

Jennings County School Corporation

COVID Masking Policy Guideline

11/11/21

The Jennings County School Corporation (JCSC) is committed to keeping children in school to learn in a face to face setting. The Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) and the Center for Disease Control is recommending that masks be used in K-12 schools to help maintain the spread of COVID 19, a communicable disease. According to IC 16-41-2, COVID-19 is a communicable disease and schools must/are required to identify any close contacts who are within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes and not wearing a mask. These close contacts are required to quarantine for 14 days or for 10 days with extra precautions for days 11-14. Schools are also required by Indiana Code to report data to the IDOH each week.

The IDOH and governor released guidance that if students are masked, if they are identified as a close contact, the students will not need to quarantine unless they are symptomatic. By wearing a mask in school, students are able to stay in school and learn face to face with their teachers, if they are not positive for COVID 19. JCSC is now providing rapid COVID tests for symptomatic students at the JCEC building by appointment. Students who are negative with the rapid test may return to school once COVID-19 symptoms resolve. JCSC continues to monitor the Indiana Department of Health data weekly. At this time, the JCSC board has determined that masking will follow the community spread levels in Jennings County, which are released each Wednesday by the IDOH.

When the IDOH dashboard indicates that the Jennings County community spread is at the **orange** or **red** levels, masks will be required in the JCSC schools. Our goal is to keep our students in school learning in person and reduce the students identified as close contacts.

When the Jennings County community spread reaches the **yellow** or **blue** levels according to the IDOH dashboard, indicating that community spread is relatively low, masks will not be required indoors in our schools.