

2021-2022

RETURN TO IN-PERSON LEARNING COVID-19 RESPONSE PLAN

**EAST CHICAGO URBAN
ENTERPRISE ACADEMY**

www.ecuea.com

UPDATED: August 6, 2021



2021-2022 RETURN TO LEARNING PLAN

ECUEA will return to **(5) five-day (full-time) in-person instruction** during the 2021-22 school year.

School Day Hours:

- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:
 - 8:00 am - 3:30 pm
- Wednesdays only:
 - 8:00 am - 1:50 pm

School Calendar:

- Available at www.ecuea.com

ATTENDANCE PROTOCOLS

Student Attendance:

ECUEA personnel will request specific symptom information when absences are reported along with COVID-19 diagnoses and/or potential COVID-19 exposure. Information obtained will be shared with our nursing staff. Student absences should be reported to attendance@ecuea.com.

ECUEA Staff Attendance:

Employees who experience the onset of any COVID-19 symptoms at work should immediately notify a school nurse or school administrator. Since COVID-19 vaccines are readily available, staff absences due to COVID-19 will be addressed through the use of the staff member's accumulated PTO days.

HEALTH PROTOCOLS

[COVID-19 Vaccination Locations](#)
or Dial 211

[COVID-19 TESTING LOCATIONS](#)

Isolation = Positive COVID test or Exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms

Quarantine = A known close contact to a COVID-19 case (within 6 feet for 15 min).

COVID-19 Related Symptoms:

Students and/or staff members who are symptomatic and experiencing any of the following should NOT report to the school building and notify the school nurse and/or their personal healthcare provider for further guidance:

- Cough or Shortness of Breath
- Sore Throat
- Headache (particularly new onset of severe headache)
- Diarrhea, Nausea or Vomiting/Abdominal Pain
- New Loss of Taste or Smell

ISOLATION/QUARANTINE

Exclusion (Isolation and/or Quarantine) from School/Work:

ECUEA will notify parents of close contact exposure (within 6 feet without a mask for longer than 15 minutes), when in a classroom. ECUEA reserves the right to implement virtual learning in the event that a class needs to quarantine in order to maintain continuity of instruction.

Based on guidance from the Indiana State Department of Health and/or Lake County/East Chicago Health Departments, students and staff members may be excluded from school/work if they exhibit COVID-19 related symptoms. **Vaccinated individuals will not be required to quarantine. However, they will be required to isolate (if symptomatic).**

Students and staff members will be excluded from school/work if they test positive for COVID-19. Exclusionary timelines established by the Indiana Department of Health and/or Lake County/East Chicago Health Departments will be followed.

RETURNING TO SCHOOL

Return to School After Exclusion:

Once a student or employee is excluded from the school environment, they may return if they satisfy the following CDC recommendations:

- 10 days since symptoms first appeared **and**
- 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
- Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving*

**Loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation*

***Note that these recommendations do not apply to people with severe COVID-19 or with weakened immune systems (immunocompromised).*

SELF-SCREENING

ECUEA students and staff members need to self-screen before arriving at school/work each day.

Students and employees exhibiting COVID-19 related symptoms without being otherwise explained should not attend school until they are released by a healthcare provider and/or meet any isolation requirements established by the Indiana State Department of Health (unless they are fully vaccinated).

**CDC SELF-SCREENING
QUESTIONNAIRE**

PREVENTIVE MEASURES

COVID Monitoring:

If required, positive cases of COVID-19 will be disclosed to the East Chicago Health Department for reporting purposes, school closure guidance and potential contact tracing efforts. ECUEA will track attendance trends daily to determine any patterns of absence due to illness.

In addition, Indiana law requires schools to track and monitor attendance to assist in the determination of a viral outbreak (512 IAC 1-2-2). Schools shall report to the local health department and the IDOE when the percentage of student absences from a school is equal to or greater than the threshold rate of twenty percent (20%) of the enrolled student population.

Social Distancing:

ECUEA will make attempts to socially distance students when possible. However, it is important to note the three feet of social distancing will be difficult during the school year. Depending on the level, students may be required to wear face coverings when social distancing cannot be maintained. Examples would include transition periods, cafeteria (when not eating), buses (field trips - if able), small-group instruction, and/or classrooms where social distancing may not be possible.

