2020-2021 Rising Sun-Ohio County Community Schools

Return to Learn

This document is an ever-changing document and changes are expected

We are excited to welcome back students to schools on August 3, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there are many changes in procedures in response to guidelines from local and state health officials, Indiana Department of Education IN-CLASS document, American Academy of Pediatrics guidance, and Center for Disease Control guidelines. We will continue to collaborate, share information, and review plans with the Ohio County Health Department and Dr. Walcott to help protect the whole school community, including those with special health needs. This plan is designed to complement other community mitigation strategies to protect high-risk populations, the community's healthcare system, and minimize disruption to teaching and learning while protecting students and staff from social stigma and discrimination.

This plan could change depending on <u>current statistics for Ohio County</u> and guidance from the Ohio County Health Department. Indiana has adopted a new platform that will provide guidance to school districts on when to close certain activities and/or school.

Our decision to recommend all students come back to school in person derives from the American Academy of Pediatrics reasoning with which we concur with:

The AAP strongly advocates that all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school. The importance of in-person learning is well-documented, and there is already evidence of the negative impacts on children because of school closures in the spring of 2020. Lengthy time away from school and associated interruption of supportive services often results in social isolation, making it difficult for schools to identify and address important learning deficits as well as child and adolescent physical or sexual abuse, substance use, depression, and suicidal ideation. This, in turn, places children and adolescents at considerable risk of morbidity, and in some cases, mortality. Beyond the educational impact and social impact of school closures, there has been substantial impact on food security and physical activity for children and families. (COVID Planning Considerations, para. 3)

Additionally, Dr. Box, Indiana's lead health expert stated "I firmly believe that the best thing for our students is to get them back into the classroom, even if that is in a modified form. We need to do this, not just for their educational development, but also for their physical, their social, and their mental well-being."

However, we do understand that some students need an online learning option due to personal health concerns and/or relatives with compromised health conditions. Rising Sun-Ohio County Schools will offer a virtual learning option for these students. A description of the different learning options are as follows:

Traditional Instruction	Virtual Learning	eLearning
 Face to Face Instruction 5 days per week 8:00 a.m3:00 p.m. Practice social distancing RSHS dual credit opportunities K-12 Spanish instruction Extracurricular activities SCC opportunities 	 Learning from home MS & HS=Indiana Virtual Academy K-5=Edmentum 5 days per week No dual credit opportunities Spanish instruction only available at HS Extracurricular activities SCC opportunities (Must ride RSHS bus) Students must commit to a semester of virtual learning 	 Learning from home Only used in case of a school closure Less rigorous 4 hours per day Mostly review material Instruction from Rising Sun classroom teacher Dual credit opportunities No extracurricular activities No SCC opportunities Virtual learning students will continue virtual learning through provider

Risk Mitigation Approach

- Conduct self-screening (prevent sick students and staff from attending school)
- Provide learning options
- Promote hygiene (handwashing)
- Increase cleaning (disinfect surfaces)
- Keep kids in cohort groups as much as possible (support tracing)
- Maximize distance (as feasible)
- Avoid large groups (where possible)
- Allow masks (support those who do)

Health Protocols

This protocol has been devised in accordance with the <u>county specific data</u> from the Indiana State Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control <u>guidelines</u>, and in collaboration with Dr. Walcott, Ohio County Health Officer, the Ohio County Health Department, and Rising Sun-Ohio County School Corporation.

Overview of Health Protocols

- Based on Indiana law (IC 20-34-3-9) the school district has the authority to exclude a student or employee from school at any time. A student or employee can also be ordered to quarantine or isolate based on the guidelines from this document. Additionally, Indiana law (IC 16-41-9-1.6) provides the local health department the authority to exclude students from school and may order students and others to isolate or quarantine.
- Each morning, employees will prescreen including a temperature check prior to attending school. Parents are encouraged to complete this same daily routine with their child(ren). Employees and staff observing symptoms as outlined in this document should not attend school and are advised to seek medical advice. Also, students and employees should refrain from attending school and/or school events if they have direct contact with person that has tested positive for Covid-19.
- 3. Students and employees living in the same household with someone that has tested positive for Covid-19 need to call or text the school's phone dedicated to Covid-19 and may not return to school until results are obtained. The number to report Covid-19 cases to is 812-577-7140. This number is only to be used to report COVID-19 testing and results. Texts that are not related to testing and results will not be answered.
- 4. Based on the Indiana State Department of Health <u>guidance</u> and Indiana Department of Education's <u>IN-CLASS document</u>, each building will have a room designated for students or staff members that are experiencing any of the symptoms listed below. While in the COVID room, students and staff may be required to wear a mask at the discretion of the employee caring for the student. Based on the school nurse or designee's evaluation of the symptoms, the student or staff member may be required to have a negative COVID-19 test prior to re-entry into the school. A covid-19 test requirement from the school does not indicate that the student or staff member has COVID-19.
- If symptoms of Covid-19 are present, the student must be picked up within 60 minutes of the time the parent was contacted. Students and employees required to be tested must submit the original test results from the laboratory/facility that performed the test either by fax at 812-438-2456 or delivery to the office of the building that the student attends or employee works.

