



Elkhart County Health Department

Health Officer

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elkhartcountyhealth.org

Updated COVID Guidance

Elkhart County Health Department

The Delta variant has taken hold in Elkhart County. This variant of the coronavirus is different. It is easily spread amongst the unvaccinated and puts individuals at increased risk for death and hospitalization. With this variant, we are also seeing a small percentage of vaccinated individuals that are getting sick and are able to spread the infection. This is why the CDC has again recommended masks for all while indoors.

The Centers for Disease Control have labeled Elkhart County as “orange,” meaning substantial spread of the Delta COVID variant. Currently, Indiana’s advisory level for our County is yellow. With these changes in mind, the Elkhart County Health Department recommends that we all wear masks indoor to slow the spread of COVID-19.

MASKING: The Health Department strongly recommend that masks return for all. Our elderly population, children under the age of 12 and our immunocompromised community members are extremely vulnerable to the Delta variant.

For those who have been fully vaccinated, we ask you to:

- Wear a mask in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission.
- Wear a mask regardless of the level of transmission if they are immunocompromised or at increased risk for severe disease from COVID-19, or if they have someone in their household who is immunocompromised, at increased risk of severe disease or not fully vaccinated.
- If you have a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 to be tested 3-5 days after exposure, and to wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result. PCR test is recommended for those who are fully vaccinated, close contacts.
- Recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students and visitors to schools, regardless of vaccination status.

VACCINATION: We are concerned about areas of our community with very low vaccination rates. Please consider vaccination as a means of protecting yourself and others. The vaccination is safe and effective at reducing disease, death and hospitalization. You can find up-to-date videos regarding vaccination myths on the Health Department Facebook page and website. Please visit, <https://vaccine.coronavirus.in.gov/> to schedule your vaccination.

Improving the Lives, Health and Environment of our Community



Public Health
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QUARANTINE FOR SCHOOLS: For all unvaccinated students, teachers, and staff who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19. Close contacts, identified through contact tracing, should quarantine unless they are fully vaccinated, or have tested positive in the last 3 months, and do not have any symptoms.

- Students, teachers, and staff who are in quarantine should stay home and follow the direction of their school district about when it is safe for them to be around others.
- All fully vaccinated individuals who remain asymptomatic (even if a close contact) do not need to quarantine but should monitor for symptoms throughout the 14 days following their exposure.

QUARANTINE FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC: For all unvaccinated public who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19. Close contacts, identified through contact tracing, should quarantine unless they are fully vaccinated, or have tested positive in the last 3 months, and do not have any symptoms.

- **As of July 27**, CDC recommends fully vaccinated people who have a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 be tested 3-5 days after exposure and wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result.

