

To: Superintendents, Special Education Directors

From: Dr. Nancy Holsapple, Director of the Office of Special Education

Date: August 18, 2020

Subject: Re-entry Guidance for Students Who Attend the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired or the Indiana School for the Deaf

On August 31, 2020, The Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ISBVI) and the Indiana School for the Deaf (ISD) will have their first day of in-person instruction for the 2020-2021 school year. Families who have students attending ISBVI or ISD have the option of attending in-person instruction at the respective school or receiving virtual instruction for the first quarter of the school year. If your LEA is only offering virtual learning on this date, students who attend ISBVI or ISD and have elected in-person instruction will follow the ISBVI/ISD academic calendar (students who have elected to receive virtual instruction from ISBVI or ISD will follow their academic calendar as well). Any transportation requirements your LEA may have to transport these students to ISBVI or ISD remain unchanged as it was prior to the pandemic. In preparation for re-entry of your ISBVI/ISD students, the Office of Special Education provides the following guidance to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus while students attend class and reside at the schools during the instructional week:

- Parents of ISBVI/ISD have been provided reopening plans from ISBVI and ISD. These plans inform parents to follow your LEA's transportation protocols for loading and unloading buses, seating arrangements, and mask requirements. The reopening plans inform parents to contact your transportation department or LEA for further guidance on their students being transported to either school.
- **All day/residential students transported to ISBVI or ISD from your school who are on the bus for an hour or longer should have their temperatures checked before boarding the bus. If temperatures are taken, they should be taken with no-touch thermometers and manufacturer protocols for ensuring accurate temperature results should be followed. Additionally, parents should be reminded to take the student's temperature before leaving home. Residential students' temperatures will be checked upon their arrival to ISBVI/ISD. Any student who registers a 100.4°F or higher temperature will not be allowed to disembark from the bus and the LEA and/or parent will be responsible for returning the student to your LEA.**
- Students returning to your LEA at the end of an instructional day or week will wear

masks when entering the bus and will follow your LEA's protocols for travel back to your districts.

- While ISBVI and ISD will have masks or shields and ISBVI will have water bottles available for students once they are on campus, these will not be available during the initial bus ride. **We recommend that students wear their own masks and have a personal water bottle, both labeled with their names, prior to getting on the bus.**
- As with students who attend in-person instruction at your school, it is important that parents of ISBVI/ISD students keep their students home if they are exhibiting any symptoms related to COVID-19.
- If ISBVI or ISD pause in-person instruction due to COVID-19 positive tests on their campuses, the schools will notify your LEA of the closure and will coordinate with your LEA for transportation of students back to your district.
- Be mindful that the IEPs of students who attend ISBVI or ISD may need to be revised to reflect any changes in their mode of instruction, goals, services, or if there are difficulties with wearing a mask.

The most updated reopening plans for both schools can be found here:

ISBVI: <https://www.in.gov/isbvi/files/ISBVI%20School%20Reopening%20Plan.pdf>

ISD: <https://www.deafhoosiers.com/post/2020-2021-reopening-plan>

Please contact Traci Tetrick (ttetrick@doe.in.gov) or Patrick Rhodes (prhodes@doe.in.gov) with any questions or concerns.