Symptoms Impacting Consideration for Covid-19 Testing and Exclusion from School

- Fever over 100.4 degrees F or greater
- Cough
- Shortness of Breath or Difficulty Breathing
- Chills
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore Throat
- New loss of taste or smell

RETURN TO SCHOOL GUIDELINES AFTER EXCLUSION

Student/Staff required by a school health personnel to receive a COVID-19 test are:

- Required to get a COVID-19 test completed within 24 hours of exclusion from school. Testing can be completed at a free testing site included on the <u>test site list</u>, by your primary care physician, or in an emergency room or urgent care setting. Testing will **NOT** be done at school.
- Excluded from school for 48 consecutive hours fever free (without medication), improving symptoms, and a negative test result.

Student/Staff with positive test and symptoms (<u>Symptomatic</u>) will be:

- Required to submit the original results from the laboratory/facility that performed the test prior to return.
- Excluded for a minimum of 10 calendar days from the day of the first symptom AND must be fever free (without medication) for 48 consecutive hours with improving symptoms.

Student/Staff with positive test and NO symptoms (<u>Asymptomatic</u>) will be:

- Required to submit the original results from the laboratory/facility that performed the test prior to return.
- Excluded for a minimum of 10 calendar days.
- If student/staff develops symptoms in those 10 calendar days, refer to the guidelines above for an individual positive for Covid-19 with symptoms.

Student/Staff that has been required by school health personnel to test that refuses to obtain a test within 24 hours will be:

- Excluded for a minimum of 14 calendar days.
- If student/staff does not have symptoms but develops symptoms of Covid-19, he/she will be excluded for 10 calendar days from the first day of symptoms and until fever free (without medication) for 48 consecutive hours.

Student/staff with temperature greater than 100.4 degrees who are not suspected of having Covid-19 will be:

• Excluded from school and must be fever free (without medication) for a minimum of 48 hours to return.

Positive Covid-19 cases in your student's classroom

- Classroom will be deep cleaned and disinfected immediately when student/staff is identified.
- The Positive case's name will be provided to the Ohio County Health Department. A representative from that entity will contact the individual. At this time, the COVID positive individual will explain all close contacts (6 feet or closer for 15 minutes or longer) during the contagious phase. These close contacts will be called and ordered to quarantine for 14 days and monitor symptoms.
- In middle school and high school, the first period class will be monitored with temperature checks for the next 5 calendar days.

Approved Test Options

- Primary Care Physician
- Emergency room or Urgent care
- <u>Free Test Sites</u> (list included, on school website, or refer to Indiana State Department of Health Website)
- NOTE: The school and the Ohio County Health Department will not test for Covid-19

Extra-Curricular Activities and Sports

- Above guidelines apply to all school sponsored activities.
- If a test is required, and a test is not obtained within 24 hours (including all activities that take place on school breaks), the student/staff will be excluded from all ECA/sports for a minimum of 14 calendar days.

Absences from School

- Parents are required to contact the office of the school their child attends to report all absences on the day of the absence.
- If a student/staff member is ill, the parent/staff will be asked about symptoms related to Covid-19.
- Follow-up calls and evaluations will be made by school staff for anyone with suspected Covid-19 symptoms.
- In the event of an undocumented absence of a student, the Student Resource Officer will contact the parent on the following day.

Suspected Covid-19 Contact

If a student/staff (1) has had recent contact with a person positive for Covid-19, (2) lives in the same household with a person confirmed as positive for Covid-19, or (3) has recently traveled to an area with

increased cases of Covid-19, the district and/or the Ohio County Health Department may exclude that person and require testing and/or quarantine for 14 calendar days. Cases will be handled on a case by case basis in collaboration between the school and the health department.

Positive Covid-19 Cases and School Closure (eLearning)

• School closures will be handled on a case by case basis at the discretion of the school administration and the Ohio County Health Department.

