

# BACK TO SCHOOL 2020-2021



Updates August 6<sup>th</sup>  
Mid-Michigan District Health Department  
Central Michigan District Health Department  
District Health Department #10



# Reopening America's Schools: A Public Health Approach From: Resolve to Save Lives/Prevent Epidemics

[https://preventepidemics.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Reopening-Americas-Schools\\_07-08-2020-Final.pdf](https://preventepidemics.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Reopening-Americas-Schools_07-08-2020-Final.pdf)  
Two-Page Fact Sheet at [https://preventepidemics.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/COVID\\_School\\_Factsheet.pdf](https://preventepidemics.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/COVID_School_Factsheet.pdf)

- Higher social contact rates among children have been the basis for school closures to reduce influenza transmission during epidemics. This justification is grounded in the role that children play in transmitting influenza to others. In prior epidemics of respiratory illness, including the flu, whooping cough and others, children have been identified as the main drivers of infection transmission. The same may not hold true for COVID-19, which would eliminate a major argument that has supported school closures for influenza and other infectious diseases.
- There is no generally accepted definition of extensive spread. One example would be a threshold of 5% of people tested for the virus found to be infected and the proportion is rising, or more than 10% of tested people are infected, regardless of the trend

# PHASES/RISK LEVELS

## MI SAFE START RESTRICTIONS BY CATEGORY

This table and map attempt to summarize Governor Whitmer's executive orders related to COVID-19. The executive order should always be reviewed, and in the event of a conflict between the order and this table, the order controls.

Regions on this map and table were created by analyzing work and commuting patterns. The colors in this map indicate the phase of the MI Safe Start Plan for each region. The phase is based on a variety of factors including: (1) data on COVID-19 infections and the disease's rate of spread; (2) whether sufficient medical personnel, hospital beds, and ventilators exist to meet anticipated medical need; (3) the availability of personal protective equipment for the health care workforce; (4) the state's capacity to test for COVID-19 cases and isolate infected people; and (5) economic conditions in the state.



Businesses are subject to these orders and may also be subject to guidance issued by MIOSHA, LARA, and other state agencies where applicable. Social distancing and mask requirements apply to all activities listed in the table.

[Download a copy of the MI Safe Start Restrictions by Category](#)

Category	Activity	Status	Applicable MERC Regions	Notes	Executive Order
Education	K-12 schools	🟡	12, 9, 4, 6, 7, 8	All entities are required to follow COVID-19 Protocols and the Executive Plan that is provided by the Michigan State Board of Education and post field plan on the home page of the applicable internet site by August 17, 2020.	2020-02 and Governor Whitmer's MI Safe Start Plan
Entertainment	Amusement parks, casinos, dining facilities, convention centers, performing arts, meeting halls, night clubs, sports arenas, beaches, or similar venues	🟡	6, 8	Capacity limits are reduced to 25% maximum capacity or to 250, whichever is smaller. Persons not part of the same household must remain six feet away from others.	2020-140
Entertainment	Casinos	🟡	12, 9, 4, 6, 7, 8	Subject to 75% capacity and strict sanitization standards in Executive Order 2020-141.	2020-141
Entertainment	Concerts, sporting events, arena, stadium or arena, outdoor arena	🟡	6, 8	Persons not part of the same household must maintain a six-foot distance from one another at all times while in the venue. The number of people in the venue is limited to 25% of the maximum capacity or to 500, whichever is smaller.	2020-140
Entertainment	Entertainment at Convention Center Locations	🔴	12, 9, 4, 6, 7, 8	All commercial and cultural entertainment group activities must be prohibited.	2020-140

