**Pandemic Leave Policy**

This policy is in the event of a Pandemic declaration by the World Health Organization or public health emergency declaration by the United States or State of Indiana and the declared pandemic or public health emergency threatens employees of the Town of McCordsville. This policy is only in effect during the Pandemic declaration. The following pandemic leave policy will be effective and apply to all employees, full and part time. This guidance is based on the most recent CDC recommendations released Dec. 27, 2021.

1. **Ordered to Stay Home**

If an employee meets the conditions in one of the three classes listed below, the employee will be ordered to stay home from work:

1. Employee tests positive for the underlying condition as declared in the pandemic declaration.
2. Employee either shows symptoms of the underlying condition or lives with someone or is regularly exposed to someone that has the underlying condition or symptom or is believed to have the underlying condition.
3. Employee has travelled to a high-risk location as determined by the CDC or has been exposed to someone that either has the underlying condition or exhibits symptoms of the underlying condition but has not tested positive.

Employees who have been fully vaccinated shall receive their normal compensation based on their average hours worked per week unless it is a salaried (exempt) position, then the employee shall receive their normal salary pay while on leave.

Employee leave will be determined by the Town Manager or his/her designee for employees except the Clerk-Treasurer’s Office, Police Department or the Police Chief or his/her designee for Police Department employees and based on the circumstances of the occurrence with advice from a health care professional.

Based on CDC guidance, both vaccinated and unvaccinated employees who have tested positive shall ~~quarantine~~ isolate for ~~10~~ five days and if they are asymptomatic or their symptoms are resolving (without fever for 24 hours), must follow that by five days of wearing a mask when around others to minimize the risk of infecting those around them. For those who are unvaccinated or are more than six months out from their second mRNA dose (or more than two months after the Johnson & Johnson vaccine) and not yet boosted, the CDC recommends quarantine for five days followed by strict mask use for an additional five days. Employees who have received their booster shot do not need to quarantine following an exposure but should wear a mask for 10 days after exposure.

~~Unvaccinated employees who have been in close contact with a person who has tested positive shall quarantine for 10 days or have two negative tests following five days of quarantine before returning to work.~~ Unvaccinated employees must use their accrued sick, vacation or personal days during quarantine.

Employees will not be allowed to return to work until they are determined that they do not present a health risk of the underlying condition of the declared pandemic or public health emergency to other employees or officials of the Town

**Closing Town Facilities**

If the Town facilities are ordered to be completely closed by the Town Council President, they will remain closed until the declaration is lifted and the Town facilities are ordered open by the Town Council President. Civilian employees or those defined as non-essential will be instructed not to come to work, and employees shall receive their normal compensation based on their average hours worked per week unless it is a salaried (exempt) position, then the employee shall receive their normal salary pay while on leave.

If an employee can continue to work remotely, the supervisor shall determine the work from home arrangement based on the Town’s Telecommuting Policy. Essential employees may be required to work during closure, either at the Town facility or remotely, as determined by their supervisor and in accordance with the Town’s Telecommuting Policy.

1. **Remaining Open: High Risk Employees**

If Town facilities remain open but an employee who is considered high risk because of age, compromised immune systems, or other health condition may be authorized to stay home from work. If fully vaccinated, the employee shall receive their normal compensation based on their average hours worked per week unless it is a salaried (exempt) position, then the employee shall receive their normal salary pay while on leave. If unvaccinated, the employee will be required to use accrued time.

If an employee can continue to work remotely, the supervisor shall determine the work from home arrangement based on the Town’s Telecommuting Policy. Essential employees may be required to work remotely as determined by their supervisor with approval by the Town Manager or Clerk-Treasurer (depending on the department).

1. **Allocating Pandemic Leave Time**

If an employee works remotely, the employee should document their time worked and then the employee’s total time will be allocated appropriately to either hours worked or pandemic leave hours. See Telecommuting Policy.

1. **Pandemic Leave for Care of Child**

An employee may use pandemic leave to care for a child whose school has been closed due to the pandemic or public health emergency. Parents of children who are symptomatic and who are staying at home in self quarantine may also take this leave.

1. **Expected Behavior While on Pandemic Leave**

If an employee is instructed not to come to work, the employee is expected to follow the guidelines established by the CDC regarding activities and behavior to mitigate the spread of the pandemic or the cause of the public health emergency. Employees shall not go on vacation, attend large public group gatherings during the time of closure of the Town facilities or while in quarantine unless the employee uses accrued vacation or personal time.

1. **Essential Employees**

Essential employees shall be determined on a case-by-case basis by the supervisor of the employee.

1. **Policy Adjustments**

The Town Manager or his/her designee can make appropriate adjustments to this policy based on new CDC guidance.

Amended and Authorized by the McCordsville Town Council on ~~Sept. 14, 2021~~ Jan. 11, 2022.