



Indiana State Department of Health

Indiana Health Alert Network Notification – July 10, 2020

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Updates

SAFE SCHOOL RE-ENTRY

ISDH supports school re-entry not only for the educational benefits but also for the mental health and well-being of students. Please note that each school corporation is establishing its own school protocols to mitigate COVID-19 at their schools and protect students and staff.

As a medical provider, you can help students and staff return to school safely by:

- Working with school-age patients and their families who have chronic health conditions. Determine before the school year starts if that condition can be managed at school or if alternative learning options, including distance learning, are a better option to protect the student's health. For example, nebulizer treatments are not recommended at schools, so consider an MDI with spacer as an alternative. Collaborate with the school nurse or health room personnel to design the best plan for those with chronic health conditions. Consult the guidelines of the school when making these decisions.
- Writing a note to any student who has a chronic condition that could be viewed as a symptom of COVID-19 (headaches, allergies) so the school nurse has documentation in advance and won't send the student home unnecessarily.
- Testing anyone who in your clinical opinion may have COVID-19. Testing is critical to identifying cases and prompting contact tracing to prevent additional spread. This applies to all of your patients, not just students or school staff.
- Encouraging patients to maintain social distancing, wear a mask, wash hands frequently and stay home from school or work if they are sick.
- Helping provide medical care for students who may not have a regular healthcare provider. We want everyone who needs medical attention to receive appropriate care.

Back to school guidance documents from ISDH are posted here:

- COVID-19 Daily Screening for Parents:
https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/20_Return%20to%20School_Parenting%20Screening.pdf
- Back to School FAQ: <https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/Back%20to%20School%20FAQs.pdf>
- Back to School FAQ Second Edition:
<https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/School%20questions%2007.09.pdf>
- COVID-19: When a student, faculty or staff member can return to school:
https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/20_Student%20Guidance%20for%20Return%20to%20School.pdf

DEATH REPORTING REMINDERS

All confirmed COVID-19 deaths should be immediately reported to ISDH by calling 765-860-6053. There is no specific timeframe or repeat test results used to classify a patient's death as COVID-19 related or not. Clinicians should use their best judgment to determine if the death was related to COVID-19 or a complication of COVID-19, and reports should be made accordingly. Report immediately if COVID-19 is a cause or complication; do not report if a patient recovered from COVID-19 and died of another cause. This includes hospitals, long-term care facilities, local health departments and coroners.

The ISDH surveillance/death reporting team works with the ISDH Vital Records Division to obtain a daily list of death certificates filed with COVID-19 listed as either a primary cause of death or an underlying cause of death. If the patient has a positive COVID-19 lab result in NBS, the death is added and would be reflected in the death count (if not previously recorded). If the patient does not have a positive COVID-19 lab result in NBS, the patient is added as a 2019 Clinical Novel Coronavirus case and the death would be counted as presumptive.

Please submit a morbidity report for the patient under 2019 Novel Coronavirus and include the laboratory information. The surveillance team will update the 2019 Clinical Novel Coronavirus Investigation to 2019 Novel Coronavirus and the death will be added into the count.

If a patient was added into NBS as a 2019 Clinical Novel Coronavirus Investigation but a positive test is later associated with the patient, please submit a morbidity report for the patient under 2019 Novel Coronavirus and include the laboratory information. The surveillance team will update the 2019 Clinical Novel Coronavirus Investigation to 2019 Novel Coronavirus and the death will be added into the count.

If you believe the death certificate has been filed in error, please contact your vital records staff member to work with the medical certifier and/or ISDH Vital Records to have death certificate re-examined. To note, ISDH Vital Records staff is proactively reaching out to a medical certifier if a patient is COVID-19 positive and dies but COVID-19 is not listed on the death certificate.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON COVID-19:

For ISDH COVID-19 resources, visit <https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/>.

Please call the ISDH COVID-19 Provider Line at 877-826-0011, press 2, (8 a.m. to 5, daily), or the ISDH Epidemiologist-on-Call at 317-233-1325 (midnight to 8 a.m., daily) with any questions regarding MIS-C or COVID-19.