

Re-Entry Plan 2020/2021

Updated August 27, 2020

This guidance was compiled based on IDOE & ISDH recommendations and considerations. Effective and ongoing communication is a critical component of managing any school crisis. As with any fluid situation, Earlywood will continue to rely on the expertise of the state and local experts. This document will be updated and shared accordingly as any change in procedures are made.

Self-Screening

Earlywood staff and students will be expected to follow the current Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) guidance for screening which will be updated and posted on the Earlywood homepage, www.earlywood.org This guidance will be obtained from the IN.gov:Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19):Public Resources: Back-to-School Resources.

Exclusion From School/Work

Earlywood staff and students will be expected to follow the current Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) guidance for exclusion from school/work which will be updated and posted on the Earlywood homepage, www.earlywood.org This guidance will be obtained from the IN.gov:Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19):Public Resources: Back-to-School Resources.

State statute gives public school districts the authority to exclude students who have a contagious disease, such as COVID-19, or are liable to transmit it after exposure (IC 20-34-3-9). In addition, the local health department has the authority to exclude students from school and may order students and others to isolate or quarantine (IC 16-41-9-1.6).

Return to School/Work After Exclusion

Once a student or employee is excluded from the school environment, they may return if they satisfy the recommendations of the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) guidance for exclusion from school/work which will be updated and posted on the Earlywood homepage, www.earlywood.org This guidance will be obtained from the IN.gov:Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19):Public Resources: Back-to-School Resources.

Definitions of Terms

CLOSE CONTACT- An individual is considered a close contact if any of following is true:

- Was within 6 feet of a positive person for more than 15 minutes total in a day.
- Had physical contact with the person.
- Had direct contact with the respiratory secretions of the person (i.e., from coughing, sneezing, contact with dirty tissue, shared drinking glass, food, or other personal items).

- Lives with or stayed overnight for at least one night in a household with the person. These close contact criteria apply regardless of mask use, face shields, or physical barriers, such as Plexiglas or plastic barriers. The only exception is if a healthcare worker in a school setting is wearing the proper personal protective equipment. When an individual's symptom, contact, or test status changes, the quarantine or isolation requirements should be reassessed.

ISOLATION- keeping sick people away from healthy ones. This usually means that the sick person rests in his or her own bedroom or area of your home and stays away from others. This includes staying home from school.

QUARANTINE- separating people who were around someone who was sick, just in case they get sick. Since people who were around other sick people are more likely to get sick themselves, quarantine prevents them from accidentally spreading the virus to other people even before they realize they are sick. Usually, people who are in quarantine stay at home and avoid going out or being around other people. This includes staying home from school.

from **"COVID-19: When a student, faculty or staff member can return to school"** document (8/25/2020)
https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/20_Return%20to%20School_8-25-20.pdf)

Medical Inquiry

Federal law typically limits the type of medical inquiries that can be made, but given the nature of the pandemic more leeway has been given to schools in this circumstance to make additional medical inquiries of staff and students than would otherwise be allowed.

- If a parent tells the school that a student is ill, the school may ask the parent whether the student is exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19.
- If an employee calls in sick or appears ill, Earlywood can inquire as to whether the employee is experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms.
- If a person is obviously ill, administration may make additional inquiries and may exclude the person from school property.

COVID -19 Symptomatic while on site:

If a student or employee is feeling ill and awaiting pick up for evaluation they will be asked to wear a cloth face covering. Only essential staff will be assigned to the room to wait with the student or employee. A record will be kept of all persons who entered the room and the room will be disinfected several times throughout the day. Strict social distancing is required and staff must wear appropriate PPE. Students who are ill will be walked out of the building to their parents.

Confirmed Case of COVID-19 on School Property

If there is confirmation that a person infected with COVID-19 was on school property, administration will contact the local health department. Administration will also follow current ISDH guidance on contact tracing. Administration will communicate necessary information with families and staff regarding exposure and next steps.

Preventative Measures

Wearing Face Coverings

Following Indiana State guidance, students and staff will wear facial coverings while inside school buildings except when social distancing is maintained.

- Additional accommodations may need to be made for students and staff based on their individual health plan.
- If a student is required, by a health plan, to wear a mask, and the student refuses, disciplinary action will not be taken. A guardian will be contacted from the emergency release form to have the student picked up for their safety.

Handwashing

It will be an expectation that all teachers schedule handwashing times within the school day. Times can be set at reasonable durations and will include these key times:

- Start of the school day
- Before eating
- After using the restroom
- After blowing nose, coughing, or sneezing
- Before and after using shared equipment

Cleaning

Extra focus will be provided to cleaning frequently used surfaces. A daily cleaning schedule has been created and will be monitored by administration. Administration will continue to monitor guidance from the CDC and IDOE regarding effective cleaning strategies in school settings.

Social Distancing in the School Environment

The following are measures that New Connections will take to increase social distancing while still maintaining a level of face-to-face instruction. ***These protocols may evolve as they are implemented, and more information is obtained about COVID-19.***

- Ensure that student and staff groupings are as static as possible by having the same group of students stay with the same staff as much as possible.
- Alternate recess to minimize the number of students on the playground, encourage social distancing, and allow time to disinfect equipment between uses.
- Increase space between students during in-person instruction.
- Arrange desks to increase space between students.
- Face desks in the same direction.
- Eliminate activities that combine classes or grade levels.
- Limit or eliminate classroom visitors.
- Ensure adequate supplies to minimize sharing of high touch materials to the extent possible (art supplies, equipment, etc. assigned to a single child) or limit use of supplies and equipment by one group of students at a time and clean and disinfect between uses.
- Avoid or minimize the sharing of electronic devices, toys, books, art supplies, and other games or learning aids when possible.
- Discourage the use of attendance awards or perfect attendance incentives for students.
- Implement measures to decrease students congregating in one location.

Transition

Special consideration will be made for students during transition to their home school/college setting. Guidance from IDOE states schools should consider:

- Eliminate or minimize students traveling to different buildings to receive services.
- Consider broadcasting in-class instruction to multiple locations to allow students to spread out and/or learn from home.

Nutrition services

New Connections/INSPIRE will follow the guidance from Franklin Food Services. Meals purchased from Franklin Food Services will continue to be served in individual, boxed meals with all necessary utensils, condiments, napkins, etc. included. In addition, prior to any meal service, all students should utilize hand washing or sanitizing to ensure safe eating practices.

- Cafeteria use will be disinfected between use.
- Eliminate self-serve food items.
- Napkins and silverware (disposable if possible) are provided directly by staff.
- Plan to serve medically fragile students separately from other students.
- Prohibit food-sharing.
- Classroom party items should be commercially prepared and prepackaged.
- Limit cash transactions. Staff handling cash should not also handle food.
- Eating on the bus is prohibited unless medically necessary.
- PPE will be provided to all staff service staff preparing and serving food.

Transportation

Transportation is provided by student's home districts. New Connections will comply with guidance from the home school district's transportation policy. Face coverings are required for all passengers on school transportation.