Attendance

The easiest and safest way to lower the spread of Covid-19 is for sick students and staff to stay home. In turn, our attendance policy for both buildings will be modified for the 2020-2021 school year.

Attendance policies have been modified to allow for extended absences for any student who is COVID-19 positive, exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, or has been in contact with someone COVID-19 positive. Students will be excused with no discipline for these types of absences. Guardians will need to call into the building office that their child attends to explain the reason for the absence. A series of questions will be asked to the guardian for better contact tracing of the student population.

The following charts will provide an overview of our plan for different areas of the school day.

Addressing Community Spread in Ohio County		
Low to No Spread	Moderate Spread	Substantial Spread
 Low to few known active and confirmed cases at school buildings Establish and maintain communication with the Ohio County Health Department Deep clean buildings and buses with a concentration of areas of possible exposure PPE is provided for students and staff, but not mandated (strongly recommended). Staff will wear PPE in hallways Students and staff are self- screened each day prior to attending school A room will be designated in each building for students that have COVID symptoms 	 Moderate active exposure cases at school buildings Same as low to no spread and: Re-evaluate the need to move lunches into the classroom Deep clean buildings and buses with a concentration of areas of possible exposure PPE is provided to students and staff, but only mandated for both in hallways and buses 	 COVID-19 spread is such that school closure is evaluated by OCHD and RSOCS Administration Same as moderate spread and: Substantial active exposure of cases or absences impacting school building attendance and staffing PPE is mandated all day for students and staff unless a signed parent permission to not wear PPE

Protective Measures		
Low to No Spread	Moderate Spread	Substantial Spread
 All staff and students self-screen before starting the day Masks are recommended but not mandated Teach and reinforce good hygiene practices like hand washing, covering coughs, etc. Signs are posted throughout the building about how to minimize the spread, how to wash hands, and staying home when you are sick Hands are washed/sanitized at the start of school, prior to eating, after using the restroom, after blowing nose, coughing, or sneezing, and after using shared equipment Playground-small recess groups, and cleaning between groups Seating charts are maintained on a weekly basis at the minimum Students are kept in cohort groups in grades PreK-8th Assigned restrooms per 		Substantial Spread • Work with the Ohio County Health Department to determine if closing school is necessary
at HS Smaller class sizes (when possible) 		
 Minimize the use of shared supplies 		

 Water fountains will be turned off. Students will use water bottles and the water bottle filling stations. UV lights installed in large capacity HVAC units to lower the likelihood of airborne 	
likelihood of airbornetransmission.Clorox sanitation	
machine used in classrooms daily	

Transporting Students		
Low to No Spread	Moderate Spread	Substantial Spread
 Parents are recommended to transport their child(ren) to and from school Students will sit in grade level cohorts Students will use hand sanitizer when entering the building in the morning and when leaving the building in the afternoon Masks are not mandatory, but highly recommended Athletic teams and HS band will be assigned one bus for use throughout the whole season (as possible) Buses will be sanitized after every route 	 Same as transporting students in low to moderate spread and: Students will have assigned seats as much as possible Re-evaluate the mask policy Buses will be deep cleaned and sanitized after every route. 	 Same as transporting students in moderate spread and: If school is still open, buses will operate at 50% capacity. Midbuses will be in use and routes modified. Students will have assigned seats. Masks are mandatory for students and staff. Students not willing to wear a mask will be transported by the guardian.

Serving Meals		
Low to No Spread	Moderate Spread	Substantial Spread
 All students and staff wash hands prior to breakfast and lunch Hand sanitizer is provided for students and staff Additional lunch periods to allow for social distancing during lunch Scan cards used in place of keypads Cafeteria is cleaned between each meal No self-service available Food should not be shared Students go in small groups to dispose of trash Food service staff wear masks as they prepare and serve food 	 Same as serving meals in low to no spread Use disposable utensils, plates, etc. (when possible) Consider serving meals in the classroom Consider serving pre- packaged "Grab and Go" meals 	 If school is still in session, same as serving meals in moderate spread Pre-packaged "Grab and Go" will be eaten in the classrooms If school is closed, meals will be delivered one day to reduce contact per week 5 breakfasts and 5 lunches All staff in masks

Special Education		
Low to No Spread	Moderate Spread	Substantial Spread
 Case conferences will be conducted virtually to align with the district's pursuit of limiting visitors during the school day unless unique circumstances require in-person meetings Services continue as in student's IEP 	 Same as special education in low to no spread 	 Same as special education in moderate spread

Visitors

Visitors will be limited throughout the entire school year during school hours.

