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## KEY MITIGATION STRATEGIES FOR SCHOOLS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

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These practices are important to not only guard against COVID-19, but also the spread of other infections such as the flu, and the common cold.

*The most effective mitigation strategy is the vaccination for those eligible to receive it.*



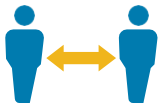
Cleaning and  
disinfecting



Hand hygiene and coughing/  
sneezing etiquette



Evaluate large gatherings outside of  
classroom/core groups



Social distancing according to  
county board guidance



Face coverings are  
optional; this subject to  
change  
**Mask are now required as  
of 9.9.21**



Contact tracing in collaboration with  
local health department

# HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Any student or staff who exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 (fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congesting or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea) is to remain at home. Do not come to school/work if you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.

## **MITIGATION and PREVENTION STRATEGIES**

**Hancock County's focus will continue to be on the health, safety, and well-being of our school community.**

### **FACE COVERINGS/MASKS ARE REQUIRED AS OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2021.**

- The Center for Disease Control and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that everyone, including fully vaccinated individuals, wear a mask in public indoor settings to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 Delta Variant.

### **CLEANING AND DISINFECTING**

- Cleaning practices will continue including sanitizing high touch and common areas.
- Electrostatic sprayers will be used in the cleaning process in schools and buses.
- Cleaning supplies will be provided to support healthy hygiene behaviors.
- PPE will be available to staff and students.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms.

### **HAND HYGIENE AND COUGHING/SNEEZING ETIQUETTE**

- Teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds during key times such as, before, during and after preparing food; before eating food; after using the toilet; after blowing nose, coughing, or sneezing; after using bare hands to touch objects that have been handled by other individuals.
- Encourage staff and students to cough and sneeze into their elbows, or to cover with a tissue.

### **EVALUATE LARGE GATHERINGS OUTSIDE OF CLASSROOM/CORE GROUPS**

- Nonessential visitors and activities involving external groups, organizations and community events will be limited and review with the Hancock County Health Department.

### **SOCIAL DISTANCING**

- Best practice to prevent transmission is to maintain a least three feet of distance when possible.
- Classrooms are arranged in a safe manner to limit close interactions in order to protect the health of our students and teachers.

### **CONTRACT TRACING**

- School nurses and the Hancock County Health Department will conduct contract tracing.

### **QUARANTINE GUIDANCE**

- Students and staff members who have been vaccinated do NOT have to quarantine.
- Unvaccinated individuals who are considered a close contact (within 3-6 feet of a COVID-19 positive for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24 -hour period will need to quarantine unless masked.
- If an individual and a COVID-19 positive individual are 3-6 feet apart and both have masks on correctly and consistently the individuals does not need to quarantine. However, the COVID-19 individual will need to isolate.

We will continue to use the key mitigation strategies

Our goal is to have students in the classrooms 5 days a week.

Maintain a school environment where students & staff feel safe.

Mask will be available for students and staff.

### **\*Contact Tracing for Schools with Universal Mask Policy (Mask are required as of 9.9.21)**

- For schools with a universal mask policy (regardless of DHHR map color) quarantining students and staff who have been exposed to a person with COVID-19 is NOT required if masks are worn at the point of exposure (including extracurricular activities).
- Schools should try to limit potential exposures while students are eating lunch by cohorting students who eat together or by eating in classrooms. This will reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19.

### **Contact Tracing for Schools with No Universal Mask Policy**

- For cases requiring quarantining, students who have been vaccinated do NOT have to quarantine.
- For unvaccinated students in a classroom, review class, bus, and cafeteria seating charts, and only quarantine students who were less than six-feet of an infected person as opposed to quarantining an entire classroom.
- There are exceptions when quarantining an entire classroom is acceptable (e.g., greater than 10% of class positive with COVID-19 or younger- aged children where identifying close contacts is not possible).

### **Definition of School Outbreak**

- Cases of COVID-19 are immediately reportable to the local health department. Local health departments, under the reportable disease rule 64-CSR7, have the authority to isolate and quarantine for COVID-19.
- An outbreak in a school setting is defined as:
  - Multiple cases comprising at least 10% of students, teachers, or staff, within a specified core group (e.g. classroom, extracurricular activity, sports team).
  - OR at least three cases within a specified core group (e.g. classroom, extracurricular activity, sports team).
  - COVID-19 cases with symptom onset or positive test result within 14 days of each other that were not identified as close contacts of each other in another setting (i.e., household) AND epidemiologically linked in the school setting.

### **Considerations for Closing**

- Schools may consider closing individual classrooms for a 10-day period when rapid transmission occurs in a classroom to slow transmission. Schools should use the threshold five or more students in a single classroom or if 10% of the classroom has COVID-19, whichever is greater.
- Schools may consider closing for a 10-day period to slow transmission if recommended by the local health department to the county superintendent based on meeting one of the thresholds:
  - School is unable to maintain a safe school environment due to the number of staff out.
  - School baseline absenteeism is double the average daily absences due to students out with COVID-19.

## **QUARANTINE GUIDANCE** *(\*Duration of quarantine applies from the last date of exposure)*

- Students who have been vaccinated do NOT have to quarantine.
- Students attending a county with a universal mask requirement and are unvaccinated will need to quarantine if within six feet of a confirmed case in high-risk areas such as cafeterias, extracurricular settings where mask are not worn.
- Students attending a county without a universal mask requirement and are unvaccinated must follow one of the two options below.

#### **Option 1**

Quarantine period can end after Day 10 without testing and if no symptoms have been identified during daily self-monitoring.

- » Day 0\*-10 quarantine for close contacts can end if no symptoms develop during daily self-monitoring without testing.
- » If an individual develops symptoms within the quarantine period, immediately isolate and contact the local health department to report change in clinical status.

#### **Option 2**

Quarantine period can end after Day 7 if someone tests negative (PCR or antigen test) and if no symptoms have been identified during daily self-monitoring.  
Post-quarantine transmission risk: 5%-12

- » Day 0\*-7 quarantine for close contact can end if COVID-19 test is negative and if no symptoms develop during daily self-monitoring.
- » Specimen may be collected and tested within 48 hours before the time of planned quarantine discontinuation.
- » Self-monitoring and mask wearing should be continuous.
- » If an individual develops symptoms within the quarantine period, immediately isolate and contact public health to report change in clinical status.

## ***Monitoring and Handling of Presumptive, Suspected, and Confirmed Cases***

Schools and counties are required to:

- Educate staff, students, and their families about the signs and symptoms of COVID-19, flu, and other communicable diseases. This includes guidance on when they should stay home, and when they can return to school.
- Establish a dedicated space for symptomatic individuals that will not be used for other purposes. Immediately isolate symptomatic individuals to the designated area at the school and send them home to isolate.
- Ensure symptomatic students are isolated for a short period of time, in a non-threatening manner and under the visual supervision of a staff member who is socially distanced to the greatest extent possible while wearing appropriate PPE.

WVDE Update 09.03.21 v7

*We will continue to update this document as changes occur.  
Ms. Petrovich, Superintendent*

<https://wvde.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/School-Recovery-and-Guidance-Document-FALL-2021-ONLINE-v11.pdf>