

Hanover Community School Corporation

H C S C

Making a Difference ... Realizing Potential

# Continuing Covid-19 Response

## Re-Entry Plan Update #3

November 19, 2020



Dear Hanover Community:

It seems almost impossible, but in less than 30 school days, we will complete the first half of the 2020-2021 school year. It has been a difficult year for staff, students and families with many changes that seem to come without preamble and with challenges at every turn.

I am proud of the way we, as a community, have been able to pivot and provide a solid education for all Hanover students, while doing our part to prevent community spread of the Covid-19 virus.

It is important that our parents and community partners know that I am in daily contact with a wide variety of health experts and education leaders. We receive input and information from the Lake County Health Department, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Indiana Department of Education (IDOE), Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) and Superintendents across the region.

Ultimately, decisions regarding procedures put in place and protocols followed are determined by individual school districts. Every school district is unique, and every school within each district is equally unique. Consider the fact that all Hanover schools vary in their ability to maintain safe environments. Our four schools have been built over the course of more than half a century. It is why precautions at each school are unique, pick-up and drop-off procedures vary from school to school, and individual classroom settings determine the required and appropriate implementation of protocols. With that said, there is one common goal, to continue in-person instruction as long as it is safe and feasible to do so and to provide an equally appropriate education for eLearning students.

I have heard from many parents and partners during the process of re-entry and beyond. I am grateful for the words of support and the input that helps me make important decisions on behalf of us all. As of November 17, 2020 the ISDH issued a new graph of possible responses to the rise in Covid-19 positive tests in our region. Our schools are located in a region determined to be in an "orange" zone described as having "moderate to high levels of community spread." It is anticipated we will reach the "red" zone designated as "high levels of community spread" in the near future. Again, the decision to remain open or institute eLearning district wide remains our responsibility at the local level.

The following updates include the important reminder that what happens outside of our school buildings continues to greatly impact what happens within our school buildings. We respectfully request that contact with others outside of your immediate family group be as limited as possible to preserve our ability to continue with in-person instruction.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Mary Tracy-MacAulay, Ed.S.  
Superintendent of Schools  
Hanover Community School Corporation

# Reminders

## Policies in Place With NO Changes

1. Masks will be worn by all students, staff, vendors and visitors when they enter the building.
2. Mask wearing in classrooms will be determined by individual teachers but consistent with Corporation determined guidelines. If students in a classroom can be distanced by six feet or more, teachers may allow the removal of masks.
3. Discipline for violating mask guidelines will be taken and mask mandates enforced.
4. Masks will be worn by staff and students in all common areas, and students will not be allowed to congregate without masks.
5. Masks must be worn during lunch periods until students are seated and ready to begin eating. See updated guidelines regarding masking during recess.
6. Students/families may elect to return to in-person instruction or move to eLearning at each nine-week quarter. Information and formal documentation requirements will be provided to parents/guardians in advance of each nine-week determination period.
7. All students must be masked while riding the bus. **NO EXCEPTIONS**
8. Visitation to the schools by parents/volunteers will be limited and masks will be worn. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
9. All public events are cancelled until further notice.
10. In person and limited sport activities are open to all in-person students. Sports are governed by the IHSSA and all guidelines issued by that organization will be followed. No eLearners will be allowed to participate in sporting practices and/or events (**NO EXCEPTIONS**). If you have any questions regarding sport activities, please visit the Hanover Athletics website at [www.hanovercentralathletics.com](http://www.hanovercentralathletics.com)
11. Sponsors of individual extra-curricular clubs and groups who wish to meet, need to apply to their respective school principals for exemption from the current cancellation policy in place. Principals will forward the request to the Superintendent of Schools with their recommendation. The Superintendent will make the final decision on a case by case basis. The Superintendent's decision will be final. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
12. If parents notice their child is struggling with emotional/social issues they are encouraged to contact the Guidance Department at their student(s) school.