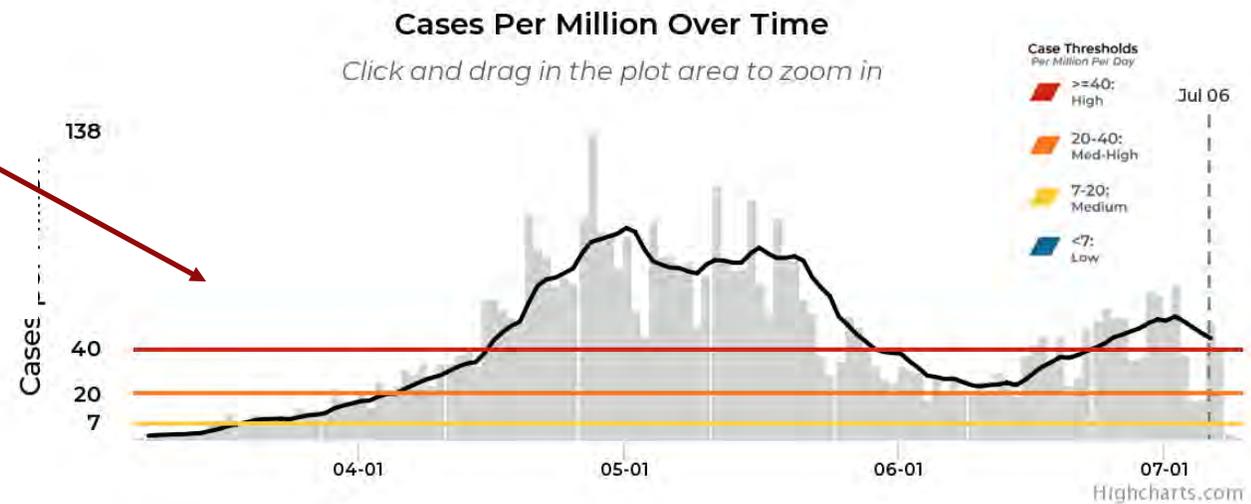
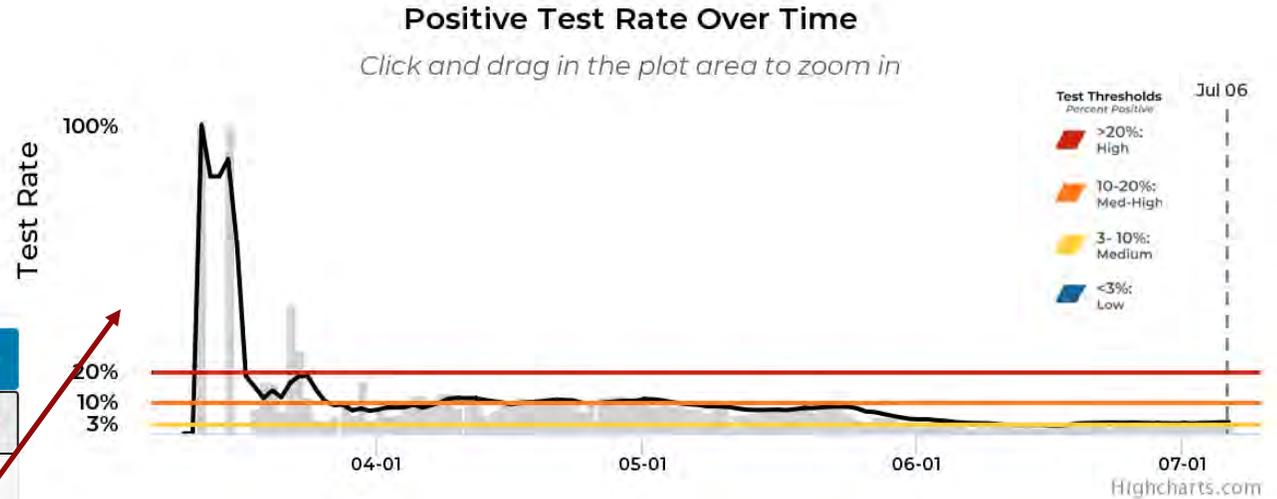
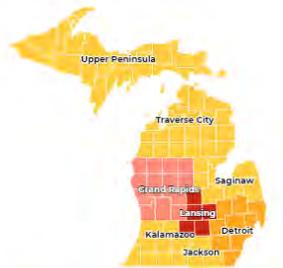
[https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-100467\\_100913---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-100467_100913---,00.html)  
(go to [www.mi.gov/coronavirus](http://www.mi.gov/coronavirus) then MI Safe Start Tab, click "Public Guidance")

