



District Health Department #10

Healthy People, Healthy Communities

Dear K-12 Partners:

As we enter the third year of the COVID-19 pandemic and are seeing less and less gained from the time spent investigating each individual COVID-19 case, the public health response will be shifting away from individual-level case investigations and focus on high priority communities and congregate settings. State efforts will be directed at public awareness and education campaigns related to increasing public familiarity with isolation and quarantine, definition of a close contact, how and when to notify close contacts, what to do if notified of an exposure, when and how to seek testing, conducting at-home testing and interpreting results, and when to seek medical care/therapeutics.

In other words, the overall goal for the general public is to teach them what to do if they are sick and infected with COVID-19, how to notify their own close contacts, and what to do if they are a close contact, rather than attempting contacting and educating them individually.

Schools continue to be a high priority community and local public health will continue to assist schools to the best of their ability, especially with cluster and outbreak management. Health resource advocates (HRA) are available in many areas until July and can assist schools with the COVID related issues that are most helpful to their schools. K-12 schools should communicate with their local public health department to determine how they and their health department will be working together.

The following recommendations are provided as a guide for school administrators to respond to COVID-19 cases in their schools or at school events in order to protect student safety and maintain a safe workplace for their employees. This process starts when a school becomes aware of someone within the school community who has COVID-19, whether from a parent report to the school, self-reports from students or staff, or screening testing conducted by the school.

When the school becomes aware that someone within the school community has COVID-19, the school should take the following steps in response:

Step 1: Find out the date the person with COVID-19 started showing symptoms (if they have symptoms) or if they don't have symptoms, the date the person tested positive for COVID-19 (use the date the test was collected).

Step 2: Report the positive case to local public health within 24 hours as required by the public health code (more information regarding these requirements can be found in [Managing Communicable Diseases in Schools](#)). Please fax your report of positive cases to DHD#10 at 1-231-903-4902.

Step 3: Provide isolation guidance for the person who tested positive for COVID-19. See “**Isolation Guidance Letter**” template that can be edited and used for this purpose as well as <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-contact-tracing/about-isolation.html>

Step 4: Immediately identify close contacts of the person who has COVID-19. If the person with COVID-19 has symptoms, identify contacts from 2 days prior to the beginning of the person's symptoms. If the

person with COVID-19 does not have symptoms, identify contacts from the 2 days prior to their positive test result (use the date the test was collected). You **do not** need to provide the identity of close contacts to your local health department any longer. *Close contacts that occurred outside the school setting or school activities should be elicited and notified by the person with COVID-19 (or the parents/guardians of the person). These instructions are in the “Isolation Guidance Letter” template letter.*

A [Close Contact](#) is someone who was less than [6 feet away from an infected person](#) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, *three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes*). An infected person can spread COVID-19 starting 2 days before they have any symptoms (or, for asymptomatic people, 2 days before the positive specimen collection date).

In the **K–12 indoor classroom** setting, ***the close contact definition excludes students who were between 3 to 6 feet of an infected student if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) [correctly and consistently](#) wore well-fitting [masks](#) the entire time.*** This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.

Step 5: Notify all close contacts of their “close contact” status. See “**School Individual Close Contact**” **Template Letter**.

Recommendations for [Quarantine for K-12 Schools](#) close contacts:

Students, teachers, and staff who came into close contact with someone with COVID-19 should quarantine for at least 5 days (day 0 through day 5) after their last close contact with a person who has COVID-19 (date of exposure is day 0) if they are in one of the following groups:

- If they are not [up to date](#)* on COVID-19 vaccines. This includes people who are not vaccinated.

Students, teachers, and staff who came into close contact with someone with COVID-19 and are in one of the following groups do not need to quarantine:

- They are [up to date](#)* with their COVID-19 vaccines.
- They had confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days (meaning they tested positive using a [viral test](#)).
- For close contacts of school exposures only:
 - If both individuals were [correctly and consistently](#) wearing a mask during the entire exposure (the close contact and the person with COVID-19)
 - They test negative prior to attending class or any school function at least every other day starting the first day they became aware of the exposure until and including day 5 after exposure.

All close contacts should:

- Wear a well-fitting mask around others for 10 days from the date of their last close contact with someone with COVID-19 (the date of last close contact is considered day 0).
- Get tested at least 5 days after their last close contact with someone with COVID-19 unless they had confirmed COVID-19 in the last 90 days and subsequently recovered
- Watch for COVID-19 symptoms.

- Those who test positive or develop COVID-19 symptoms should follow recommendations for isolation.

**Up To Date on COVID-19 vaccines means:*

- For those 5 years to 11 years: A 2-dose series of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech)
- For those 12 years through 17 years: A 2-dose series of an age-appropriate mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech) and a COVID-19 vaccine booster at least 5 months after completing the 2-dose series
- For those 18 years and older:
 - A 2-dose series of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) and a COVID-19 vaccine booster at least 5 months after completing the 2-dose series
OR
 - A single-dose Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine and a COVID-19 vaccine booster at least 2 months after receiving your J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccination

Step 6: Depending on the number of COVID-19 cases in your school and community, notify your entire school community of the presence of COVID-19 within the school setting and that all people determined to be close contacts have been or will be notified. See "**COVID-19 Case Notification (General Notification) letter**" template.

Step 7: For each person with COVID-19 and each close contact, document the earliest possible date for the person to return to school or school activities, and ensure that students do not rejoin in-person class participation until their isolation or quarantine period is over. If a close contact develops symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19, start over at Step 1 for this individual.

