

NORTH ADAMS SCHOOLS CONTINUING EDUCATION PLAN FALL, 2023-2024

Beginning July 1, 2021, Governor Holcomb gave local school boards the responsibility of determining what safety measures will be put in place to address the impact and spread of COVID-19 for their districts. They have been strongly encouraged to follow guidance from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) and the IDOH (Indiana Department of Health) as well as to work with their local health departments.

The North Adams Board of School Trustees strives to create the optimal learning environment for our students and staff, realizing safety and well-being must be a primary consideration.

The following pages outline those recommendations from the CDC, IDOH, and the Adams County Health Department as well as the protocols adopted by the North Adams Board of School Trustees. **Please note that this is a living document and will continually be reviewed and refined based upon the positivity rate in our county and community as well as any additional recommendations, mandates, or directives we may be given from our government and/or healthcare officials. Immediate changes to the plan may be made by the Superintendent based upon mandates from State and local government agencies and health departments should a state of emergency be declared at the State or federal levels.**

Thank you for your support of our school district and students. Together we have met and will continue to meet the challenges of COVID-19 and provide a quality education in a safe environment for our children.

Topic	Guidance and Notes
Best Practice for Teaching and Learning	<p>North Adams continues to believe that onsite, in-person, collaborative learning environments provide the best learning outcomes and social/emotional development for students.</p> <p>Virtual learning opportunities due to COVID will NOT be an option EXCEPT when determined appropriate through a 504 or IEP Case Conference Committee decision.</p> <p>For staff, the Board’s resolution providing for COVID leave expired on December 14, 2021 and was not renewed. Therefore, staff will need to use their sick or personal days when absent for COVID-related reasons. The Board will continue to monitor staff absenteeism and community positivity rates to determine if other action is advisable.</p> <p>When 15% or more of the student enrollment within one of the NACS schools are absent due to communicable diseases for at least two consecutive days, school administration in consultation with local and State departments of health will consider options to help control the spread of illness. School closure with or without eLearning may happen in specific grade levels, buildings, or district-wide.</p>

Screening Measures

Staying home when sick can lower the risk of spreading infectious diseases, including COVID-19, to other people. Staff/Students with symptoms of respiratory or gastrointestinal infections, such as cough, fever over 100.4 degrees, sore throat, vomiting, or diarrhea which cannot be explained by other conditions, should stay home. Please call your school to report an absence.

Hygienic Practices

- Good hand hygiene is another effective measure to prevent the spread of communicable diseases. Applying hand sanitizer upon entering and leaving an area/room or washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds, when possible, is recommended for everyone.
- In addition to regularly scheduled cleaning, classroom surfaces and buses will be disinfected daily during periods of high rates of absenteeism due to communicable diseases.

Bus Transportation

As of February 25, 2022, the CDC NO LONGER requires masking on public school transportation.

Masking

Masks are OPTIONAL in NACS schools.

Isolation (Positive or Assumed Positive for COVID-19)

Isolation means individuals should stay home and away from household members (as is possible) for five (5) days following the onset of symptoms or a positive test. If symptoms are improving and they are fever-free for at least 24 hours and without a persistent cough or sneezing, they may return to school and activities on Day 6 where they are encouraged to mask at all times Days 6-10.

Contact Tracing

Contact tracing is no longer required in schools per IDOH.

Quarantining

Quarantining of close contacts is no longer required in schools per IDOH.

Reporting

Schools are no longer required to report all positive cases to the IDOH.

Field Trips

Field trip protocols will return to pre-COVID measures.

Visitors and Community Use of Space

Visitors providing or assisting with academic programming (i.e., military recruiters, guest speakers, convocations, college reps, case managers/counselors, approved chaperones, etc.) will be permitted.

Nurse's Clinic

Will operate using pre-COVID precautions, including enhanced precautions when any potentially communicable disease may present in a patient.

Extra-Curriculars and Events

Performing arts, clubs, organizations, and athletic teams will continue to follow guidance from their professional organizations (i.e., IMEA and IHSSA) as well as the local health department to make determinations of protocols instituted.

Water

Contactless bottle filler stations and water fountains are available in all buildings. As always, use of water fountains will be evaluated based upon many factors, including the rate of absences due to communicable diseases over a 3-5 day period.

Students Attending Other Area Schools/ Businesses

Students attending other schools/businesses (i.e., CTE, special education, clinical placements, work internships, etc.) will be expected to abide by the receiving organization's protocols.

Special Education

- Case conferences may be convened virtually, in-person, or a combination of the two.
- Accommodations and/or modifications which may be needed to mitigate concerns associated with COVID-19 or other communicable diseases may be addressed in a case conference. Please contact the school to schedule a meeting as quickly as possible to make sure appropriate interventions may be put in place before school starts.

Vaccinations

Please go to <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html> to find the most up-to-date information about vaccination availability, how to get copies of your test results/verification, or to register for a vaccine or COVID test.



Presently, vaccinations have been approved for children 5 and up.

