



Back to School 2021

Information and Guidance for Pediatricians

This back-to-school season, families will be looking to their pediatricians more than ever to help navigate many complicated questions that have arisen due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing vaccine rollout. In order to ensure that the guidance our families receive is consistent, INAAP utilized the resources created by the Indiana Department of Health to provide this guide for pediatric clinicians. If you still have questions related to COVID-19 protocols in schools this fall, please email us at inaaphotline@gmail.com.

AAP Guidance, Indiana Recommendations, and INAAP Statement

The American Academy of pediatrics released updated guidance for schools on July 19, 2021 which can be found in full [here](#). One of the most significant updates to the guidance is the recommendation that all students older than 2 years and all school staff should wear face masks at school (unless medical or developmental conditions prohibit use).

The Indiana Department of Health has also developed guidance for schools in Indiana. That guidance was most recently updated on July 19, 2021, and is available [here](#). The IDOH guidance follows current CDC recommendations. The current IDOH guidance states that masks are not necessary for vaccinated staff and students. Also, though it states that masks are recommended for unvaccinated staff and students while indoors – that recommendation is not binding on school districts.

In alignment with the AAP's guidance and in an effort to unify messaging, INAAP sent a [letter](#) to Governor Holcomb and the Indiana Department of Health recommending the implementation of a statewide policy requiring masks in schools for those 2 years and older. We believe this policy is in overall best interest of children in Indiana and counteracts many of the significant hurdles that come with trying to monitor and enforce different rules for different sets of people within the same school building.

Further, On August 13, 2021, INAAP and the Indiana Academy of Family Physicians sent a [joint letter](#) intended for school districts to help them make decisions in the best interest of public health.



Screening, Isolating, and Testing Guidance

There will be many questions this fall about what a family needs to do if their child is feeling sick or has been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

UPDATED August 20, 2021.

IDOH amended its policy on August 20th to include BinaxNOW Rapid Antigen Test as a suitable test to allow for a return to school. The guidance below has been updated to reflect that change.

Unvaccinated Symptomatic

1. Receive PCR test or BinaxNOW Rapid Antigen Test and isolate until results are obtained.
2. If test negative and not a close contact return to school when symptom free for 24 hours.
3. If test negative but is a close contact, complete 14-day quarantine.

Unvaccinated Asymptomatic, Close Contact, No Testing

1. Isolate at home for 10 days.
2. Return to school on day 11 without testing but observing enhanced precautions day 11-14 (see full document).
3. If symptoms develop on days 11-14, return home, isolate, and obtain a COVID-19 test.

Unvaccinated Asymptomatic, Close Contact, PCR Test

1. Isolate at home days 1-7.
2. Obtain PCR test or BinaxNOW Rapid Antigen Test on days 5-7 while continuing to isolate through day 7.
3. If negative, return to school on day 8 and utilize enhanced precautions day 8-14 (see full document).
4. If positive, isolate at home for 10 days from date of positive test.

Vaccinated, Asymptomatic, Close Contact

1. No isolating requirements.
2. Monitor for symptoms.

Vaccinated, Symptomatic, No Known Cause

1. Isolate and obtain PCR test or BinaxNOW Rapid Antigen Test.
2. If negative, return to school.
3. If positive, isolate at home for 10 days from date the positive test was taken.

Vaccinated, Symptomatic, Other Cause Confirmed

President – Emily Scott, MD, FAAP
Vice President/Treasurer – Jaime Stelzer, MD, FAAP
Past President – Tony GiaQuinta, MD, FAAP
Executive Director – Christopher Weintraut, JD
INAAP is Incorporated in Indiana



1. Obtain written explanation from physician as to cause of symptoms.
2. Return to school after 24 hours of being symptom free.

Vaccine Uptake

Vaccines are safe. Vaccines are effective. Vaccines save lives. It is important to educate families on these three points every chance we get. The American Academy of Pediatrics has developed a toolkit to help you talk to your patients, which can be accessed [here](#).