

## **MEMORANDUM**

TO: Wayne RESA and Local Wayne County School Districts

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

DATE: March 17, 2022

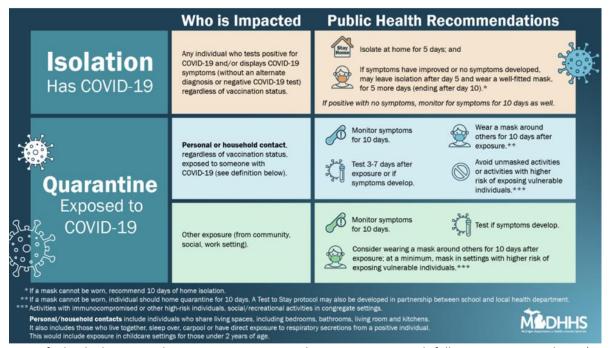
SUBJECT: Updated MDHHS School Guidance for K-12 School Settings

On February 16, 2022, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) released the <u>COVID-19 Cycle framework</u> 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:



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).



## 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 (<u>cd-k12schools@waynecounty.com</u>)
- Notify the WCPHD of potential school-associated outbreaks

## WCPHD continues to recommend the following prevention strategies:

- Promote <u>staying up to date</u> 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 <u>school testing opportunities</u> 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.