- Visitors will be met in the building vestibule by a staff member and not permitted into the office area or building unless an absolute necessity.
- Visitors will be allowed into the building only in situations that positively affect the student's social and emotional health

ORVC Summer 2020

Athletic Participation Guidelines

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ALL SPORTS

- All summer activity is completely VOLUNTARY. Any student-athlete, or parent of a student-athlete who does not feel that it is in their best interest to participate is free to exclude themselves from any and all workouts, practices, etc. Voluntary participation will serve as assumption of risk and agreement that the school will not be held responsible for any illnesses that may occur.
- 2. Any coach or student-athlete experiencing any symptoms related to COVID-19 will not be allowed to return to participation until he/she is completely symptom free for 72 hours without medication, or can show proof of a negative COVID-19 test, or a medical release from a medical provider. We are consulting CDC guidelines and are aware that these are changing as this virus evolves and will continue to monitor and update as needed.
- Prior to participation, all first-time student athletes are required to have an IHSAA Pre-Participation Physical for the upcoming school year. Returning student-athletes are not required to obtain a new physical but must provide the 2020-21 IHSAA Health History Questionnaire and Consent & Release.
- All athletes and parents will be required to sign the ORVC Summer 2020 Athletics Assurance Form stating that they will self-monitor the athlete's health each day prior to sending the athlete to the school for workouts. This self-monitoring will include

checking for fever and any symptoms of illness. If the athlete has a fever higher than 100.3 or is experiencing any symptoms of illness, the parent agrees that the athlete will not attend workouts that day and will not return until they have met the requirements of #2 above.

- 5. Any student-athlete noticing a rash on anybody surface needs to report it immediately to their coach and seek medical attention either from the athletic trainer and/or physician before returning to practice/play.
- 6. According to IDOE guidelines, between July 6 and July 19, student-athletes are limited to 15 total hours per week on campus including conditioning and sport-specific activities.
- 7. Between July 6 and July 19, no sport may have more than two activity days per calendar week and those activities may not occur on consecutive days. Contact sports may have <u>NO CONTACT</u> activities during phase 1.
- 8. The use of locker rooms will be strictly prohibited. Student-athletes should come dressed in the necessary attire for their practice or workout and take all clothing items and personal equipment home with them to be washed before returning.
- 9. Bathroom usage will be restricted to specific locations on each school's campus and they will be thoroughly cleaned each day that usage occurs.
- 10. Each student-athlete shall bring their own water bottle and towel, clearly marked with their name, for use. Bottles may be refilled at designated fountains on campus that will be cleaned daily.
- 11. Coaches will be responsible for sanitizing any/all equipment used during a given practice or workout, especially equipment that is shared such as footballs, volleyballs, basketballs, handheld pads, etc.
- 12. Coaches will be responsible for the cleaning of any facility that requires it before and after a practice or workout occurs (i.e. weight room, wrestling mats, gym floor, etc.).

- 13. ORVC schools will follow all IHSAA guidelines regarding hosting or traveling to other schools for informal scrimmages and competitions during Phase 2.
- 14. All facility usage, both indoor and outdoor, must be approved and scheduled in advance with school administration.
- 15. Only essential student athletes, student participants, coaches, medical staff, related supervisors, directors, and security should be in attendance.

SPORT SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

CROSS COUNTRY

All Phases: July 6th - Start of Season

- Practice times determined by the Athletic Director.
- Signed **ORVC Assurance Forms** and **IHSAA Pre-Participation Physical** or **IHSAA Health History Update Questionnaire** will be mandatory for all student-athletes prior to participation.
- Coaches and student-athletes shall always attempt to maintain a minimum of six feet of separation from each other.
- All practices and workouts shall be completed outside. In the event of inclement weather, practices and workouts may be conducted in the gym if proper social distancing and all other general guidelines for indoor activity are met. There will be no running or entry into the school/classroom hallways.
- Coaches and student-athletes are to not engage in any other social activities before or after each practice.