**CHANGES MAYBE MADE TO THESE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AT ANY TIME.**

# Procedure and Information Updates

Release Date 11-18-20

1. During recess staff may determine whether or not masks need to be worn, or if students congregating need to be separated.
2. A Covid Dashboard is maintained and published on our website at [www.hanover.k12.in.us](http://www.hanover.k12.in.us) and updated on Fridays. Please note, these statistics reflect only those positive cases and students/staff quarantined as a result of in-school contact. They do not include cases/quarantines as a result of exposure outside of Hanover schools.
3. Parents/Guardians are responsible for providing case/quarantine information to the school regarding their student(s) and are not to send students to school who are either ill, or are self quarantining.
4. The determination of individual students regarding potential Covid-19 cases based on exhibited symptoms' lies solely with the school nurse. Parents and the Lake County Health Department will be notified immediately and students will be quarantined at the school until they are picked up. Parents are urged to pick up their student(s) as quickly as possible.
5. Parents will only be notified if their student(s) meet the criteria for potential exposure defined as a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more within 6 feet. NO identifying information will be shared and mass notifications will NOT be made.
6. Hanover School staff follow the guidelines issued by DHS which defines school staff as "essential workers." A staff member may/may not report to work if he/she is asymptomatic. However, the decision to report is determined by the affected staff member. Each staff member has the responsibility to measure their situation and determine if he/she should report.
7. The next 9 week period for changing instructional models will begin on November 30th and end on December 4th. A district wide notification will be sent to parents/guardians no later than November 23rd. The next quarter/semester begins on January 7th immediately following Christmas break.
8. As we approach winter and it's accompanying weather challenges, parents will be notified of school closures based on weather and/or Covid-19 closures via our district wide "Alert" system. Information will also be posted to the corporation and school websites, as well as our Facebook pages. NOW is the time to review your Power School contact information. If there has been a change to your email and/or phone contact information, please notify the building secretary at your respective school(s).
9. If you have any questions specific to your student(s) school and Covid-19 policies/procedures, please contact the building Principal. Contact Information can be found on each school website under the Parent/Community tab at the top of the page.

**THIS INFORMATION IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT ANY TIME**

# PRE-K-12 RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON LEVEL OF COMMUNITY SPREAD

This information is designed to help local officials make decisions about school operations based on the level of COVID-19 in their counties. Schools may remain open to in-person instruction at all levels as conditions permit. Decisions should be made in consultation with local health officials in accordance with all current local and state guidelines.

	BLUE (minimal community spread)	YELLOW (moderate community spread)	ORANGE (moderate to high community spread)	RED (high community spread)
<b>PRE K-12 RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools may operate all grades in-person taking all proper precautions including maximizing social distancing, focus on hand hygiene, and masks.*</li> <li>Limit activities where social distancing is not feasible.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools may continue all grades in-person but should be vigilant in taking all proper precautions including maximizing social distancing, focus on hand hygiene, and masks.**</li> <li>No assemblies or activities where social distancing is not feasible.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools may continue in-person instruction, especially in grades K-8, but decisions should be made in consultation with local health officials and include consideration of the ability to maintain social distancing, enforce hand hygiene and wearing of masks.</li> <li>No assemblies or large group activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools may continue in-person instruction, especially in grades K-8, but decisions should be made in consultation with local health officials and include consideration of the ability to maintain social distancing, enforce hand hygiene and wearing of masks.</li> <li>Schools may consider hybrid instruction for high school students in consultation with local health officials.</li> </ul>
<b>SCHOOL RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extracurricular activities to follow state and local event gathering guidelines with social distancing and masks except when doing strenuous activity.</li> <li>Limit spectators in accordance with state and local guidelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be vigilant about precautions for extracurricular activities and postpone or cancel activities as warranted.</li> <li>Athletic and extracurricular activities should consider permitting parents/guardians and close family only.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attendance at winter indoor K-12 extracurricular activities and co-curricular activities is limited to 25 percent capacity, in consultation with local health departments.</li> <li>All non-competing and non-performing participants required to wear face coverings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attendance at winter K-12 extracurricular and co-curricular activities is limited to participants, support personnel and parents/guardians, in consultation with local health officials.</li> <li>All non-competing and non-performing participants must wear face coverings.</li> </ul>
<b>EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage community to actively participate in continued precautions.</li> <li>Follow guidance in Executive Order 20-48 and all local guidance.</li> <li>Discuss with parents and guardians about limiting social events outside of school.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss with parents and guardians about limiting social events outside of school.</li> <li>Follow guidance in Executive Order 20-48 and all local guidance.</li> <li>Local education leaders work with county health officials to determine if increased precautions and community engagement activities are necessary to prevent escalation of disease.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss with parents and guardians about limiting social events outside of school.</li> <li>Follow guidance in Executive Order 20-48 and all local guidance.</li> <li>Local county education leaders will work collaboratively with local health departments to consider implementation of aggressive precaution measures both in schools and communities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discourage social events.</li> <li>Follow guidance in Executive Order 20-48 and all local guidance.</li> <li>Local county education leaders will work collaboratively with local health departments to consider implementation of aggressive precaution measures both in schools and communities.</li> </ul>
<b>COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT</b>				

\* Continue strict contact tracing, education about testing and staying home when ill or a close contact. Be prepared to move to virtual learning and provide virtual options for medically vulnerable children and families who select that option for their children.

\*\* Strong recommendation for all school systems to maintain a building that is open to assist students with remote learning, to ensure safety and food security or to enter into an agreement with community organizations to do the same.



Revised: 11/17/20