



MEMO

DATE: August 18, 2021

FROM: Adams County Health Officer, Michael Ainsworth

TO: Superintendents of North Adams, Adams Central and South Adams
Adams County Commissioners
Adams County Council
Mayors of Decatur and Berne
Presidents of the Monroe and Geneva Town Councils

RE: County Level Elevation to ORANGE

Dear Elected Officials:

The local health department has been notified that the Indiana Department of Health has moved Adams County from yellow designation to orange designation today under the State's color-coded system. This is a result of the recent number of new positive cases in the county.

As the health officer for the county, it is my strong recommendation that the school systems in the county immediately begin requiring all students and staff to wear face coverings while in school. This is also the recommendation of both the CDC and the Indiana Department of Health. I am including with this letter a memo a copy of a very recent school webcast (power point) prepared by the Indiana Department of Health and also a "Covid Guidelines" information sheet published by the Adams County Health Department.

I recognize that due to recent legislation adopted by the Indiana Legislature, I can only make a recommendation. It is my understanding that for this to become an order the County Commissioners must approve the order. My understanding of Senate Bill 5 is that any local health officer order or directive that is more stringent than the current state executive orders may not take effect or remain in effect unless the order is approved by the county commissioners. As such, it is my recommendation that the school corporations in the county all immediately implement a mask mandate for students and staff.

Michael A. Ainsworth, M.D.
Adams County Health Officer