# Phases/Risk Levels

- Still have no new guidance/direction from state on when and how to determine having in person vs. remote learning; hoping for some soon
- The CDC says <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/prepare-safe-return.html> :
  - If there is substantial, controlled transmission, significant mitigation strategies are necessary. These include following all the actions listed above and also ensuring that student and staff groupings/cohorts are as static as possible with limited mixing of student and staff groups, field trips and large gatherings and events are canceled, and communal spaces (e.g., cafeterias, media centers) are closed.
  - If there is substantial, uncontrolled transmission, schools should work closely with local health officials to make decisions on whether to maintain school operations. The health, safety, and wellbeing of students, teachers, staff and their families is the most important consideration in determining whether school closure is a necessary step. Communities can support schools staying open by implementing strategies that decrease a community's level of transmission. However, if community transmission levels cannot be decreased, school closure is an important consideration. Plans for virtual learning should be in place in the event of a school closure.
- Using <https://www.mistartmap.info/> to follow activity in your area and county,
  - The definition of substantial uncontrolled growth in the CDCs terms, is similar to the risk levels 1 and 2 used in the MI Start Map.
  - Substantial, controlled transmission in CDC terms is similar to the definition of risk level 3 of the MI Start Map.
  - You can compare these definitions at [https://www.michigan.gov/documents/whitmer/MI\\_SAFE\\_START\\_PLAN\\_689875\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/whitmer/MI_SAFE_START_PLAN_689875_7.pdf) and <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/community-mitigation.html> .

# How to Follow the Risk Level for Your Area

1. Go to [mystartmap.info](https://mystartmap.info)
2. Click on your region (you can also click on your county in the enlarged regional view for county level info)
3. Click on dropdown arrow for "Epidemic Spread"



# Updates with Masking



Many given in Executive Order 2020-142 FAQs [https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178\\_98455-535121--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178_98455-535121--,00.html)



Q: Are face shields acceptable alternatives to mask? A: NO



Q: Who determines whether or not a student/staff member can medically tolerate a facial covering?

A: Schools should require documentation from a medical professional, as they do for other types of accommodations.



Q: Who should not wear facial coverings?

A: Children younger than 2 years old; Anyone who has trouble breathing; Anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance

# Updates with Masking

- Form for mask medical exemption is Appendix E of Return to School Toolkit
- Can find toolkit at:
  - <https://www.cmdhd.org/novelschools>
  - <https://www.dhd10.org/coronavirus/>, under Guidance for Schools
  - <https://www.mmdhd.org/novel-coronavirus/>, under Schools/Colleges/Universities
- Executive Order 2020-147 does not apply to schools because schools are not considered an enclosed public space as written in the EO. Follow MI Safe Schools Roadmap



# Quarantine



Trying to limit those that need quarantine to close contacts rather than entire classroom



See toolkit, pgs. 5-6 for full explanation

# Screening of Students

- CDC finally provided guidance on this July 23, available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/symptom-screening.html>
- It is not recommended school do health screenings, recommended parents monitor students for signs of illness
- Symptoms used for COVID-19 decision making has been shortened and emphasis on NEW symptoms to minimize unnecessary absences
- Return to school plan for students based on their risk for exposure to COVID-19

# Screening of Students

Symptoms to watch for:

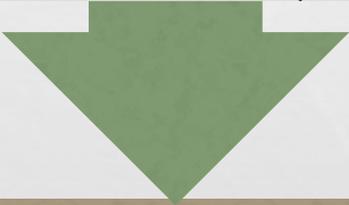
Temperature  
100.4 degrees  
Fahrenheit or  
feels feverish

Sore throat

New uncontrolled cough  
that causes difficulty  
breathing (for students  
with chronic  
allergic/asthmatic cough,  
a change in their cough  
from baseline)