SOCCER

Phase 1: July 6th - July 18th

- Practice times to be determined by the Athletic Director.
- Signed ORVC Assurance Forms and IHSAA Pre-Participation Physical or IHSAA Health History Update Questionnaire will be mandatory for all student-athletes prior to participation.
- Coaches and student-athletes shall always attempt to maintain a minimum of six feet of separation from each other.
- Scrimmaging should be used sparingly. Drills shall be conducted individually or in smaller groups to avoid multiple athletes contacting the same soccer ball using hands or heads.
- Breaks from drills or practice will be taken frequently, and shared equipment or soccer balls will be sanitized. Student-athletes should wash/sanitize hands at each break.
- Emphasis will be placed on physical conditioning as well as individual skill development.
- All practices and workouts shall be completed outside. In the event of inclement weather, practices and workouts may be conducted in a gym if proper social distancing and all other guidelines for indoor activity are met.
- Coaches and student-athletes are to not engage in any other social activities before or after each practice or workout.

Phase 2: July 20th - Start of Season

- Practice times to be determined by the Athletic Director.
- Signed ORVC Assurance Forms and IHSAA Pre-Participation Physical or IHSAA Health History Update Questionnaire will be mandatory for all student-athletes prior to participation.
- Coaches and student-athletes shall attempt to maintain a minimum of six feet of separation from each other when not engaged in drills and gameplay
- Scrimmaging and game play are allowed, but emphasis should be placed on stopping gameplay and disinfecting soccer balls that have been touched by the hand or head of student-athletes as often as possible. Student-athletes should also take measures to wash/sanitize hands at those times.

- All practices and workouts shall be completed outside. In the event of inclement weather, practices and workouts may be conducted in a gym if proper social distancing and all other guidelines for indoor activity are met.
- Coaches and student-athletes are to not engage in any other social activities before or after each practice or workout.

BASKETBALL

Phase 1: July 6th - July 18th

- Practice times to be determined by the Athletic Director.
- Signed ORVC Assurance Forms and IHSAA Pre-Participation Physical or IHSAA Health History Update Questionnaire will be mandatory for all student-athletes prior to participation.
- Coaches and student-athletes shall always attempt to maintain a minimum of six feet of separation from each other.
- Scrimmaging should be used sparingly. Drills should be conducted individually or in smaller groups.
- Breaks from drills or practice will be taken frequently, and shared equipment or basketballs will be sanitized. Student-athletes should wash/sanitize hands at each break.
- Emphasis will be placed on physical conditioning as well as individual skill development.
- Coaches and student-athletes are to not engage in any other social activities before or after each practice or workout.

Phase 2: July 20th - July 31st

- Practice times to be determined by Athletic Director
- Signed ORVC Assurance Forms and IHSAA Pre-Participation Physical or IHSAA Health History Update Questionnaire will be mandatory for all student-athletes prior to participation.
- Coaches and student-athletes shall attempt to maintain a minimum of six feet of separation from each other when not engaged in drills and gameplay.
- Scrimmaging and game play will be allowed, but emphasis should be placed on stopping gameplay and disinfecting basketballs and equipment that have been

touched by multiple student-athletes as often as possible. Athletes should also take measures to wash/sanitize hands at those times.

• Coaches and student-athletes are to not engage in any other social activities before or after each practice or workout.

CHEERLEADING

Phase 1: July 6th - July 18th

- Practice times to be determined by the Athletic Director.
- Signed ORVC Assurance Forms and IHSAA Pre-Participation Physical or IHSAA Health History Update Questionnaire will be mandatory for all student-athletes prior to participation.
- Coaches and student-athletes shall always attempt to maintain a minimum of six feet of separation from each other.
- Emphasis will be placed on physical conditioning as well as individual skill.
- No builds or stunting that requires physical touching and no sharing of equipment.
- Practices and workouts may be conducted inside or outside. In the event of inclement weather, practices and workouts may be conducted in a gym if proper social distancing and all other general guidelines for indoor activity are met.
- Coaches and student-athletes are to not engage in any other social activities before or after each practice or workout.

Phase 2: July 20th- Start of Season

- Practice times to be determined by the Athletic Director.
- Signed ORVC Assurance Forms and IHSAA Pre-Participation Physical or IHSAA Health History Update Questionnaire will be mandatory for all student-athletes prior to participation.
- Coaches and student-athletes shall always attempt to maintain a minimum of six feet of separation from each other when not engaged in builds or stunting.
- After builds and stunting, student-athletes should take measures to wash hands, arms, and any other body part that encountered another student-athlete.
- Any equipment used will need to be disinfected immediately after its use.

• Coaches and student-athletes are to not engage in any other social activities before or after each practice or workout.

References

This document was created through a combination of original resources created by Indiana state agencies and plan outlines created by other states. Additionally, development relied heavily on materials developed from the following documents:

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