

# COVID 19 POLICIES REVIEW

2021-2022 School Year

January 2022 Update

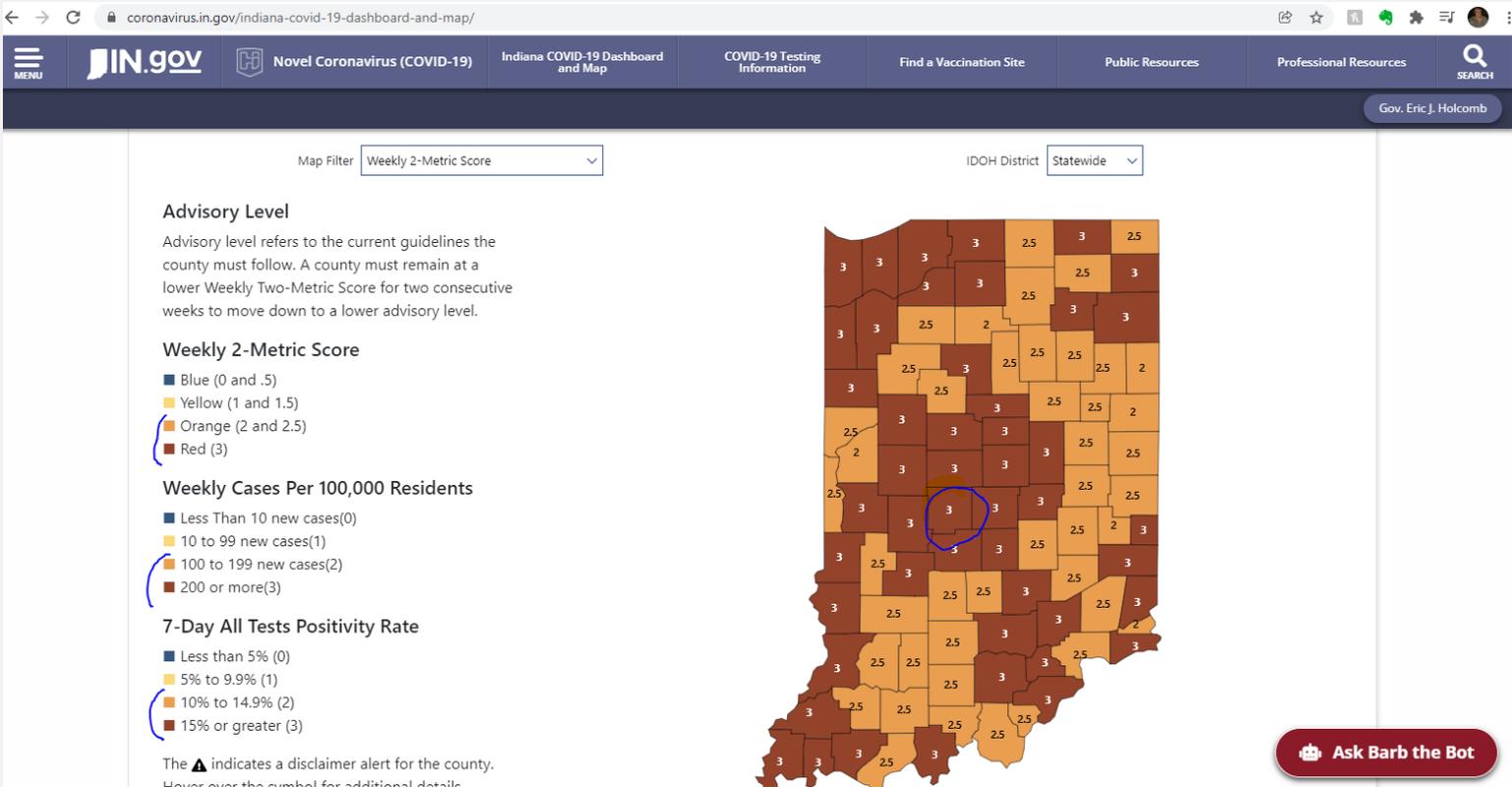
# MITIGATION AND CONTROL

- Mitigation
  - Mitigation refers to measures recommended by state and local health departments
  - Mitigation measures are most effective when several are employed at once
  - Masking, social distancing, hand washing, etc. are all examples of mitigation strategies
- Control Measures
  - Control measures are required by state and local health departments
  - All schools, public and private, are legally required to comply with control measures
  - Reporting cases, contact tracing positive cases, and following quarantine rules are required.

## YEAR ROUND MITIGATION STRATEGIES AT SAINT SUSANNA

- We encourage students to bring refillable water bottles to avoid use of water fountains. We provide disposable cups to students who have forgotten their water bottles.
- Our teachers align their seating charts in the classrooms with lunch and specials seating so as to limit close contacts to as few as possible.
- We have continued to social distance students in the lunch room by utilizing the gym for lunch and spreading the tables out as much as possible.
- We have not had group activities such as assemblies, book buddies, or mixed age Kaizens to limit contact between grade levels. We have allowed some grade levels to mix at outside recess to provide important opportunities for social growth in a low risk setting.
- We provide enhanced cleaning to classrooms with positive cases.

# COMMUNITY DEPENDENT MITIGATION STRATEGIES AT SAINT SUSANNA



- Each Wednesday, I consult the Indiana Novel Coronavirus Dashboard and see where Hendricks County is on the 2-Metric Score Scale.
- When Hendricks County is red or orange (extremely high community spread), students and staff wear masks at all times indoors, excluding lunch and physical education class.
- When Hendricks County is blue or yellow (low to minimal community spread), students and staff may opt to wear masks indoors.

# DIFFERENCES IN CONTROL MEASURES DEPENDING ON MASK POLICIES

*Our mission at Saint Susanna is “to provide a Christ-centered, quality education that prepares and inspires its student to excel as they progress in their scholastic careers.” In order to be true to our mission, we must be dedicated to providing in-person schooling as much as possible given the circumstances created by COVID-19.*

## Consistent Mask Policy

- A consistent mask policy is when all students and staff must be masked indoors except when eating and engaging in physical education class.
- When the county is **orange or red**, positive cases within the school building are inevitable due to the prevalence of infection in the community.
- With a consistent mask policy, the state allows us to contact trace within 3-feet in the classroom and 6-feet at lunch. (see IDOH diagram at the end of the slideshow)
- Contact tracing in these circumstances usually results in 0-3 quarantines per positive case.

## Optional Mask Policy

- When the county is **blue or yellow**, the chances of positive cases within the school building are much lower.
- With an optional mask policy, the state requires us to contact trace at 6-feet throughout the school day.
- Contact tracing in these circumstances usually results in 6-8 quarantines per positive case.

# CONTACT TRACING

Contact tracing has three components: reporting, assessment, and notification of quarantines

1. A parent reports a positive case in their household
2. A case assessment is conducted. Factors considered in contact tracing include:
  - Student presence at school for two days before symptoms began and/or a positive test as collected, where they sit in the classroom and at lunch, how the classroom is arranged as well as specials classes attended
  - Interviews with positive case parents and/or teacher as necessary
  - Determination of applicable quarantine periods
3. Notification of quarantines:
  - Initial student and close contacts are notified by phone and email of applicable quarantine periods based on all assessed factors
  - Affected Homerooms are notified by email
  - Affected teachers are notified so they can ready absent / remote work
  - Ms. Brown creates and sends health department letters to all affected individuals
  - Mrs. Abdoulaye reports positive cases and close contacts to the state and Office of Catholic Schools databases

# SAMPLE CLOSE CONTACT SCENARIOS

**Case #1:** A student was a close contact to a family member with whom they live.

If ISOLATION of positive family member is possible, the student will quarantine from school for 10 days after the last contact. The student must be masked at all times and isolated from other students at lunch for an additional four days.

If isolation of positive family member is NOT possible, the student will quarantine for 20 days (10 days from the start of the family member's symptoms and then a 10 day quarantine of their own after last exposure). The student must be masked at all times and isolated from other students at lunch for an additional four days.

**Case #2:** A student was a close contact to a positive case outside of the school.

The student will quarantine for 10 days past the last contact with the positive person. The student must be masked at all times and isolated from other students at lunch for an additional four days.

*Quarantine Exceptions for Vaccinated Individuals:*

*Students and staff who are fully vaccinated (2 shots, plus a booster, if eligible) are notified of close contact status but are not required to quarantine unless they begin to exhibit symptoms.*

**Case #3:** A student was a close contact to a positive case inside of the school.

The student will quarantine for 10 days past the last contact with the positive person. The student must be masked at all times and isolated from other students at lunch for an additional four days.

--OR--

The student may return to the classroom with a negative PCR test between days 5 and 7. We can also accept a rapid test completed here at school, if we have them available. The student must be masked at all times and isolated from other students at lunch for additional days to complete a 14 day period.

# WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

Masks will become optional when...

1. The surge of current cases is over and Hendricks County's numbers improve.
2. The Governor or public health officials rescind the guidance that allows for contact tracing at 3-feet in the classrooms when masked. At this point, there would be no benefit or reduction in the number of quarantines.
3. The health departments stop requiring contact tracing of positive COVID cases in schools.

Questions about anything I have covered today? Please feel free to contact Janet Abdoulaye or Father Rob at any time.

# COVID-19 School Quarantine Guidance

When all are masked in a K-12 school environment



## Note:

**Applies to the** classroom setting only. Does not apply to high-risk activities such as lunch, band, choir or extra-curriculars.