COVID-19 Guidance
Return from Quarantine Options for Asymptomatic Unvaccinated Individuals in the K-12 Environment When Masks not Required

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) continue to recommend quarantine for a full 14 days and recognize that any quarantine shorter than 14 days balances reduced burden against a small possibility of spreading the COVID virus. CDC and IDOH will continue to evaluate and update guidance and recommendations as necessary. Other than a full 14-day quarantine, there are two other options available for schools.

**Option 1** - Return on day 11 after 10 days of quarantine-no testing required to return to school.
**Option 2** - Return on day 8 after 7 days of quarantine-this option requires testing. See algorithm.

**Asymptomatic Close Contact** (student, teacher or staff) will quarantine at home **days 1-7 after exposure**

- PCR OR BinaxNOW antigen test on days 5-7 at an approved testing location.
- Obtain BinaxNOW antigen test at school on day 8 (if offered in your school)
  - If negative, may return to school on day 8 (but not before) and utilize enhanced precautions* days 8-14
  - If positive, isolate at home for 10 days from date of positive test
  - If negative, may return to school on day 8 and utilize enhanced precautions* days 8-14
  - If antigen test is positive, return home and isolate for 10 days

**When returning prior to day 15**
Individuals must monitor daily for symptoms and isolate and obtain a COVID test should symptoms develop through day 14
Individuals must follow enhanced precautions through day 14

**Symptomatic Algorithm**

**Symptomatic student, teacher or staff member**

- Test with PCR or Antigen test
  - If positive, isolate for 10 days and until symptoms have improved and you are fever free for at least 24 hours without use of fever reducing medications.
  - If negative, and not a close contact, you may return to school once you are symptom and fever free for 24 hours
  - If you are a close contact, complete the duration of your quarantine at home prior to returning to school.
The changes in definition apply only apply only to students in grades K-12 for the academic school day while in the classroom.

• IF at least 3 feet of separation is provided between students during the school day, when students are in the classroom AND when masks are always worn, contact tracing will not need to be completed if there is a positive case identified in the classroom with a minimum of 3 feet of space between classmates.
• The decrease to 3 ft for close contact tracing only works IF masks are consistently worn and other mitigation strategies are in place.
• Without consistent mask use and distancing to at least 3 feet in the classroom during the educational portion of the school day, you must contact trace to 6 feet.
• This exception does not apply to teachers and other adults in the classroom.

These changes DO NOT apply in high-risk classes such as band, orchestra, choir and show choir. Other high-risk classes may also need to be placed in this category. Changes do not apply for athletics, including cheerleading or other extra-curricular activities.

• Continue to mask at all times and distance AT LEAST 6 feet
• Close contacts are defined as anyone within 6 feet during athletics or other extra-curricular activities.

*Enhanced Precautions when returning prior to full 14-day quarantine*

• Masked at all times on bus and during school day, no exceptions.
• Maintain distance of at least 3 feet from others at all times during the educational school day. The only time lesser distance of close contact is 3 feet is during the educational portion of the day when everyone is in the classroom and wearing a mask.
• Lunch to be eaten separately from others as mask will be off when eating. Remain 6 feet from others, no exceptions.
• Hand hygiene should be a priority.
• Symptom monitoring daily by parents, as needed by school staff, during the school day.
• If ANY signs or symptoms are identified while at home, student/teacher/staff should NOT come to school and should seek a COVID test.
• If symptoms develop during the school day, individual should be sent home as soon as possible to get a COVID test.
• If COVID test is positive, begin 10 days of isolation starting from the date symptoms began.
• If COVID test is negative, because individual is a close contact, must complete remainder (days 8-14) of 14-day quarantine and remain at home until symptoms improved and 24-hours fever free without the use of fever-reducing medication.