptoms will be tracked through Final Forms. By tracking symptoms, we will be able to assist with contract tracing should someone be confirmed to have contracted COVID-19.
	o Superintendent and/or Lana Wynn will notify the Newton County Health Dept. to report positive cases and to the IDOE. This is accomplished through the ISDH portal for tracking purposes.
	o Continued training on symptoms of COVID-19, prevention techniques and district/school procedures
	o Continued training of custodial and maintenance staff on effective methods of cleaning and disinfecting work and play areas and the time schedules for cleaning.
	o Continue to monitor whole staff gatherings/meetings, social distancing, wear masks, break down into smaller groups when possible
	o Vendors continue to be monitored entering building
	o Hand sanitizer and masks are plentiful at each building. Teachers and staff should talk with their building custodian to secure supplies.
Exclusion from School and Return to School	**District and School Considerations:**
	o Students and employees should be excluded from school if they test positive for COVID-19 or exhibit one or more of the symptoms of COVID-19 based on CDC Guidance that is not otherwise explained (fever or 100.4 degrees F or greater; cough; shortness of breath or difficulty breathing; chills; repeated shaking with chills; muscle pain; headache; sore throat; new loss of taste or smell)
	o Once excluded, they may return if they satisfy the recommendations of the CDC and ISDH
Instructional Model and Flexibility	**District and School Consideration**
	⊖ In-Person attendance to commence on first instructional day, August 13, 2021
	o You will note that in the event of a documented positive case, short-term closure may be appropriate. Schools and local health departments are encouraged to keep schools open and operating as much as possible. The CDC Decision Tree has the school

	closing for potentially two- five days so the local health department or the Indiana State Department of Health can engage with your team to recommend further testing, cleaning, etc.; however, this health/medical review may be done on the same day as a positive case to reduce school closure time. (Per IDOE IN-CLASS document) o The district will follow all ISHD and Governor Holcomb's executive orders. Require students and staff to wear masks (exceptions lunch, band, choir and extra-curricular) when the building positivity rate reaches 1% positive COVID for 30 days.
Notice Concerning Changes	**District and School Considerations:** o *As information becomes updated by the Governor's Office, the Indiana Department of Health, the Newton County Health Department, the Indiana Department of Education and other experts, these considerations will change to reflect the guidance. The plan created here is being put in place with the best information available at the current time.* *10-12-21*