NOTE: The community will be educated regarding how long to stay in isolation and quarantine and to notify their own close contacts using www.tellmycontacts.org (Michigan resources [here](http://www.mi.gov/containcovid): www.mi.gov/containcovid, CDC resources [here](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick): www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick). If your school becomes aware of or has concerns that a staff or student's household member has COVID-19 or is a close contact due to a non-school exposure, direct them to these resources. You can advise them to quarantine as directed by these resources. If they have questions or concerns, advise them to contact their healthcare provider or local health department or dial 211 or call the MI COVID Hotline at 888-535-6136. **You are not responsible for the direction of out of school cases and contacts and should handle these situations as you would any other self-reports of illness.**

Source: Responding to COVID-19 Cases in K-12 Schools: Resources for School Administrators
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-contact-tracing/guide.html>

Management of COVID Cases and Contacts (adapted from [StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit](#))

Exclusion Criteria	Scenario	Criteria to return to school
Positive Antigen test for COVID-19, but no Symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Person has tested positive with an antigen test but does not have symptoms of COVID-19 Not known to be a close contact to someone diagnosed with COVID-19. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the person has a negative PCR test performed within 48 hours of the positive antigen test: the positive antigen test can be considered a false positive and the person can immediately return to school If the person does not have a repeat PCR test OR has one within 48 hours and it is also positive, the person can return to school 5 days after the specimen collection date of the first positive test, as long as they did not develop symptoms. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The person must continue to mask for an additional 5 days to minimize risk of infecting others.
Positive PCR test for COVID-19, but no Symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Person has tested positive with a PCR test but the person does not have symptoms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Person can return to school 5 days after the specimen collection date of their positive test as long as they did not develop symptoms. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The person must continue to mask for an additional 5 days to minimize risk of infecting others.
Symptoms	<p>Person has symptoms of COVID-19 <u>and</u> has tested positive with an antigen test or PCR test</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Person has symptoms of COVID-19 but has not been tested for COVID-19 nor has visited a health care provider. <i>(Therefore, the person who has symptoms is presumed positive for COVID-19 due to the presence of a clinically compatible illness in the absence of testing.)</i></p>	<p>Person can return to school when</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It has been at least 5 days after the first day of symptoms; AND It has been at least 24 hours since the person had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine); AND Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving. <p>The person must continue to wear a mask for 10 days after the first day of symptoms to minimize the risk of infecting others</p>
Symptoms	<p>Person has symptoms of COVID-19 but has received a negative test for COVID-19* or has visited a health care provider and received an alternate diagnosis that would explain the symptoms of COVID-19</p> <p><small>*In a person with symptoms, a negative test is defined as either (1) a negative PCR/molecular test or (2) a negative antigen test if the person has a low likelihood of SARS-CoV-2 infection (e.g., the person has no known or suspected exposure to a person with COVID-19 within the last 14 days or is fully vaccinated). See CDC antigen algorithm for interpretation of antigen tests</small></p>	<p>Person can return to school when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It has been at least 24 hours since the person had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine); AND They have felt well for at least 24 hours. <p>Note: The health care provider is not required to detail the specifics of the alternate diagnosis.</p>
Exposure	<p>Person in a mask optional setting for whom an exception to exclusion (as defined below) does not apply and has been in close contact with someone with COVID-19</p>	<p>Person must be excluded from school for 5 days after exposure. The 5 days of exclusion begins on the day after the last known close contact with the COVID-19 positive individual. Person may return to school after exclusion if asymptomatic but must continue to wear a mask for an additional 5 days, for a total of 10 days after exposure. They should test on day 5, if possible. If symptoms occur, person should immediately isolate until a test either confirms COVID-19, or a negative result rules it out.</p>
Exposure Exemption: vaccinated	<p>Person has been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 and is in one of the following groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They are 12 years of age and have received their primary series AND booster, if eligible. They are between the ages of 5-11 and have completed a primary series of COVID-19 vaccines. 	<p>Person does not need to be excluded from school if they have had no symptoms after being a close contact to someone with COVID-19. The person must continue to wear a mask for 10 days after the exposure to minimize the risk of infecting others and should get tested on day 5, if possible.</p>
Exposure Exemption: Masked exposure	<p>Person has been in close contact with someone with COVID-19, in which both individuals were correctly and consistently wearing a mask the entire time</p>	<p>Person does not need to be excluded from school if masks were being worn correctly and consistently by both the person with COVID-19 and the potential exposed person. This applies to exposures in classrooms, other in-school settings, extracurricular activities, including athletic activities and school transportation.</p>
Exposure Exemption: Infection in past 90 days	<p>Person has been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 and had confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days (tested positive using an antigen or PCR test)</p>	<p>Person does not need to be excluded from school if they have had no symptoms after being a close contact to someone with COVID-19. The person must continue to wear a mask for 10 days after the exposure to minimize the risk of infecting others. Testing is not recommended.</p>
Exposure Exemption: Test to Stay	<p>Person in a mask required setting and has been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 in which one or both individuals were not wearing a mask the entire time</p>	<p>Person does NOT need to be excluded from school after a close contact, including unmasked exposures (e.g., during lunch or extracurricular activities), if they have no symptoms and get tested on the day of notification of exposure and at least every other day until and including day 5 after exposure prior to attending school and school functions. They must wear a mask in school settings. While the individual does not need to be excluded from the school setting, quarantine measures may still apply in non-school settings.</p>