



## Monroe County Health Department

Monroe County, Indiana

Health Department

Futures Family Planning Clinic

Public Health Clinic

119 W. 7th Street  
(812) 349-2543

119 W. 7th Street  
(812) 349-7343

333 E. Miller Drive  
(812) 353-3244

July 29, 2021

There will be a virtual public meeting of the Monroe County Board of Health on Zoom at 9:15 A.M. on Tuesday, August 3, 2021. Information to connect to this meeting can be found at <https://bit.ly/2VnAUI2>.

### AGENDA

- A. Call to Order
- B. Public Comment
- C. Approval of Health Order and Regulation
- D. Board Member Comments

Respectfully Submitted,  
Thomas W. Sharp, M.D.  
Monroe County Commissioner of Health

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of Monroe County, should contact the Monroe County Human Resources Administrator, Elizabeth Sensenstein, at (812) 349-7314, [esensenstein@co.monroe.in.us](mailto:esensenstein@co.monroe.in.us), as soon as possible but no later than forty-eight (48) hours before the scheduled event.

Individuals requiring special language services should, if possible, contact the Monroe County Government Human Resources Administrator at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the date on which the services will be needed.

Tentative dates for Health Board meetings are posted in advance here:  
[www.co.monroe.in.us/departments/board.php?structureid=31](http://www.co.monroe.in.us/departments/board.php?structureid=31)



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### PUBLIC HEALTH REGULATION AND ORDER

**EFFECTIVE AUGUST 4, 2021 at 12:00 p.m./Noon**

PURSUANT TO STATE AND LOCAL LAW, INCLUDING INDIANA CODE § 16-20-1 et seq.

On **August 3, 2021**, the Monroe County Board of Health (“Board”) met with Monroe County Health Officer, Dr. Thomas W. Sharp, and staff from the Monroe County Health Department (“Department”) to discuss the renewal of orders and regulations regarding the Novel Coronavirus (“COVID-19”).

Monroe County continues to see increased cases of COVID-19 and, as of July 29, 2021, was in the State of Indiana’s (“State” or “Indiana”) advisory category of “yellow”, per State statistics. Due to the concern about the how COVID variants are affecting Indiana and Monroe County residents, Dr. Sharp and the Board recommend renewing a mask requirement in Monroe County.

No other regulations, other than a requirement to wear masks in public places, will be put in effect at this time.

#### **Effective Wednesday, August 4, 2021 at 12:00 p.m., the following shall apply in Monroe County:**

1. Unless an exception as stated in Paragraph 2, below, applies, anytime Monroe County is in a yellow, orange, or red advisory category ALL individuals must wear a face shield, face covering, or mask (collectively referred to, hereinafter, as “face covering”) over their nose and mouth when in an indoor public place and shall, at all times, follow current CDC guidelines in every situation. *While a face shield is made of a harder, plastic-like material, an acceptable face covering or mask under this Order means a covering made of cloth, fabric, or other soft or permeable material that covers the nose and mouth and surrounding areas of the lower face.* Persons unable to pay for a face covering should contact the Monroe County Health Department, the Office of Emergency Management, or the Office of the Monroe County Commissioners and one will be supplied at no cost. **This face covering requirement generally applies in all situations below, unless specifically and explicitly exempted below.**
2. This requirement does not apply to the following exceptions provided they are factually and legitimately applicable to an individual:
  - a. Children who are two years of age or younger.
  - b. Individuals who are hearing or speaking impaired and for whom a face covering is an obstacle to communication.
  - c. Individuals who are unable to wear a face covering for a documented physical, medical, or health-related reason.
  - d. Individuals in a hospital, doctor’s office, dentist’s office, or other health care facility, in circumstances where wearing a face covering would be an impediment to receiving proper care, as designated by the healthcare provider.

- e. Individuals who are alone in a room in a public building, such as an office, **or in a work-space and physically distanced from all other co-workers**, or are making a public presentation and are able to maintain a minimum of six (6)-foot distance away from all other persons **(must wear mask if can't socially distance)**.
  - f. Individuals for whom wearing a face covering would present a risk to their safety while at work, as determined by local, state, or federal workplace safety regulations.
  - g. Individuals who are incarcerated.
  - h. Individuals who are engaged in a form of indoor exercise that is incompatible with wearing a face covering, including swimming.
  - i. Individuals who are seated at a restaurant, bar, or other establishment that serves food and/or drink and who are actively eating and drinking. However, individuals entering and exiting restaurants or bars, or congregating in waiting areas or common areas of restaurants or bars (including bathrooms), must wear face coverings.
  - j. Bona fide emergency situations in which a person lacks the time or the means to put on a face covering before entering an indoor public space.
3. All businesses and public accommodations which are open to the public must ensure that all customers and/or visitors are complying with the face covering requirements of Paragraph 1 above. Businesses or public accommodations that fail to enforce compliance with face covering requirements in Paragraph 1 are subject to enforcement action, *up to and including closure*.
  4. When individuals must interact with one another outside their own home, including at work, and at essential and non-essential businesses, they should observe the following precautions:
    - a. Maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from other individuals who are not part of their own household;
    - b. Wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds as frequently as possible, or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol when soap and water are not available;
    - c. Cover all coughs and sneezes with a tissue that can then be disposed;
    - d. Disinfect frequently used surfaces;
    - e. Avoid sharing food, drinks, and utensils;
    - f. Refrain from sharing office supplies and equipment (such as pens, staplers, and computer keyboards);
    - g. Frequently clean communal office equipment (such as printers and copiers);
    - h. Increase ventilation of indoor spaces, by opening windows or adjusting air conditioning, as much as possible;
    - i. Hold all necessary meetings by telephone or videoconference whenever possible; and
    - j. Refrain from shaking hands or engaging in other physical contact with the hands or face of another person.

5. For academic and extra-curricular activities, all K-12 schools in Monroe County should follow the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Indiana Department of Education (IDOE), and the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH). It is recommended that Monroe County schools consult with the Monroe County Health Department, regarding best practices based on current, local conditions. Schools may adopt rules or regulations consistent with these requirements.

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Dr. Thomas W. Sharp  
Monroe County Health Officer

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Celinda K. Leach  
President, Monroe County Board of Health

***Pursuant to Indiana Code 16-20-1-21.5, this Health Regulation and Order is, hereby, approved by the Monroe County Board of Commissioners, who serve as the legislative body for Monroe County.***

“YEAS”

“NAYS”

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Julie Thomas, President

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Julie Thomas, President

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Lee Jones, Vice President

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Lee Jones, Vice President

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Penny Githens, Commissioner

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Penny Githens, Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Catherine Smith, Monroe County Auditor