**August 12, 2021 School COVID-19 Update**

**Quick Reference Guide**

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| **Situations** | **Action Needed** |
| Test positive for COVID-19, confirmed or probable COVID-19 case | Isolate for 10 days irrespective of vaccine status |
| Close contact to an individual with COVID-19 | **Unvaccinated:** 10 day quarantine from last exposure**Fully vaccinated or within 90 days from positive COVID-19 test:** Get tested 3-5 days after exposure; Social distance & strict mask use indoors in public places for 14 days following exposure or until their test is negative  |
| Serial Testing in lieu of quarantine for in school exposure only | Unvaccinated without symptoms exposed in the school setting can attend in school if serial testing on days 1-5, 7 & 9 remains negative; Development of symptoms and/or positive test 🡪 see healthcare provider for PCR test  |

**Definitions**

Isolation: Separation of sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick. ·

Quarantine: prevention of the spread of illness by separating individuals who have had close contact with someone with COVID-19. For COVID-19, quarantine period is 10 days from last exposure. This means staying home (except to get medical care) and getting tested if symptoms develop.

Close Contact: An individual who was within 6 feet of a COVID-positive person, while the person was considered contagious, for *15 minutes or more* over a cumulative 24 hours, regardless of mask wearing**.**

Contagious Period: An infected person can spread the COVID-19 virus, SARS-CoV-2, starting from 2 days before they have any symptoms (or, for those without symptoms, 2 days before the positive specimen collection date), until they meet criteria for [discontinuing home isolation](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/duration-isolation.html).

Fully Vaccinated: ≥2 weeks after receiving the second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna), or ≥2 weeks after receiving a single-dose vaccine (Johnson & Johnson [J&J]/Janssen)

**What is our recommendation to schools in Midland County from MCDPH?**

**MCDPH urges schools to follow the COVID-19 recommendations from** [**MDHHS**](https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0%2C9753%2C7-406-98178_104699---%2C00.html) **and** [**CDC**](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html)**.** These involve a layered approach of prevention strategies to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission to students, staff, and the greater community. Local school districts, in consultation with local public health, should select preventive strategies based on an ongoing assessment of 1) [the current level of community transmission of COVID-19](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view), 2) the current level of in-school transmission of COVID-19, and 3) the capacity of the school’s facilities, staff, and resources.

These prevention strategies are:

School-based prevention strategies may change throughout the school year, particularly as COVID-19 transmission changes, vaccinations become available to younger persons, or we learn more about the disease.

MCDPH consults with each school to interpret current data on COVID-19 cases, local trends and outbreaks, and provide guidance on response to outbreaks in school settings. MCDPH encourages schools to prioritize in-person instruction while implementing as many preventive measures as possible to reduce transmission.

**Requirements for schools.** There is a CDC [order](https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/masks/mask-travel-guidance.html) for face coverings on school bus transportation. Case notification to the local health department and contact tracing is required by the [Michigan Public Health Code](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/%28S%28hvpqc1pktwgfw32iqjjyk55k%29%29/mileg.aspx?page=GetObject&objectname=mcl-act-368-of-1978). Schools must continue to follow the MDHHS Order [Reporting of Confirmed and Probable Cases at Schools](https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0%2C9753%2C7-406-98178_98455-541860--%2C00.html), which requires schools to post data about case counts on their websites. Schools should continue to follow their infectious disease policies, such as requiring students and staff to stay home when sick.

**What can families do to minimize the risk of COVID-19 in 2021-2022 for their children?**

1. [Get everyone aged 12 and older in your family vaccinated](https://www.barryeatonhealth.org/schedule-vaccine). Vaccination is the safest way to build immunity to COVID-19, and it’s more long-lasting than immunity through infection[[1]](#footnote-1). Children aged 11 and under who cannot yet be vaccinated whose parents and older siblings are vaccinated are less likely to be exposed to COVID-19 at home.
2. When vaccines are authorized for children ages 11 and younger, get them vaccinated.
3. While at school, children, teens, and adults ages 2 and older should wear a mask. Masks are required for those riding school buses, both public and private. While some schools may make masks optional in the classroom, MCDPH recommends that all individuals use a mask indoors at school to protect themselves and others from COVID-19 transmission. This is particularly important with the more transmissible Delta variant present in our communities, which is likely to be on the rise when school begins. This is regardless of vaccination status.
4. Teach and reinforce handwashing with your children. Discuss the importance of respecting other people’s mask-wearing decisions with your children, and discourage bullying or teasing others.
5. Keep your children home from in-person instruction if they have symptoms of an infectious disease, such as COVID-19. Get children tested for COVID-19 if they have symptoms or were exposed to someone with COVID-19. Individuals exposed to COVID-19 should be tested for COVID-19 3-5 days after exposure, regardless of vaccination status. If your child is exposed to someone with COVID-19, and the health department recommends that they quarantine, keep them home as much as possible.
6. Answer the phone or text when contacted by the health department. It’s critical that we gather information from you about your child’s exposure or exposures to help protect others.
7. Know that mask use as well as being vaccinated will reduce the likelihood that your child will be determined to be a close contact and need to quarantine. When everyone is wearing a mask, quarantine is only needed for those within 3 feet of the other students; otherwise a 6-foot rule applies. If your student is vaccinated, they do not need to quarantine unless they have symptoms.
8. If community transmission of COVID-19 is substantial to high[[2]](#footnote-2), consider reducing the number of public places and events with large, indoor crowds that children attend outside of school hours. This would be things like movie theaters, concerts, etc. Wear masks when indoors, regardless of vaccination status, when community transmission of COVID-19 is substantial to high.
9. Support and participate in the preventive measures enacted by local schools, such as disease screening forms, routine testing (if offered), cleaning, and cohorting.

Resources:

[CDC COVID-19 Data Tracker](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view) [Michigan MI Safe Start Map](https://www.mistartmap.info/)

1. <https://directorsblog.nih.gov/2021/06/22/how-immunity-generated-from-covid-19-vaccines-differs-from-an-infection/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html#footnote-1a> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)