



# **2021-2022 MSD of Pike Township COVID-19 Mitigation Plan**



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COVID-19 has impacted our school community in many ways. We continue to learn more about the virus on a regular basis based on research and data. Decisions in the 2021-2022 COVID-19 Mitigation Plan were made with the most recent information available from the Center for Disease Control, Indiana State Health Department, and Marion County Public Health Department. **Adjustments may be necessary.** No single action or set of actions will completely eliminate the risk of COVID-19 transmission, but implementation of several coordinated interventions can greatly reduce that risk.

## **Athletics**

### [2021-2022 COVID-19 Athletic Mitigation Plan](#)

#### **Classroom Spaces**

- Students' desks are arranged when possible so that students are 3-6 feet away from each other.
- Teachers are encouraged to face students in the same direction and create procedures for moving within the classroom.
- Desk shields are available for teachers. Desk shields are also available for students upon parental request.
- Teachers maintain classroom-seating charts.

#### [COVID-19 Symptom Screening](#)

- All unvaccinated staff and students (parents) are expected to be aware of and self-screen daily.
- Quarantines may be necessary due to illness or exposure for unvaccinated individuals that have not tested positive for COVID 19 within the past 3 months.
- All staff and students shall be 24 hours fever free and not subject to a quarantine or isolation in order to return to school.
- Staff and student cases of COVID-19 are to be communicated to the school nurse, building administrator, or supervisor.

#### **Disinfecting/Cleaning**

- Schools will offer extended opportunities for adequate handwashing.
- Additional options for the use of hand sanitizer will be available for staff and students.
- High touch common areas will be disinfected throughout the day.
- Student-friendly disinfectant wipes for surfaces will be available in the classroom.
- District-wide cleaning and disinfecting procedures will be implemented in each school facility.
- Staff members who are responsible for cleaning and disinfecting will receive training on specialized equipment and products.
- Staff members will teach and reinforce practices for reducing the risk of COVID-19.
- Teamwork will be encouraged to stay on top of frequently touched areas.
  - Custodians will implement a routine process.

- Students may participate in cleaning their area or items and best practices to reduce risk of infection.
- Teachers will have hand sanitizer available in the classroom. Hand sanitation stations will be located in middle and high school hallways for use during passing periods.
- Cleaning wipes will be available for classrooms where students are eating or have items that are shared, i.e. microscope, computers.
- Pop up tissue boxes
- Students wash hands or use sanitizer when arrive to school
- Specialized machines have been purchased to quickly disinfect areas.
- No wipe disinfectant sprays have been purchased to use after each bus tier and available to schools as needed.
- UV lighting will be available for disinfecting.
- Technology - Wipes may be used on keyboards. Specialized screen wipes are needed for monitors and screens.

## **Face Coverings**

- Non-exempt staff and students are required to have a face covering for in-person instruction.
- Face coverings may be removed under the direction of the teacher for not more than 10 minutes while students are socially distanced at their seats or desk shields are used.
- Masks are not required for outdoor recess while students are active but shall be worn in line and when going in or out of the building.
- Face coverings are required of unvaccinated individuals when social distancing cannot be maintained outdoors.

### Mask Exemption Process

Students and staff wishing to be exempted from wearing a mask must voluntarily provide documentation that demonstrates that they have been vaccinated and/or have tested positive for antibodies. Consistent with Indiana law, proof of immunization status is NOT required in the MSD of Pike Township. The exemption from the mask requirement is purely voluntary and subject to MSD of Pike Township's COVID-19 protocols.

### Face Coverings Include:

- Masks that cover both the nose and mouth
- Cloth covering of nose and mouth

### Exceptions

- Health condition
- Impedes learning
- Unable to remove mask on own
- While eating or drinking
- While playing a musical instrument
- When outside doing active work and social distanced

- PreK or exceptional learners who are unable to use a face covering appropriately
- Any exceptions added by the MCPHD

## **Facility Use**

Groups, organizations, and other guests using MSD of Pike Township facilities must adhere to the following COVID-19 mitigation protocols. Marion County Public Health Department guidelines can be found at [marionhealth.org/homeslider/latest-on-coronavirus/](https://marionhealth.org/homeslider/latest-on-coronavirus/).

- Adhere to the Marion County Public Health Department's attendance, social distancing, and mask guidelines.
- Masks are required for **all** guests or outside groups at indoor events using the MSD of Pike Township facilities in which children are present.

## **Food Service**

- Food service employees will follow district guidance for face coverings while preparing and serving food.
- All students will be permitted to eat in the cafeteria.
- Pre-packaged meal options are available to reduce exposure of the virus. Disposable containers will be of compostable materials when possible to model environmental best practices.
- Chartwells employees will be trained to limit exposure.
- Additional barrels for recycling will be added to each building to recycle plastic water bottles.
- Water stations have been installed for student use.
- Plexiglass barriers will be at each register in the cafeteria.
- All staff members will be trained on food servicing safety practices regarding COVID-19.
- Visual cues for social distancing will be added to each cafeteria.
- Hand sanitizer will be available for students who are unable to wash their hands before entering the cafeteria.
- Meal pick up for MSD of Pike Township Virtual School students will be held at the Pike Freshman Center.
- The Pike High School Red Zone food pantry will continue to be open to provide food resources to families.
- Students will eat in cohorts.
- Student seating charts will be maintained.
- Designated cohort seating areas will be maintained.

