

2021-2022 School Guidance

Created 7/29/21; Edited 1/6/22

The Health District will continue to follow guidance issued by CDC, ODH, and local data to make the best recommendations for the District. These recommendations are current as of the date on this document and based on the current conditions of the District and may be modified as conditions change.

Social Distancing

- The Health District recommends social distancing of at least 3 feet, where possible.
- The Health District recommends maintaining accurate records of student seating, and cohorts in classrooms, transportation, and any other group activities.

Vaccination

- The Health District recommends all students and staff who are eligible receive a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccination series.
- To promote vaccinations, the Health District recommends schools host COVID-19 clinics for eligible students and staff.

Transportation

- [Per CDC Order](#) “Requirement for Persons to Wear Masks While on Conveyances and at Transportation Hubs” dated January 29, 2021, masks are currently required on public transportation. This order applies to [school buses](#).
- The Health District recommends maintaining as many open windows as possible on buses and other public transportation.

Ventilation and Air Handling

- The Health District recommends providing as much ventilation as possible and following [CDC's air handling recommendations](#).

Facial Covering

- The Health District will use a [report card](#) released on Wednesdays to determine masking recommendations. A passing report card will indicate that those who are unvaccinated should wear a facemask. A failing report card will indicate all individuals should wear a facemask indoors and in crowded environments.
- Facemasks may be required if an outbreak is identified in a classroom or building to prevent further spread. This decision will be based on the factors of the specific classroom or building and take into consideration local data.

Communication

- The Health District will share communication channels with schools to facilitate easy communication. Through these channels schools will report cases. The Health District will communicate exclusion information but will not share any vaccine status.
- The Health District will schedule weekly meetings on Thursdays to communicate any changes to recommendations/requirements, answer any questions, and plan for implementation of any changes on the following Monday.

Disease Management

- The Health District recommends staff and students stay home if they are sick, regardless of diagnosis status, until any fever has been resolved for 24 hours and they have an improvement of symptoms. The following may be indicative of COVID-19:
 - One or more of the following: cough; shortness of breath; difficulty breathing; loss of taste or smell; confusion or change in mental status; persistent pain in the chest; pale, gray, or blue-colored skin, lips, or nail beds; or inability to wake or stay awake.
 - Two or more of the following: fever, chills, rigors, myalgia, headache, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion, or runny nose.
- The Health District will continue case management and isolation of cases.
- The Health District will provide isolation/quarantine guidance based on CDC recommendations and local data.
- Case Public Health Restrictions
 - Cases must either:
 - Isolate at home for 10 days, OR
 - Isolate at home for 5 days and wear a mask for days 6-10.
 - In all case public health restriction options, day zero is day of symptom onset or test date, whichever is first.
 - Cases are excluded from school while under isolation.
 - To end isolation cases must have resolution of fever for 24 hours and improvement of other symptoms). If fever or unimproved symptoms extend isolation, a mask must be worn for 5 days after isolation ends.
 - When cases return to school it is advisable to take precautions during times when masks are removed (e.g. eating).
 - In all situations, fever reduction must be accomplished without the use of fever reducing medications.
- Contact Public Health Restrictions
 - Contacts must either:
 - Quarantine at home for 10 days, OR
 - Quarantine at home for 5 days from exposure and return to school on day 6, wearing a mask on days 6-10, OR
 - Return to school while adhering to mask usage for 10 days after exposure.
 - Contact public health restrictions can be reduced to 7 days after last exposure if the contact has a negative viral test at least 5 days after exposure. The test must be taken or proctored by a healthcare provider.
 - In all contact public health restriction options, day of last exposure is considered day zero when determining release date.
 - All contacts are eligible for the same quarantine options. To determine who is a contact, see the Health District Contact Considerations or Contact Flow Chart.
 - If contacts develop symptoms they will be treated as cases above.
- In all public health restrictions, normal activity can resume after restrictions are lifted (e.g. with 5 days of isolation and 5 days of masking, the student can resume normal activities on day 11 with no restrictions).
- School staff will notify the Health District of cases for contact tracing.
- The Health District will provide specific guidance on COVID-19 based on local data at the classroom, building, district, and community level. This guidance may not be per classroom but at building level when students are changing classrooms on a regular basis.

- If a contact is exposed at home, public health restrictions would start on the first exposure date and extend until 10 days after the last exposure to the household case while the case is still infectious (generally 10 days). This could result in public health restrictions for the contact for 20 days.

Test to Play Option

- The test to play option is only for what would traditionally be an exposure leading to a contact classification. If an exposure was ruled “not a contact” this procedure would not apply because no contact would be generated.
- The test to play option is valid for those exposures to COVID-19 cases in which the contact has no symptoms.
- The test to play school option only permits a student to participate in school sponsored extracurricular activities/sports. All other requirements are still in place.
- To be eligible for test to play a student must:
 - When engaged in extracurricular activities, wear an appropriate mask at all times when the mask will not interfere with breathing, the activity, or create a safety hazard for 10 days after last date of exposure.
 - Test within 24 hours of notification as a contact. If the test does not occur within 24 hours, test to play will not be applied and the student will not be permitted to participate in extracurricular activities. Test must be conducted by a healthcare provider or observed/proctored (self-administered, unobserved, at home tests do not qualify).
 - Testing again on day 5 is recommended.
 - If the exposure is in the household, the contact should test within 24 hours of notification of a positive case in the household and again on days 5 and 10. Day of first household exposure is considered day 0 in determining testing days.
- Testing students the day of multi-school competitions may be considered.