



Public Health

MEMORANDUM

TO: Wayne RESA and Local Wayne County School Districts

FROM: Avani Sheth, MD MPH, Medical Health Officer, Wayne County Public Health Division

DATE: March 17, 2022

SUBJECT: Updated MDHHS School Guidance for K-12 School Settings

On February 16, 2022, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) released the [COVID-19 Cycle framework](#) and identified that Michigan is entering a **post-surge recovery phase**. Subsequently, on March 11, 2022, MDHHS released updated COVID-19 guidance for K-12 settings that is specific to the post-surge recovery phase.

In accordance with MDHHS, Wayne County Public Health Division (WCPHD) recommends schools refer to the following MDHHS documents for guidance in implementing COVID-19 protocols:

- [MI Safer Schools Guidance for K-12 School Settings in a COVID-19 Recovery Phase](#)
- [School Guidance For School Administrator and Local Public Health Coordination](#)
- [Managing Communicable Disease in Schools](#)

MDHHS Updated Isolation and Quarantine Guidance for Post-Surge Recovery Phase:

	Who is Impacted	Public Health Recommendations
Isolation Has COVID-19	Any individual who tests positive for COVID-19 and/or displays COVID-19 symptoms (without an alternate diagnosis or negative COVID-19 test) regardless of vaccination status.	Isolate at home for 5 days; and If symptoms have improved or no symptoms developed, may leave isolation after day 5 and wear a well-fitted mask, for 5 more days (ending after day 10).* <i>If positive with no symptoms, monitor for symptoms for 10 days as well.</i>
Quarantine Exposed to COVID-19	Personal or household contact , regardless of vaccination status, exposed to someone with COVID-19 (see definition below).	Monitor symptoms for 10 days. Wear a mask around others for 10 days after exposure.** Test 3-7 days after exposure or if symptoms develop. Avoid unmasked activities or activities with higher risk of exposing vulnerable individuals.***
	Other exposure (from community, social, work setting).	Monitor symptoms for 10 days. Test if symptoms develop. Consider wearing a mask around others for 10 days after exposure; at a minimum, mask in settings with higher risk of exposing vulnerable individuals.***

* If a mask cannot be worn, recommend 10 days of home isolation.
 ** If a mask cannot be worn, individual should home quarantine for 10 days. A Test to Stay protocol may also be developed in partnership between school and local health department.
 *** Activities with immunocompromised or other high-risk individuals, social/recreational activities in congregate settings.
Personal/household contacts include individuals who share living spaces, including bedrooms, bathrooms, living room and kitchens. It also includes those who live together, sleep over, carpool or have direct exposure to respiratory secretions from a positive individual. This would include exposure in childcare settings for those under 2 years of age.

Note: If schools choose to adopt a Test to Stay protocol, WCPHD recommends following MDHHS guidance (Testing every other day through Day 6 following exposure using PCR, school-based or at-home rapid antigen tests).



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Under the new MDHHS guidelines, schools are required to:

- Ensure students and staff follow [isolation and quarantine](#) protocols as defined by MDHHS
- Report both students and staff that test positive for COVID-19 to the WCPHD within 24-hours of notice of a positive test result (cd-k12schools@waynecounty.com)
- Notify the WCPHD of potential school-associated outbreaks

WCPHD continues to recommend the following prevention strategies:

- Promote [staying up to date](#) on all recommended COVID-19 vaccinations for all eligible students, staff and household members
- Support individuals who choose to wear a mask. Masking is recommended for those with increased personal/household health risks, who are not vaccinated or up to date with vaccinations, or who choose to have an extra layer of protection.
- Encourage parents/guardians to monitor students daily for signs and symptoms of illness
 - Students who have symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home and obtain COVID-19 testing
 - Parents/guardians should notify schools if a student tests positive for COVID-19 and follow isolation guidance
- Provide notice to the school community when a positive case is identified on school grounds (e.g., posting case counts to school website, sending letter/email/text/call informing of case in classroom and/or school)
- Improve student access to COVID-19 testing through engaging with [school testing opportunities](#) including MI Safer Schools Testing program
- Optimize where feasible physical distancing measures and ventilation
- Promote hand hygiene

Voluntary Contact Tracing

- While MDHHS and WCPHD are not requiring individual level contact tracing, schools may continue to conduct contact tracing if they choose to do so.
- Schools may be requested by WCPHD to assist with contact tracing efforts on a case-by-case basis.