## **Health and Safety**

- Each school will have a designated contact person for reporting COVID-19 cases to the MCPHD.
- Students and staff are encouraged to bring full water bottles each day for personal use.
- Students and staff will have available water each day.
- All students and staff must be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school.

- Quarantine of students or staff with symptoms or a positive COVID-19 test will be determined based on the Indiana State Health Department unless otherwise directed by the MCPHD.
- Each school will maintain attendance and quarantine records.
- If symptoms suggest the possibility of COVID-19, an unvaccinated student shall only return with a negative COVID-19 test or following the isolation guidelines.
- Nurses and other health care staff members will receive COVID-19 training for symptoms, contact tracing, and reporting requirements.
- Each school facility will have a school health contact person responsible for:
  - Updating a district-wide reporting document for maintaining COVID-19 exposure, illness, and quarantine records..
  - Monitoring students by family codes in Skyward
  - Principals will be responsible for notifying the Assistant Superintendent regarding each positive case of COVID-19 or exposure
  - Maintaining a school tracking document
  - Following HIPAA regulations
  - Notifying staff and parents when directed by MCPHD
- Water Fountains will be closed except to fill a container
  - Students and staff are encouraged to bring a daily water bottle preferably ambient temperature or in an insulated container to avoid moisture on the desks.
  - Water bottle filling stations are available.
  - Classrooms with sinks can be used for hand washing and refilling of water bottles.
- Each school will have a designated location for students with symptoms of COVID-19 to wait to go home so as to reduce contact with others. The area is to be disinfected prior to using again.
- Quarantine and Isolation Guidelines:  
 Isolation: [\(English\)](#) [\(Spanish\)](#)  
 Quarantine: [\(English\)](#) [\(Spanish\)](#)

## **Learning Opportunities**

### **In Person Learning:**

Students attend face to face when buildings are open.

### **Digital Remote Learning:**

Teachers and students meet remotely should there be a quarantine or closure. Teachers provide real time instruction through Canvas.

**Virtual Learning:**

Online learning in which students participate off campus. "Virtual education program" means a program provided by a school corporation in which more than fifty percent (50%) of instruction, other than instruction for recovery credit courses, to the students participating in the program is provided in an interactive learning environment created through technology in which the student is separated from a teacher by time or space, or both. However, students who will receive 50% or more of their instructional programming provided through virtual/distance/remote learning due to the contingency planning for COVID-19 are not to be reported as "virtual students" on the Corporation's ADM report but instead will be reported as "Virtual due to COVID."

**Schedules:**

Students participating in In-Person/Remote learning will follow a school schedule based on the current conditions of COVID-19. Each grade band has 4 schedules that may be used at any time throughout the 2021-2022 school year. The goal is to have students attend school full time in person, however, there may be conditions in which a different schedule may be necessary to reduce risk.

In the case of shifting to remote learning, students will be placed in Cohort 1 or Cohort 2 based on alphabetical order of last name. When possible, students living in the same household will be in the same Cohort.

Cohort 1 - Students with last names that start with A-J

Cohort 2 - Students with last names that start with K-Z

If necessary, parents/guardians should prepare for any of the four schedule options by determining child care plans in advance.

**Schedule A** = all In-Person/Remote students attend school in person.

**Schedule B** = Students will be placed in 1 of 2 Cohorts to reduce the classroom population size. Teachers will provide instruction everyday of the school calendar either in person or remotely, cohorts will meet with teachers every other day.

**Schedule C** = Students will be assigned in person instruction based on the grade level. This schedule allows the teacher to have the entire class in person while reducing the population of the school.

**Schedule D** = Remote learning,  
Pike Learning Pods available.

Families were asked to make a method of instruction decision no later than Friday, July 9, 2021.

## **Learning Pods (Remote Learners Only)**

Pike Learning Pods provide affordable childcare for Pike Township students enrolled as in-person/remote students as well as students of staff members during remote or hybrid learning.

- Pods are created using a multi-aged cohort group as part of Loving Care.
- Approved by Dr. Caine, Director of the MCPHD for no more than 22 students per classroom.
- Loving Care guidelines for enrollment continue.
- Pods are created using available classroom space across the district.
  - Class size is dependent on the size of the room.
  - Dedicated restrooms are designated for each pod.
- Students participate in remote instruction in a supervised setting.
  - Activities are available during free time.
  - Students may participate in recess.
  - Lunch can be brought from home or purchased through Chartwells.
- Pike Learning Pods do not interact with others inside the facility.
- Cost is \$100 per week per student
- Kindergarten - Learning Pods may be housed at the NJELC if space is available.

