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CLERK ELKHART
CIRCUIT COURT

Elkhart County Health Department
Public Health Order No. 2021-01

Elkhart County COVID-19 Mitigation Directives

The outbreak of a new coronavirus continues to cause the disease called COVID-19, which continues to have a direct impact on the health and safety of Elkhart County residents. But the efforts of Elkhart County residents to follow the Mitigation Directives along with the steady deployment of COVID-19 vaccinations to our most vulnerable population has significantly improved our overall circumstances. Governor Holcomb has modified his mitigation directives by adopting Executive Order 21-09, which maintains the county color-coded system previously established by the State. Executive Order 21-09 provides for local health departments to impose restrictions on the overall attendance at a gathering or event and confirms that a county may have more restrictive face covering requirements.

With this understanding, I hereby rescind Public Health Orders 05-2020 and 06-2020 and Order the following effective at 12:01 am on April 6, 2021. Unless extended, this Public Health Order No. 2021-01 will expire on May 14, 2021. It is the intent of the Elkhart County Health Department to keep these measures in place to allow all individual 16+ to have an opportunity to schedule and receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

A. Face Covering Directive

The following Face Covering Directive applies any time Elkhart County is in Advisory Level yellow, orange, or red:

Every individual must properly wear a face covering over their nose and mouth when they are at:

1. an indoor area open to the public, including public transportation;
2. an outdoor public area where a distance of 6 feet from individuals outside of their household cannot be maintained; or
3. a private indoor or outdoor area where a distance of 6 feet from individuals outside of their household cannot be maintained;

unless an exemption outlined in ¶ 4.f of Governor Holcomb's Executive Order 21-09 applies or when in a private residence.

The above Face Covering Directive transitions from a requirement to a strong recommendation during any time that Elkhart County is in Advisory Level blue.

B. Capacity Limits for Social Gatherings and Events

The following capacity limits apply to all Social Gatherings and Events that occur in Elkhart County between April 6, 2021, and May 14, 2021.

The overall attendance of any Social Gathering or Event may not exceed the following:

1. 25% of the facility's or designated area's Capacity when Elkhart County is in Advisory Level orange or red;
2. 50% of the facility's or designated area's Capacity when Elkhart County is in Advisory Level yellow; and
3. 100% of the facilities or designated areas Capacity when Elkhart County is in Advisory Level blue.

While the Elkhart County Health Department is willing to assist with the review of developed COVID-19 safety plans, such plans are no longer required to be submitted to the Health Department.

C. Recommended Additional COVID-19 Mitigation Measures

The Elkhart County Health Department strongly recommends that all individuals, businesses, and entities in Elkhart County adhere to CDC guidance and the mitigation measures outlined in Executive Order 21-09, including actively engaging in social distancing measures, sanitation measures, and staff and volunteer screening.

D. Compliance with Privately Implemented Mitigation Measures

The Elkhart County Health Department fully supports all businesses and entities that choose to require compliance with the recommended additional mitigation measures set forth in Section C above. To the extent such measures are required by a business or entity, each and every person entering such Elkhart County business or entity must comply with the additional COVID-19 mitigation measures.

E. Definitions

1. **Advisory Level** means the current guidelines applicable to a county according to the State color coded system as shown on the State's Advisory Level Map (you must choose the proper Map Filter). Advisory Level does not refer to the county's color designation as shown on the Weekly 2-Metric Score Map. A county must meet the metrics/score of a less restrictive category for two consecutive weeks before the state will reduce the county's Advisory Level. The state will change a county's Advisory Level to a more restrictive category as soon as the county's metrics/score rises to the higher category.

2. **Capacity** means (1) for areas with a maximum occupancy (i.e. occupant load), the occupant load as established by the State of Indiana pursuant to the Indiana Building Code and applicable statutory and regulatory authority, or (2) for outdoor areas that do not have an occupant load, the total square footage of the area open to the public (not including space occupied by equipment, stages, vendors, etc..) divided by 9.

3. **Event** means an assembly or convening of multiple individuals from separate households in a single space, indoors or outdoors, at the same time but where the main

purpose is not necessarily for individuals to interact with others outside of one's household but to engage in or attend a business/commercial function, single event, or events of limited duration - such as conferences, conventions, concerts, shows, sport or other competitions (community, K-12 extracurricular, collegiate and professional), fairs, festivals, carnivals, parades, graduation ceremonies, community holiday celebrations, fundraisers or other entertainment events.

4. **Face Covering** means a cloth, without holes, which covers the nose and mouth and is secured to the head with ties, straps, or loops over the ears or is simply wrapped around the lower face.

5. **Social Gathering** mean an event, assembly, or convening that brings together multiple people, individually or from separate households, in a single location, whether held indoors or outdoors, in a commercial venue or other public place, at the same time and in a coordinated fashion where a significant purpose is to interact with others - such as a wedding reception, funeral visitation, family reunion, party, barbecue, picnic, or club meeting.

Signed and issued April 5, 2021, in Elkhart County, Indiana.



Dr. Bathany A. Wait, Elkhart County
Local Health Officer