

**EAST CHICAGO URBAN
ENTERPRISE ACADEMY**

www.ecuea.com

Updated with No Changes July 2024

2023-2024

RETURN TO IN-PERSON
LEARNING COVID-19
RESPONSE PLAN



2023-2024 RETURN TO LEARNING PLAN

ECUEA will operate with **(5) five-days of (full-time) in-person instruction** during the 2023-24 school year.

School Day Hours:

- Monday-Friday:
 - 8:00 am - 3:30 pm

School Calendar:

- Available at www.ecuea.com

ATTENDANCE PROTOCOLS

Student Attendance:

ECUEA personnel may request specific symptom information when absences are reported along with COVID-19 diagnoses and/or potential COVID-19 exposure. Information obtained may 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](#)

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:

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 test positive or exhibit COVID-19 related symptoms.

Students and staff members will be excluded from school/work for 5 days from the onset of symptoms, if symptomatic, or from the day of testing (not the day in which positive test results are received).

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:

- 5 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).*

FACE COVERINGS:

Face coverings are OPTIONAL for all students, staff, and visitors while inside the building, regardless of vaccination status. ECUEA will require face coverings should it be deemed necessary and mandated by the Department of Health.

Although families may supply their own face coverings, ECUEA will no longer supply of disposable face coverings for students and staff members.

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.

(**ONLY if the mandate is reinstated*)

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.

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.

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).

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 only be available to students to use during breakfast, lunch, and gym. Water bottles are not allowed in instructional areas or around technological devices. Use of water fountains will be utilized.

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 may 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.

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

LET'S DO OUR
PART TO KEEP
EVERYONE SAFE