



Bartholomew County Health Department

Environmental Health/Vital Records

440 Third Street, Suite 303 • Columbus, IN 47201-6798

Phone: (812) 379-1550 Fax: (812) 379-1040

Despite recent improvements and stabilization of COVID-19 cases in our area, viral spread continues in our county; therefore it is important that the community continue its work to prevent this spread by following all public safety measures and guidelines of face coverings, physical distancing of six feet and hand hygiene.

In light of the Governor's lifting of the mask mandate effective April 6th, I feel it is extremely important to continue mask wearing when out in public places where close contact with individuals outside of our own households will occur. Indiana's requirements for face coverings will remain for schools, COVID vaccine and testing clinics, and state buildings.

I will continue to strongly encourage our local businesses and entities to require the wearing of masks for their customers and staff, for the protection of themselves and others. As we work towards higher vaccination numbers, we must remain vigilant.

The following guidance and capacity limits as well as safety guidelines are in place according to the Bartholomew County Health Department and Indiana Governors Executive order 21-09.

Social gatherings, public meetings, and all other events will be limited to no more than 250 people, adhering to social distancing guidelines as part of the overall safety plan for events. Attendance may not exceed 100 % of a facility capacity at this time. A thorough safety plan will be reviewed for larger events taking into account Indiana's color coded designation of counties.

IHSAA events may not exceed 500 attendees with 250 maximum per opposing team maintaining social distancing and face covering requirements.

Bartholomew County bars and restaurants continue to have physical distancing recommendations which should be followed at all times. The governor's executive order encourages individuals from non-household parties to be spaced six feet apart at tables, counters, and other seating arrangements. Face coverings are encouraged when not actively eating or drinking, along with frequent hand washing and proper sanitation.

Movie theaters, bowling alleys, and similar indoor entertainment venues, larger retailers including groceries and hardware stores, gyms, fitness centers, and personal services should screen employees daily; facial coverings are strongly recommended, as well as social distancing of staff and patrons as part of an overall COVID response plan.

Such restrictions and recommendations continue as part of the Bartholomew County Health Officers Order and Indiana Governors Executive Order 21-09 declaring a public health emergency for the COVID-19 outbreak. Available for full review at www.in.gov/gov

Brian Niedbalski, M.D.
Bartholomew County Health Officer