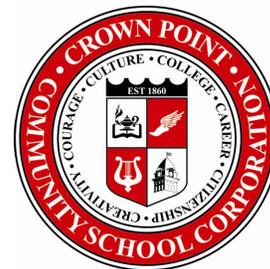


Crown Point Community School Corporation

200 E. North Street • Crown Point, IN 46307
Phone: (219) 663-3371 • Fax (219) 662-4304
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Wednesday, February 10, 2021

Dear Crown Point Community School Corporation,

Last week the Indiana Department of Health (ISDH) announced new COVID-19 guidelines for schools. Crown Point Community School Corporation has and will continue to follow the guidelines set by ISDH in our COVID protocols.

State Health Commissioner Dr. Kristina Box noted in last week's ISDH update that "...data from individual schools across the state and nation indicate that it is rare for student infections to occur from exposure in the classroom when all parties are masked." Because of the low risk of transmission and to alleviate the burden of large quarantine numbers in schools, ISDH has changed the definition of a close contact only within the classroom setting.

- ISDH guidance now states that quarantining or contact tracing is not required if students and teachers remain at least 3 feet apart and are wearing a mask at all times in the classroom. If contact tracing is needed, 3 feet is the new measurement to determine close contacts in classrooms.
- Quarantine rules of 6 feet still apply to exposures that occur at lunch, during athletics, on school buses, in band/choir classes, or if teachers and students have removed their masks in the classroom.

In light of this new guidance from ISDH and Lake County's designation as "yellow" two weeks in a row, all in-person middle school and high school students will return to green status on Tuesday, February 16. Green status means students will attend in-person learning each day except Wednesdays.

Please keep in mind the following information as we return to green status and implement the new close contact definition:

- At this time, **all CPCSC schools will continue distance learning on Wednesdays.**
- Mask-breaks may be implemented during the day **only** if it occurs outside the classroom AND students are 6 feet apart. An example would be taking students to the gym or a large hallway to spread out during independent work or elementary snack time.
- You may have seen that ISDH also shared information last week about optional rapid testing in schools and options to shorten student quarantines. After careful examination, the requirements for these options are not something we can reasonably implement given our staffing and the physical space available in our buildings. We put more information about this in our [COVID FAQ](#), and have also copied the information at the end of this letter.
- Students who are already classified as full-time distance learners will continue virtual learning as they've done throughout the year.

Even though the definition of a close contact within the classroom setting has changed, safety protocols are still important. Washing hands, maintaining social distancing when possible, and wearing a mask helps keep our schools safe. Please continue to monitor your child's health every day before they come to school and keep them home if symptomatic.

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You can find CPCSC's information regarding COVID on our website at www.cps.k12.in.us/covid.

Thank you,

Dr. Todd Terrill, Superintendent

Information from our COVID FAQ regarding additional ISDH updates last week:

- How long does a student have to quarantine if they are a close contact or if they test positive?
 - **Quarantines are 14 days.** [You can find guidance on the length of quarantines in this document.](#)
 - On February 3, 2021 ISDH added that a student quarantine could be 10 days **only if a student can maintain 6 feet social distancing at all times when returning to school on days 11-14.** Maintaining that distance at all times during the entire school day is not possible. Students would be required to sit 6 feet away from others in classrooms and at lunch, and they could not ride the bus. We do not have enough space to accommodate this, and we worry about students feeling isolated or “labeled” when physically separated in front of their peers. Because of this, **CPCSC will continue student quarantines of 14 days.** (added 2-8-2021)
- Will CPCSC conduct rapid testing for staff or students since ISDH has offered a limited number of BinaxNOW tests as an option for schools? (added 2-8-2021)
 - After careful consideration, we will not be participating in this. Our schools do not have adequate staff to administer and track results of these tests. Our nurses are already overwhelmed this year with contact tracing and managing the day-to-day needs of students. We are also concerned with the validity of test results, the training required to safely administer the tests, the safe handling of the tests once administered, and issues regarding consent to conduct the tests. With all of these concerns combined, we ask that staff or students who may need a COVID test consult with their physician.