Diarrhea,  
vomiting, or  
abdominal pain

New onset of  
severe headache,  
especially with a  
fever



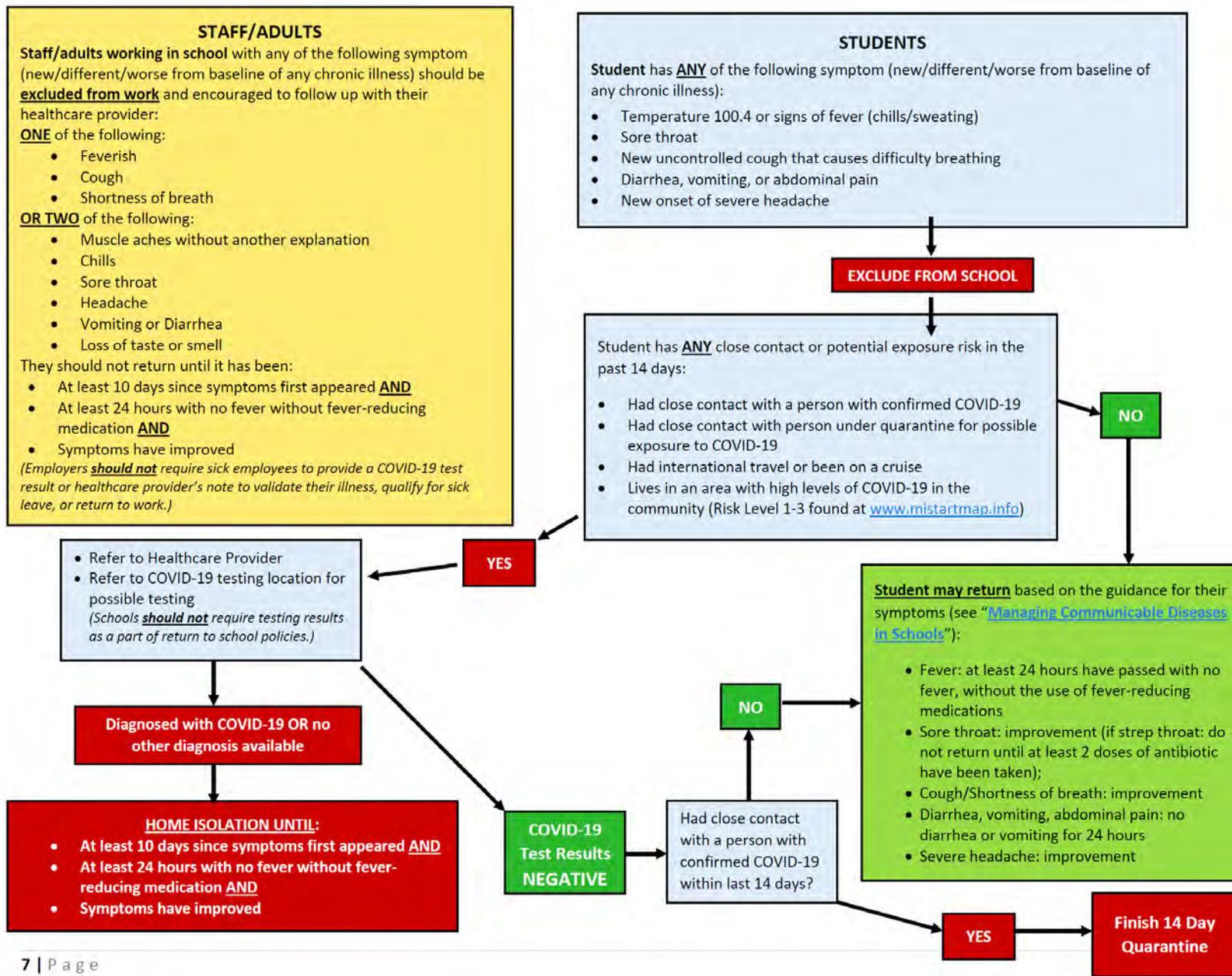
Any student with any of these symptoms should go home or stay home, because they are sick and they will have an impaired ability to learn

# Screening of Students

- Risk for COVID-19: In the past 14 days has the child:
  - Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19: OR
  - Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with person under quarantine for possible exposure to COVID-19; OR
  - Had international travel or have been on a cruise
  - Are you in an area with high levels of COVID-19 in the community (Risk Level 1-3 found at [www.mistartmap.info](http://www.mistartmap.info))

# Screening of Students

- See page 7 of toolkit for flowchart



# Screening of Students

- If has symptom(s) and risk factor, refer to healthcare provider and/or COVID-19 testing
  - If COVID-19 test is negative and they are not the close contact of a case, can return to school based on their underlying symptoms
    - If test negative but they are a close contact to a case, they must still finish their 14 day quarantine
- If test positive or testing not done/no other diagnosis is available, cannot return until: 10 days from symptoms onset; 24 hr. no fever\*, symptoms have improved
  - \*changed from 72 hr. to 24 hr. on July 20<sup>th</sup>, also: testing method to clear from isolation no longer recommended. See <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-in-home-patients.html>
- If no risk factor, can return based on their symptoms

Staff/adults working in school with any of the following symptom (new/different/worse from baseline of any chronic illness) should be excluded from work and encouraged to follow up with their healthcare provider:



ONE of the following:

- Feverish
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

OR TWO of the following:

- Muscle aches without another explanation
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Headache
- Vomiting or Diarrhea
- Loss of taste or smell

They should not return until it has been:

- At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND
- At least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication AND
- Symptoms have improved

# Screening of Staff