

Commonly Asked Questions

What if my child is vaccinated?

We do not ask for vaccination records unless a student is part of a contact tracing situation. Vaccination status does not have any bearing on mask choice and vaccinated students may choose to wear masks or not to wear masks. Under current IDOH guidance, vaccinated students do not have to quarantine if they are contact traced. A mask choice will greatly diminish the chances of being contact traced since the tracing area will shrink from 6 feet to 3 feet.

Does the mask type matter?

CDC and state guidance recommend a tightly knit cloth face covering. The shape, style, and fabric type are up to the student/family. All masks should comply with existing school dress code guidelines for anything printed on the mask. Masks should fit well and cover the mouth and nose. Face shields are not an acceptable replacement for a mask, since shields do not contain the aerosol particles and they do not keep students from touching their nose or mouth. A face shield can be worn *with* a mask.

What about students with special needs or special health considerations?

If your child cannot wear a mask due to a medical situation, a choice not to wear a mask should be marked in Skyward. Families whose students have Individualized Education Plans, a 504 plan or other health plans should talk with their child's teacher about any possible changes due to updated COVID-19 protocols.

Will there be disciplinary issues if students don't wear their masks? Or if they wear a mask one day and not the next?

The parent/guardian decision about mask wearing will remain in place until at least December 17, 2021. If a student whose parent agreed would be masked refuses to wear a mask, a call will be made to the parent. If the student continues to remove his/her mask, the parent will be informed that the student will be subject to 6 feet contact tracing.

What if I don't log into Skyward and make a choice?

If no choice is made in Skyward, we will assume your child will not wear a mask and will be subject to 6-foot contact tracing.

Why do you have to contact trace at all?

Contact tracing is required of schools under Indiana Code 16-41-2-1. This law requires that congregate settings such as schools take part in contact tracing and quarantine under the guidance of the Indiana Department of Health.

I'm worried my children will be treated differently depending on their mask choice.

Any student who believes they are being treated differently should report that to a trusted adult. Some families had concerns at the beginning of the year about masking or not masking, but our students have been very mature about this entire situation and we anticipate that will not change. We support every family's right to make this decision.

Are masks still required on buses?

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), all passengers on public conveyances (e.g., buses, airplanes, ships, ferries, trains, subways, taxis, ride-shares) traveling into, within, or out of the United States (including U.S. territories), regardless of their vaccination status, are required to wear a mask over their nose and mouth. (From the CDC: "...instructing persons that Federal law requires wearing a mask on the conveyance and failure to comply constitutes a violation of Federal law...")