



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

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GOVERNOR

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MDHHS updates school guidance quarantine guidelines, continues to strongly recommend universal masking to prevent spread of COVID-19

LANSING, Mich. - Today, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) [issued streamlined quarantine recommendations for schools](#) designed to help prevent transmission of COVID-19 among the school-aged population while reducing disruptions to in-person learning. In addition to vaccination, which is approved for ages 5 and up, layered prevention measures, including masking, should be put in place for consistent in-person learning to keep kids, staff and families safe.

MDHHS recommends local health departments and schools work together to quickly *isolate COVID-19 cases* among students and staff, identify close contacts of those cases, and adopt quarantine policies that reduce the risk of transmission in schools while allowing in-person learning. When evidence-based prevention measures are utilized, such as vaccination, masking, and testing, students exposed to COVID-19 cases may not have to quarantine at home and can stay in the classroom.

"Schools have the ability to be safe now that children ages 5 and older can be vaccinated," said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, chief medical executive at MDHHS. "We continue to urge all eligible residents to get the safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible as it is our best defense against the virus. Masks, distancing, quarantine and isolation are all additional strategies that keep our schools and public spaces safe."

MDHHS continues to recommend universal masking in all K-12 school settings.

Quarantine and isolation are determined by the local health department and are used as important tools to prevent the spread of disease.

- You **isolate** when you are infected with COVID-19 and have tested positive, even if you do not have symptoms. Isolation is used to separate people who are infected with COVID-19 from those who are not infected.
- You **quarantine** when you might have been exposed to COVID-19. This is because you might become infected with COVID-19 and could spread COVID-19 to others.
- Any individual that displays [COVID-19 symptoms](#), regardless of vaccination status, should not attend school and should be tested for COVID-19.

School Quarantine Guidance

What to do when a student is exposed to COVID-19 in a school setting, **but doesn't have symptoms.**

Students experiencing symptoms should not attend school activities.



Michigan.gov/Coronavirus

Fully Vaccinated



Fully vaccinated contacts without symptoms do not need to quarantine.

Unvaccinated

(both the exposed student and the COVID+ student were masked)



Contacts can participate in school activities if wearing a mask for 14 days after exposure and using a "Test to Stay" strategy.*

Unvaccinated

(one or both students unmasked)



If additional testing and mitigation strategies are used, contacts may participate in school activities at the discretion of the local health department.

**Test to Stay suggested approach: Test every other day for 7 days after exposure.*

Students who test positive for COVID-19 should not attend school and should isolate at home for 10 days after symptom onset (or 10 days after the positive test if they do not have symptoms).

MDHHS continues to recommend universal masking in all K-12 school settings.

COVID-19 School Quarantine Guidelines for Asymptomatic Students

- **Fully vaccinated contacts** without symptoms do not need to quarantine.
- **Contacts that are not fully vaccinated and do not have symptoms:**
- If masking was maintained, contacts can participate in school activities if wearing a mask for 14 days after exposure and using a "Test to Stay" strategy*
- If masking was not maintained, if additional testing and mitigation strategies are used, contacts may participate in school activities at the **discretion of the local health department.**

MI Safer Schools Testing Program

MDHHS is providing schools antigen testing supplies free of charge through the [MI Safe Schools Testing program](#). Schools and individual school districts can request antigen test kits through the Mi Safer Schools: [School Antigen COVID Test Ordering form](#). MDHHS will be leveraging our partnership with Intermediate School Districts to help distribute COVID-19 antigen tests based on the orders placed in the School Antigen COVID Test Ordering Form. Questions about test supply orders can be sent to your Intermediate School District and any other school testing related questions can be sent directly to MDHHS at MDHHS-COVIDtestingsupport@michigan.gov

To learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine, visit Michigan.gov/COVIDVaccine.

For more information about COVID-19 in Michigan, visit Michigan.gov/coronavirus.

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