

**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
OTTAWA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

**May 7, 2021**

In the Matter of:

COVID-19 Quarantine in Educational Settings within Ottawa County, Michigan:

**QUARANTINE ORDER IN EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS**

Matters of concern to the health of Ottawa County citizens having been brought to the attention of the Administrative Health Officer of the Ottawa County Department of Public Health, and the Administrative Health Officer having made the following determinations, issues this Order pursuant to the Michigan Public Health Code, MCL 333.2451 and 333.2453, as well as R. 325.175(4), which is an administrative rule promulgated by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to MCL 333.2226(d).

1. On October 5, 2020 and as recently as April 16, 2021, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services ("MDDHS") through its Directors have declared an Emergency Order to address threats to the public health posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. The virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person, primarily through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person or carrier coughs, sneezes, or talks. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. Spread is more likely to occur when people are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
3. Although vaccinations in the County are proceeding at a positive level and the hope is that continued vaccination will lead to reduced community transmission, COVID-19 remains a public health issue that impacts local institutions such as educational settings.
4. Household transmission of COVID-19 is common, with one study finding that transmission rates were as high as 53%. Because risk of transmission is high among households, household members who are not sick but have been exposed to COVID-19 pose a higher risk to educational settings if they return before a quarantine period has been completed.
5. It has been observed in educational settings that when prevention strategies such as masking, distancing, and handwashing are applied consistently that school-associated transmission of COVID-19 may be reduced.
6. Many students in schools who are identified as COVID-19 cases have competing household exposures, supporting continuation of quarantine for household close

contacts who are affiliated with educational settings.

7. As of May 5, 2021, the MDDHS has advised that enforcement of MDHHS' school quarantine guidelines must be now by local health department order.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that all Educational Institutions and all Persons in Educational Settings must adhere to the following rules:

- a. Household Close Contacts of COVID-19 Cases are required to quarantine for at least 10 days after last exposure to a COVID-19 Case.
- b. All Persons in Educational Settings in Close Contact with a COVID-19 Case involved in an Outbreak are required to quarantine for at least 10 days after last exposure to a COVID-19 Case.
- c. As soon as possible, Persons identified as Close Contacts in an Educational Setting should be notified of their potential exposure.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the following terms shall have the following definitions for purposes of this ORDER:

- a. "COVID-19 Case" is defined by the August 2020 interim position statement published by the Council for State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) Executive Board and referenced in the Michigan State and Local Public Health Standard Operating Procedures. For the purposes of this order, a person must meet the confirmed or probable case definition as defined by CSTE and be documented in the Michigan Disease Surveillance System as a COVID-19 case. The CSTE definition can be found at the following link: [https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.cste.org/resource/resmgr/ps/positionstatement2020/Interim-20-ID-02\\_COVID-19.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.cste.org/resource/resmgr/ps/positionstatement2020/Interim-20-ID-02_COVID-19.pdf).
- b. "Close Contact" means being within 6 feet of someone who is a COVID-19 case for a total of 15 minutes or more.
- c. "Educational Institutions" or "Educational Settings" is broadly defined and includes but is not limited to, youth camps, youth programs, childcare centers, preschools, primary through secondary schools, vocational schools, colleges, and universities. This definition includes educationally affiliated extracurricular activities such as school athletics.
- d. "Fully Vaccinated Persons" means persons for whom at least two weeks has passed after receiving the final dose of an FDA-approved or authorized COVID-19 vaccine.
- e. "Household Close Contact" means a close contact that lives with a COVID-19 case in a shared dwelling with common kitchen or bathroom facilities. In dwellings with shared kitchen or bathroom facilities occupied by 20 or more unrelated persons, households are defined by individuals who share a bedroom.
- f. "Outbreak" in an educational setting is generally defined by the CSTE and referenced in the Michigan State and Local Public Health Standard Operating Procedures. The CSTE definition can be found at the following link: <https://preparedness.cste.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Educational-Outbreak-Definition.pdf>.

- g. "Persons in Educational Settings" means students, teachers, administrative staff, attendees, volunteers, coaches, camp leaders, and other employees or volunteers of Educational Institutions.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that this ORDER shall not apply to the following Persons in Educational Settings:

- a. Persons who were a confirmed or probable COVID-19 Case in the past 90 days and recovered.
- b. Fully Vaccinated Persons.

**IT IS FURTHER REMINDED** that:

- a. In alignment with MDHHS guidance, the Ottawa County Department of Public Health continues to recommend at least a 10-day quarantine for all Close Contacts of COVID-19 Cases.
- b. Contact tracing in Educational Settings remains a mandate outlined in current MDHHS Epidemic Orders. Per the May 6, 2021 Gatherings and Facemask Order issued by MDHHS, "Upon request, businesses, schools, and other facilities must provide names and phone numbers of individuals with possible COVID-19 exposure to MDHHS and local health departments to aid in contact tracing and case investigation efforts".
- c. This order does not supersede current MDHHS Epidemic Orders. Current MDHHS mask mandates, including those relevant to Educational Institutions, still apply.

**THIS ORDER** is effective immediately and remains in effect until further order of the Health Officer.



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Lisa Stefanovsky  
Administrative Health Officer  
Ottawa County Department of Public Health

5/7/2021

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Date: