

West Lafayette Community School Corporation

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COVID Message

February 22, 2022

Dear WLCSC students, families, teachers, and staff,

As we have said in all of our previous communications related to COVID-19, the exceptional community teamwork has allowed us to continue to have in person school, sports, and activities safely. The exceptional teamwork includes the efforts of students, teachers, and staff at school but also parents and students supporting and following our mask and infection control measures. While the past two years have been incredibly challenging for everyone, we are grateful for all that our community has done and will continue to do to keep each other healthy and pursuing educational and extracurricular excellence.

We have continued to work with our internal leadership and the input from our state and local health departments to adjust our COVID-19 responses. Most recently, the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) released updated guidance for public schools, specifically relating to contact tracing, quarantines, and masks. WLCSC will make the following changes to our current COVID-19 policies and procedures to align with the state's newest recommendations.

Contact and Quarantine Tracing Updates Effective Wednesday February 23:

● **West Lafayette Community School Corporation will no longer contact trace or quarantine for COVID-19 exposures. The IDOH School Dashboard will be discontinued. Schools are no longer required to report positive cases to the IDOH; however, we would still ask that students, parents, teachers, and staff report positive cases to our school nurses so we can monitor positives internally.** Anyone who is currently quarantining for exposure may return to school immediately regardless of vaccine status.

● **COVID-19 positive individuals are still expected to isolate at home and follow the most recent guidelines from the CDC which is currently to isolate at home for 5 days from onset of symptoms or day of positive test if no symptoms and then may return to school and extracurricular activities but must wear a mask for the 5 days after isolation (10 days total = 5 days isolation and 5 days mask) regardless of vaccine status.** Families need to continue to work with the school nurses or office staff if COVID-19 positive to plan to return to school. Anyone who is currently isolating for COVID-19 infection needs to remain out of school until those first 5 days are up.

● WLCSC still encourages and needs our families and community to work together to prevent the spread of illness. Individuals with fever or other symptoms are expected to stay home until fever-free for a 24-hour period (without the use of fever-reducing medications) and until symptoms are resolving.

- In following IDOH guidelines, WLCSC will seek guidance from the Local Health Department and our school nurses and doctors if we become aware of cluster cases within classrooms or groups, or if our rate of absenteeism reaches 10% for COVID-like illness.
- The Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) will continue to provide “return to play” guidelines for student-athletes in grades 6-12.
- **WLCSC will monitor data as we implement these guidelines. We will consult with our nurses and doctors the week of February 28 and, if the trend remains consistent, will move to mask optional in one week beginning on Wednesday March 2.**
- **WLCSC continues to strongly recommend masking for those students and adults who feel more comfortable masking.**

Bus Transportation Updates:

- **Masks are still required on bus transportation, per Federal mandate.**
- We will communicate with our families and community when/if this mandate is adjusted.

In many ways, these updated recommendations return our school buildings to a much-needed pre-pandemic normal, and we very much hope infection rates allow us to continue. Although COVID-19 is not going away, we have vaccines, tools, and therapies available today to allow us to operate with fewer limitations. We also have our great community teamwork that continues to help us succeed. Our vaccination rates within our students are well over the national averages.

Among our schools, kids that are fully immunized with two doses are:

- 59% WLES
- 62% WLIS
- 64% WLJSHS

If you have questions about the new IDOH recommendations for schools, you may view the latest guidance on our website or contact your school office.

Sincerely,

Shawn Greiner, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Anne Marie Bianculli, MD
Chester Ho, MD

West Lafayette Community School Corporation

