

Vigo County School Corporation Mass Illness Plan

In the event of a mass illness, the Vigo County School Corporation will follow all guidelines and protocols established by the U.S. Center for Disease Control, the Indiana Department of Health, The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Vigo County Public Health Department along with any other governmental organization that has decision making responsibilities with regard to public health and safety.

In addition to following those guidelines, in the event that absentee rates at any school exceed 20% due to mass illness, the Vigo County School Corporation will implement the following non pharmaceutical interventions (NPI's) in buildings as needed:

Personal NPI's are everyday preventative actions that can help keep people from getting/spreading mass illness. These actions include staying home when you are sick, covering your coughs and sneezes with a tissue and washing your hands often with soap and water.

Community NPI's are strategies that organizations and community leaders can use to help limit face-to-face contact. These strategies may include increasing space between students in classrooms, making attendance and sick-leave policies more flexible, canceling large school events and temporarily dismissing schools.

Environmental NPI's are surface cleaning measures that remove germs from frequently touched surfaces and objects.

COMPONENT 1: PREVENTION AND PREPAREDNESS

1. The Vigo County School Corporation will communicate the following messages:

Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or a sleeve when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.

Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective. Allow more time before lunch for students to wash their hands.

Try to avoid close contact with people who are sick.

If you get sick, stay at home and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

Wash a sick person's laundry in hot water and dry it on high. Wash your hands after touching dirty laundry from the person who is sick.

Avoid sharing drinking glasses or eating utensils. Don't share food.

2. The Vigo County School Corporation will develop and distribute information on preventive measures in both print and non-print formats for staff, students and parents. The information will be current and will enable Vigo County School Corporation employees to respond to frequently asked questions.
3. The Vigo County School Corporation will work with teachers and nurses to develop instructional lessons about the mass illness for presentations in their classrooms.
4. The Vigo County School Corporation will train school staff in appropriate symptom recognition and response.
5. The Vigo County School Corporation will identify students and staff who are most vulnerable to serious illness and encourage them to talk to their health care providers regarding special precautions.
6. The Vigo County School Corporation will identify students who are considered "high risk or medically fragile" and consult with their parents, health care provider and school staff regarding special precautions and potential changes to the student's Emergency Action Plan and Individual Health Care Plan.
7. The Vigo County School Corporation will develop a contingency plan for alternative transportation, food service, maintenance, teaching and administration in the case of high absenteeism of staff.

COMPONENT 2: UTILIZE SOCIAL DISTANCING

1. To the extent practical, the Vigo County School Corporation will employ "social distancing" protocols in classrooms, lunchrooms, assemblies and transportation. Under this protocol, classroom desks and other seating arrangements should be modified to maximize distance between students. Students riding in buses should

be encouraged if possible, to sit in single seats or some distance from the person next to them.

COMPONENT 3: REVIEW SCHOOL PROGRAMS

1. The Vigo County School Corporation will review all scheduled field trips and travel. If the trip involves travel to a location where students will be in a confined area or in close contact with others, the trip may be rescheduled or cancelled.
2. The Vigo County School Corporation will review all scheduled large gatherings (sports events, assemblies, dances, concerts, performances, etc.) and make appropriate recommendations on the need to reschedule or cancel those events. In addition, the Vigo County School Corporation will determine to limit access to school campus for non-essential school visitors.
3. Dismissing school preemptively before mass illness becomes widespread in schools and communities can help slow the spread of the disease. In addition, the school corporation may selectively dismiss students that are medically at high risk or reactively after many staff and students are sick and not attending school. Also schools will consider suspending school-wide incentive based attendance programs during a mass illness.

COMPONENT 4: DISINFECT FACILITIES

1. The Vigo County School Corporation will perform soil removal and disinfection with an EPA registered disinfectant (hospital type). Using best practice techniques, cleaning emphasis will be on high touch surfaces which may include doorknobs, light switches, desk, table, and counter tops, telephones and computer keyboards, restroom fixtures, door push plates, elevator buttons and handrails. In addition buses will be disinfected on a regular basis. The frequency may include daily cleaning or more of health room and/or other possibly impacted areas.

COMPONENT 5: COMMUNICATE REGULARLY

1. The Vigo County School Corporation will institute regular updates to the staff, students, parents and community via Corporation and school websites along with text messages and social media. The Communication Director for the Vigo County School Corporation will coordinate all communication with parents. This will include regular updates from the Vigo County Public Health Department.

2. Vigo County School Corporation principals and program supervisors will provide regular updates to their staffs on possible changes to their individual school schedules or programs.

COMPONENT 6: MONITOR HEALTH CONDITIONS

1. The Vigo County School Corporation will ask parents to provide information on the symptoms and conditions of their student when they call in to report an absence. Voice message systems in the schools should include a request for parents to provide this information when reporting an absence.
2. The Vigo County School Corporation along with the Vigo County Health Department will develop a risk assessment to assist in screening students when they have symptoms of mass illness.
3. Vigo County School Corporation principals or designees will provide daily reports to their school nurse on the number of students absent along with the symptoms and conditions of those students.
4. Building principals will report to the Office of School Nursing if 4 or more students have reported similar symptoms/conditions of mass illness.
5. The Vigo County School Corporation will track and report data to the Vigo County Public Health Department and other state and federal agencies as requested.
6. The Vigo County School Corporation will separate students in health rooms with injuries from those who are symptomatic of mass illness.
7. The Vigo County School Corporation will require students and staff to stay home until all symptoms associated with mass illness have been gone for 48 hours, without medication.
8. Corporation and building administrators will decide if staff may go home immediately if they begin to demonstrate symptoms associated with mass illness.

Component 8: Travel and Self Quarantine:

1. When there is news of a possible mass illness the Vigo County School Corporation will work in conjunction with the Vigo County Health Department, the Indiana

Department of Health and the United States State Department to communicate any travel advisories to the greater school community. Students and staff that travel to countries under Level 2 or 3 travel advisories could be subject to quarantine as per the Indiana Department of Health. The Vigo County School Corporation will not advise individuals on quarantine but may recommend self-quarantine to those individuals that may be high risk for a variety of reasons.

Component 9: Confirmed Cases in a School:

1. The Vigo County Health Department may recommend temporary school dismissals if a student or staff member attended school prior to being confirmed as having the mass illness.
2. Schools will work with the Vigo County Health Department to communicate the possible mass illness exposure.
3. If a student or staff member has been identified with the mass illness, school administration will seek guidance from the Vigo County Health Department when students and staff should return to schools and what additional steps are needed for the school community.

COMPONENT 10: PLAN FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

1. In the event of an extended school closure due to mass illness and to the extent that is practical, staff will seek to provide students with alternative assignments, establish on-line communication and about school work, provide flexibility in assignment due dates and/or grading format such as incompletes and assist students in remaining current on their coursework.
2. The Vigo County School Corporation will work with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction on issues related to state requirements and regulations pertaining to attendance and credits and communicate updates to staff, students, parents and the public.

COMPONENT 11: RECOVERY

1. If school closure is necessary, the Vigo County School Corporation will consult with the Vigo County Public Health Department to determine when schools should reopen.
2. If a school closure is necessary, the Vigo County School Corporation will communicate regularly with staff, students and families regarding the status of school closures and reopening.

3. After a school is reopened, the Vigo County School Corporation will continue its procedures for monitoring and reporting symptoms of mass illness.
4. The Vigo County School Corporation will work to assist staff and students with any psycho-social needs following a mass event.