



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

4/2/2021

I'm reaching out today to provide some critical updates regarding the recent announcement of the Governor's order to lift the mask mandate. After consulting with neighboring YMCA's, our Indiana State Alliance of YMCA's and the Porter County Health Department, we have developed a plan regarding the use of masks in our building.

We will continue to require masks through the end of April for entry into the building and in areas when you are not engaged in physical activity or eating/drinking. Beginning in May, masks will become preferred, but not required.

This has been a scary and challenging time, but we truly appreciate everyone's cooperation.

The reasons for the continued mask requirement are as follows:

- Many of our staff are just now eligible to receive the vaccine. Masking through the end of April will allow them the best opportunity to receive the vaccine prior to the mask policy change.
- Approximately 25% of Porter County residents have received the vaccine as of this message.
- Variants of the virus continue to be cause for concern.
- Porter County is currently categorized as a yellow zone and not blue any longer.

Guidelines for COVID safety remain the same:

- If you are experiencing symptoms of the virus, and remember, these can present as a common cold or sinus infection, please do not enter the building.
- If you have been advised to quarantine, please do not enter the building.
- If someone in your household is experiencing symptoms or has tested positive for COVID, please do not enter the building.
- If you have a medical condition that prevents you from wearing a mask, please wear a face shield.
- Washing your hands frequently is the best option in practicing good hand hygiene, but there are also many opportunities to sanitize your hands throughout the building.
- Wash or sanitize your hands when you enter the building and before you exit the building.
- Social distancing does not replace mask wearing.

The general rule of thumb is, wear your mask as much as you possibly can while inside the building.

We truly appreciate your cooperation. If a staff member or a volunteer approaches you and asks you to put on your mask, please show them grace. There is light at the end of the tunnel.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Stay safe and stay well!

In health,

Shannon Burhans, PRESIDENT/CEO

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