



## **Unanimous vote from NACS board makes masks optional beginning July 6 summer session 2**

**Fort Wayne, Ind. (Tuesday, June 29, 2021)** – Last night’s Board of School Trustees meeting for Northwest Allen County Schools yielded unanimous favor for adjusting district procedures to become mask optional beginning July 6, the day that the second session of summer school 2021 and summer camps begin.

“Based on the April 26 resolution, conversations with local healthcare experts, and the expiration of Gov. Holcomb’s mandate orders, our COVID-mitigation plans now include mask optional procedures, and it is our intent to begin the next school year this way as long as conditions remain conducive,” said Chris Himsel, superintendent, Northwest Allen County Schools. “As we have done throughout the school year, adjustments and adaptations will continue being made as guidance and orders from the governor, CDC, IDOH, ACDH and others are updated.”

The 4-0 vote by the board for the procedure change was also supported by the Northwest Allen County Education Association. The teacher’s association issued a statement welcoming the adjustment, but it also cautioned becoming overzealous.

The updated COVID-mitigation guidelines are attached and listed below.

The NACS 2021-2022 school year begins Aug. 11. Visit [www.nacs.k12.in.us](http://www.nacs.k12.in.us) for more information about our schools and the district.



**2021 Summer School Session 2, 2021 Summer Activity,  
and Tentative Start of 2021-2022 School Year Procedures**

The following guidelines will be implemented beginning after July 5 for 2021 Summer School Session 2 and 2021 summer camp activities. The following guidelines tentatively serve as the guidelines to start the 2021-2022 school year. Guidelines included within the board adopted "Reopening Plans during a Pandemic" that are not updated on this page continue to be implemented.

The guidelines included on this summary page, and other sections of the "Reopening Plans during a Pandemic," will continue being modified as guidance is updated by the CDC, AAP, IDOH, or ACDH. Parts of the "Reopening Plans during a Pandemic" will continue being relaxed or rescinded consistent with changes in guidance from the CDC, AAP, IDOH, and ACDH.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Indoor Activities</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Masks are optional. If community spread of COVID reaches levels as determined by the ACDH or COVID cases are confirmed within a school or classroom, mask requirements may be re-instated.</li> <li>• Masks will be optional during high exertion activities (i.e., PE classes, athletic practices, sports camps).</li> <li>• In hallways and other public spaces, masks are optional. If community spread of COVID reaches levels as determined by the ACDH or COVID cases are confirmed within a school or classroom, mask requirements may be re-instated.</li> <li>• If mask requirements must be re-instated, then as practical, a mask break will be incorporated; whenever weather conditions permit, outdoor breaks are encouraged.</li> <li>• As practical, maximizing space between and among individuals will continue to be implemented.</li> <li>• Maintaining seating charts and cohorting of students will continue for contact tracing.</li> <li>• Clean hands in/clean hands out procedures shall continue.</li> <li>• Shared equipment and supplies will continue being cleaned and sanitized between uses.</li> <li>• Weight Room: All machines must be cleaned and sanitized prior to another group utilizing the area. Masks are optional for students within the same group. Maintaining physical distances of 6 feet or more is strongly encouraged.</li> <li>• Except for those participating in swimming-related PE class activities, locker rooms should not be utilized during summer activities. Whenever locker rooms are utilized, the locker room procedures used during the 2020-2021 school year will continue being implemented.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Outdoor Activities</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Masks will be optional for all outdoor instructional activities and during high exertion activities (i.e., PE classes, athletic practices, sports camps, marching band).</li> <li>• As practical, maximizing space between and among individuals will continue to be implemented.</li> <li>• Cohorting of students will continue for contact tracing.</li> <li>• Clean hands in/clean hands out procedures shall continue.</li> <li>• Shared equipment and supplies will continue being cleaned and sanitized between uses.</li> <li>• Except for those participating in swimming-related PE class activities, locker rooms should not be utilized during summer activities. Whenever locker rooms are utilized, the locker room procedures used during the 2020-2021 school year will continue being implemented.</li> </ul>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Miscellaneous Items</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students should continue bringing a water bottle and may use the bottle filling stations available at the school for refills.</li> <li>• Hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes will continue to be available.</li> </ul>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Transporting Students</u></b></p> <p>Masks are required for students utilizing any NACS vehicle for transportation. Transportation procedures will continue to include implementing and maintaining seating charts for contact tracing.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Health Screening</u></b></p> <p>Each day, students and employees will need to monitor whether they have COVID-like symptoms. Those who develop COVID-like symptoms will need to stay at home and not attend school or participate in the activity.</p> <p>The most current list of symptoms can be accessed from the CDC at <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html</a>.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Food Services</u></b></p> <p>Food service procedures used during the 2020-2021 school year shall continue to be implemented.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Contact Tracing and Quarantines</u></b></p> <p>Contact tracing procedures and compliance with IDOH quarantine guidelines shall continue to be implemented.</p>

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