## **Loving Care**

- Loving Care will continue to provide childcare options for Pike Township families for a student enrolled in in-person instruction.
- Practices and protocols for the NJELC or elementary schools will be implemented.
- A system for student drop off and pick up will be developed at each site to allow for social distancing.
- If a school building is closed due to COVID-19, the Loving Care site at the building will also be closed.
  - Exceptions may be necessary based on an Executive Order or guidance from the state and county health departments.
- Loving Care will be available for before and after school care.
- Capacity will be based on guidance from the MCPHD.
  - When capacity is reached, a wait list will be created.
  - Additional staff will only be added if there are enough students to create a class.
- Loving Care options will be available for staff members should schools be on an alternating schedule.
- Transportation to child care within busing boundaries will only be available if Loving Care is at capacity.
- NJELC educational program costs \$165 per week

## **Metrics for in Person Instruction**

- The Pike metrics will include % positivity rate and the total number of people tested.
- The Indiana State Health Department data and resources will be used to monitor the percent positive cases.
  - [Indiana COVID-19 Dashboard](#)



- The MSD of Pike Township will consider data from the Indiana State Health Department, the Marion County Public Health Department, and school based data to determine in-person vs. remote learning.

[MSD of Pike Township will follow the Marion County Public Health Department's Guidance for Re-opening School](#)

## **Opening of School Guidelines**

- Students enrolled in the MSD of Pike Township will begin on August 3, 2021.
- School will operate on the pre-established calendar for 2021-2022. Updated Breaks:
  - Fall Break - October 18-22
  - Thanksgiving Break - November 22-26
- Face coverings are included as part of school uniform expectations with the exception of those meeting mask exemption guidelines. Masks are required for all guests.
- All teacher lounges must be closed unless all that enter are vaccinated.
- The status of in-person instruction will be monitored weekly.
- Schedules will be established for multiple scenarios that may be needed during the school year.
- The use of outdoor space is encouraged when possible.
- Students and staff should avoid petting therapy dogs to reduce the risk of virus transmission, when reasonable. Hand washing or sanitation should occur after interactions.
- Visual social distancing markers will be added to areas in the school where a line might form, i.e. office, cafeteria.
- Media Center protocols will be established for student and staff usage.
- In-Person/Remote Learning and Virtual School learning will follow the same calendars.
- Virtual instruction for elementary students will be live. Virtual instruction for middle and high school students will utilize Edmentum, which follows Indiana Standards.
- Enrollment decisions will be a semester-long commitment. A change may be requested for the second semester.
  - Semester 1: August 3-December 16, 2021
  - Semester 2 : January 3-May 24, 2022
- Calendar or schedule adjustments may be necessary based on information from national, state and/or local officials.
- Closures may be necessary due to exposure of COVID-19 to positive individuals.
- Students will stay together as a cohort as much as possible.
- Teachers will monitor virtual and/or remote computer access.
- Mentors may continue to support robotics and the academic curriculum.
- Dismissal times will be staggered for car riders.
- Not all courses are available for virtual school options, i.e. Career Center courses requiring hands-on practice.
- Teachers will maintain seating charts for each class period.
- Parent/guardian questions can be directed to the school or through the:
  - Pike hotline number - 317-387- 2222

- Pike hotline e-mail - [phtimeline@pike.k12.in.us](mailto:phtimeline@pike.k12.in.us)

## Resources

- [American Academy of Pediatrics Recommendations](#)
- [Harvard School of Public Health Recommendations](#)
- [CDC Guidance, COVID-19 K-12 Schools and Child Care Programs](#)
- [Indiana State Department of Health Resources](#)
- [State of Indiana COVID-19 Decision Tree](#)
- [CDC Handwashing Posters](#)

## Study/Field Trips

- Study trips will be limited to locations in which Marion County Public Health Department guidelines are met.
  - Athletic and performing arts competitions are not considered field trips.

## Transportation

- Buses will operate beginning the first day of school. In order to maintain social distance and limit required quarantining of unvaccinated students, parents/guardians are encouraged to drive their students to school who are not vaccinated.
- Students, bus drivers, bus monitors, and other staff are required to wear face coverings while riding on buses in compliance with Marion County Public Health Department guidelines.
- Bus drivers will provide hand sanitizer when students enter the bus prior to sitting.
- Students are to sit in assigned seats.
- Buses will be disinfected on a regular rotation.
- When feasible, windows will be open on buses for cross ventilation.
- Students are expected to ride the same bus both to and from school.
  - Elementary students riding the same bus in both directions allow for single bus cohorts.
  - Exceptions to current child care practices only if the Loving Care program is at capacity or for guardianship location.

## Virtual School

Virtual instruction for elementary students will be live. Middle school and high school options will utilize Edmentum, which follows Indiana Standards. [What does a virtual classroom look like?](#)

## Visitors

- Visitors will be limited to approved volunteers, special events (such as choir performances in which case Marion County Public Health Department social distancing guidelines will be followed), and Oasis tutors. Parents/guardians and other guests are not permitted to visit for the purpose of eating lunch. Masks are required for all guests.