FACE COVERINGS:

Face coverings are required for ALL STUDENTS, STAFF, and VISITORS while inside the building, regardless of vaccination status. Face covering are optional when outside, but highly encouraged.

Although families may supply their own face coverings, ECUEA will have an ample supply of disposable face coverings for all students and staff members.

Cloth face coverings should be laundered daily.

Face Coverings:

- Must securely cover the nose and mouth
- May be cloth or disposable
- Must not contain any inappropriate print content
- Must not distract the learning environment

The principal will make the final decision as to the appropriateness of a face covering.

COVID-19 spreads mainly from person to person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. According to the governmental health officials, face coverings usage can substantially reduce this form of transmission.

Face coverings are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not have symptoms.

FACE COVERINGS CONT.

Face Covering Modification or Exemptions:

Some students and staff members may have conditions that impact their ability to wear a face covering. Non-vaccinated staff or students who have a condition and seek modifications or exemption from the face covering requirements must make a request to the principal in writing for the exemption or modification. Medical documentation may be required.

In order to respond to requests and to ensure the safety of the school environment, there will be a certification process of any underlying condition or disability as well as an interactive dialogue (for staff) or IEP meeting or Section 504 meeting (for students).

Refusal to Wear a Face Covering:

Students will be required to wear a face covering during the school year. If refusing to wear a face covering (when required), students will be reminded of the expectation and expected to comply with the request. Failure to do so will result in exclusion from school.

HYGIENE & SANITATION

Hand washing and avoiding touching of the face, eyes, nose, or mouth are important steps a person can take to avoid becoming sick or spreading germs to others.

Hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol is located in every classroom, hallway, and common area within the school. Every classroom in the elementary building is equipped with a sink for hand washing.

Each student should have individual school supplies. Communal supplies may not be permitted. Students should be reminded to avoid touching non-essential items.

Facility:

The Academy will be cleaned/sanitized with cleaning supplies with the capability to kill COVID-19. Daily disinfecting of high-touch surfaces in rooms will take place.

New hospital-grade UVC airflow systems that eradicates 99.9% of the virus within 1 second have been installed

in the most vulnerable areas of the school (e.g. cafeterias, offices, and classrooms). This effort aligns with the CDC's recommended air quality risk mitigation strategy which includes improved ventilation and filtration of the air before irradiating air pathogens with UVC technologies.

DAILY OPERATIONS

Arrival/Dismissal:

Arrival begins at 7:30 am. ECUEA will continue to use the PikMyKid app for the dismissal of students.

Visitors:

Based on recommendations from public health officials, ECUEA will restrict nonessential visitors during time of substantial spread.

Special Education Case Conferences & 504 Committee Meetings:

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, parents may request to participate in a Case Conference Committee or Section 504 meeting telephonically or via virtual meeting option. The decision to participate via an alternative format rests with the parent/guardian.

Field Trips:

Field trips may be postponed or cancelled in the event there is in a substantial spread.

Recess:

ECUEA students will be allowed to have recess.

Extra-Curricular Activities:

Specific guidelines for each activity will be shared by the coach/sponsor. Extra-Curricular Activities will follow the same guidelines identified in the ECUEA COVID-19 Response Plan.

HYGIENE & SANITATION

Hallways/Transition Periods:

During substantial spread, visual cues for expected traffic flow may be used. In addition, operational procedures will be analyzed with the intent to reduce student transitions (if possible).

Safety Drills:

Safety drills are required by the Indiana law (IC 20-34-3-20). As a result, ECUEA will continue to prepare and drill for potential emergencies.

Water Bottles:

Water bottles will be available to all students daily. Water fountains will not be utilized.

Student Nutrition (Breakfast & Lunch):

Some of the strategies that may be utilized during substantial spread include:

- Grab and go meals – eliminates self-serve food items and utilizes disposable utensils
- Assigned seating
- Visual cues placed throughout the cafeteria to control movement
- Prohibit food sharing
- Sanitation station available in cafeteria
- Meals served in the classroom

**Plans are subject to change based on local & state guidance*

LET'S DO OUR
PART TO KEEP
EVERYONE SAFE