

Tell City-Troy Township School Corporation

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Many people have questions regarding the COVID-19 quarantines that are taking place. This document will hopefully shed some light on the process.

STEP 1: A positive student is identified by the department of health, parent, or doctor. We receive a notification similar to this:

STUDENT NAME- grade X- Is COVID POSITIVE.

The symptom onset date was 11/05/1955.

The contagious start date is 11/03/1955.

The student was in school on 11/03,11/04, 11/05.

He has a back to normal date of 11/30/1955.

STEP 2: The schools are directed by the Governor to contact trace in the classrooms, lunchroom, bus, practice, and after school programs. This mandate was provided by Governor Holcomb in the Executive Order released on July 29.

The Indiana Department of Health, pursuant to Ind. Code § 16-41-2-1 and 410 Ind. Admin. Code § 1-2.5-79, has issued measures to control COVID-19. The measures require institutions and congregate care facilities, including K-12 educational institutions, post-secondary facilities, long-term care facilities, jails, prisons, childcare, and other congregate settings to report all known positive COVID-19 cases in a manner prescribed by the Indiana Department of Health. This reporting measure is also required by Commissioner Order # CO 21-01. The control measures further require investigation and contact tracing as well as appropriate isolation of those who test positive for COVID-19 and quarantining of close contacts. The control measures are found at: <https://www.in.gov/health/erc/files/COVID-19-Control-Measures-under-410-IAC-1.pdf>.

5. No Limitation on Authority

Nothing in this Executive Order shall, in any way, alter or modify any existing legal authority allowing the State, any local health department, or any other proper entity from ordering: (a) any quarantine or isolation that may require an individual to remain inside a particular residential property or medical facility for a limited period of time, including the duration of this public health emergency; or (b) any closure of a specific location for a limited period of time, including the duration of this public health emergency.

6. Local Declarations of Emergency

Pursuant to the Emergency Disaster Law, no local ordinance, directive, or order of any county, political subdivision, or other local government entity pertaining to this public health emergency, may contradict or impose less restrictive requirements than those set forth in this Executive Order, or else that ordinance, directive, or order will be void and of no force or effect. However, unless prohibited by an Executive Order, local ordinances, directives, and orders may be more restrictive provided they comply with Ind. Code §§ 16-20-1-21.5 and 16-

Contact tracing requires the school to identify students within 3 feet of a covid positive individual if all people in the room are masked, The distance becomes 6 feet if even one person, regardless of their position in the room, is unmasked.

STEP 3: As required, we report close contacts to the Local Health Department, who determines a return to school date for those close contacts.

M A R K S M E N

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STEP 4: The school administrators have been reaching out to parents with the above information and notifying people of quarantines and return to school dates. This has been done to help alleviate the stress on the Health Department, and because we know our families. Unfortunately, we are not always able to answer all parent questions.

WHO GETS CONTACT TRACED:

When unmasked: Anyone within a 6 foot radius of the infected individual.
When EVERYONE in a room is masked: Anyone within a 3 foot radius of the infected individual.

What is the “Infectious Window”:

The time when a positive student may be contagious. The Health Department states 2 days prior to the onset of symptoms, so a person who feels bad on Wednesday has an infectious window back to the previous Monday. This makes it difficult to keep the virus out. By the time a person knows they are sick, they might have unknowingly come to school contagious.

What are the options for return:

Currently all schools in Perry County have a 14 day return to school window. This is based on being asymptomatic.

What about the 10 day rule? The CDC does allow asymptomatic people to return in 10 days if they can mask through day 14, and social distance at 6 feet. All schools agreed that this would be difficult/impossible to enforce with fidelity.

What about the 7 day rule? The CDC allows for a return after 7 days IF the person has a negative test on day 7, wears a mask through day 14, and can social distance. The test must be a PCR test (the rapids from Wal-Mart are not accepted).

What if I am Vaccinated:

If you are fully vaccinated (2 weeks past your last injection) and you are exposed to a positive person, you do not need to quarantine per the guidelines we have been given.

If you are *not* 2 weeks past your last injection, you must quarantine the full 14 days per the health department.

If you are vaccinated and become symptomatic, you must quarantine per the Health Department.

What if I already had the virus:

Last school year when a person was confirmed to be positive, they were excluded from Quarantine/contact tracing for 90 days after symptoms subsided. Blood tests that showed antibodies were not used/accepted.

This decision would be made by the Health Department, not the school.

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