

Dawson-Bryant Local Schools

COVID Protocols - School Year 2021-2022

Facial Coverings:

The “CDC Levels of Community Transmission” will be used to determine when facial coverings are **required** and when they are **strongly recommended**. During designated HIGH (Red) levels of community transmission, all students, staff and visitors will be required to wear a mask while indoors. When the level of community transmission drops to the SUBSTANTIAL (Orange), MODERATE (Yellow) or LOW (Blue) designations, facial coverings will be STRONGLY RECOMMENDED while indoors for all students, staff and visitors.

- The District will monitor the CDC data and announce any masking status changes on our website and social media posts.
- The District will be quick to change a masking status during periods of increasing community transmission as a preventative measure.
- The District will be slow to change a masking status during periods of decreasing community transmission in an abundance of caution.
- The District reserves the right to change masking status based on current District case rates regardless of the CDC Community Transmission Status.

Certain exemptions to the district masking requirements apply:

- Individuals with a medical condition including respiratory conditions that restrict breathing, mental health conditions, or a disability that contraindicates the wearing of a face mask;
- The individual is communicating or seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing impaired or has another disability, where an accommodation is appropriate or necessary;
- The individual is actively participating in a physical activity including athletic practice, scrimmage, competition or physical education class activities;
- The individual is seated and actively consuming food or beverage;
- Where students and staff can maintain appropriate social distancing and removal of the facial covering is necessary for instructional purposes, including instruction in foreign language, English language for non-native speakers, and other subjects where wearing a facial covering would prohibit participation in normal classroom activities, such as playing an instrument;
- Students are able to maintain appropriate social distancing and a mask break is deemed necessary by the educator supervising the educational settings;
- The individual is alone in an enclosed space, such as an office; or
- When an established sincerely held religious requirement exists that does not permit a facial covering.

Individuals seeking a medical exemption from the mask requirement must submit appropriate documentation, from a licensed medical provider, to the child’s home school.

Facial coverings will be required, regardless of the CDC levels of community transmission and/or vaccination status, for the following reasons:

- Visits to the nurses' station when exhibiting COVID symptoms.
- Following confirmed exposure to COVID-19.
- While riding on any form of school transportation.

Facial coverings must be worn properly, covering the nose and mouth, to ensure effectiveness.

Quarantine/Isolation:

Fully Vaccinated Students and Staff

Fully vaccinated students and adults possibly exposed to COVID-19 and PreK and K-12 schools do not have to quarantine, and can continue to attend in-person class and participate in sports and extracurricular activities, unless symptoms develop. Vaccine recipients are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving the second dose of a two-dose vaccine (Moderna or Pfizer) or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine (Johnson & Johnson).

Unvaccinated Students and Staff

Unvaccinated students and adults possibly exposed to COVID-19 in PreK and K-12 schools may continue to attend in-person class, if the following conditions are met:

- The exposure occurred within a classroom environment or while on school transportation.
- The person with COVID-19 and any associated contacts were wearing face masks that covered their nose and mouth at all times.
- Distancing between students is maximized in classrooms and other settings, a minimum of 3 feet.
- They remain symptom free.

Students and staff exposed to COVID-19 in the school setting ONLY and regardless of vaccine status must:

- Self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days following exposure.
- Wear a facial covering in all school settings for 14 days after exposure or until a viral test performed at least five days (unvaccinated) after exposure comes back negative or 3-5 after exposure (fully vaccinated) comes back negative.
- Isolate if they have tested positive for COVID-19 for at least 10 days from the date symptoms started (or the date of the positive test if they have no symptoms).

Quarantine is required if the student or staff member is not fully vaccinated and layers of prevention (facial covering and social distancing) were not followed. The quarantine period will be a minimum of 7 days from the last known exposure, with a negative PCR or antigen test performed at least 5 days after exposure. Without a negative PCR or antigen test, the quarantine period will be for 10 days from the time of known exposure.

Student and staff exposed to COVID-19 outside of the school setting, regardless of vaccination status, are required to quarantine.

COVID-19 Symptoms at School:

The nursing personnel in the school clinic will see students for a variety of symptoms during the school day, including those symptoms consistent with COVID-19. As a result, the nurses cannot definitely rule out COVID-19 based on symptom presentation alone. Parents will be notified frequently this year for students presenting with symptoms consistent with COVID-19. The parents/guardians will be required to seek further evaluation by their own Health Care Provider. The Health Care Provider will then determine if COVID-19 testing is necessary or if the symptoms are likely from another illness or condition.

The School Nurse cannot have a student with any symptoms remain at school based on the parent's statement that the symptom is related to another non-COVID condition. The documentation must come from the child's health care provider. If a student has a chronic condition such as a cough associated with asthma, or a history of headaches, the health care provider can write a statement giving specific instructions and parameters for the nurse to follow that will allow the student to remain in the school setting.

Daily Health Assessments:

Student (and/or parents), staff, and visitors are required to conduct daily health assessments before entering a school building or participating in any school sponsored activities. Individuals with COVID symptoms or a temperature above 100 degrees Fahrenheit will be removed from the educational setting until they are symptom free, cleared by a medical professional, or receive a negative COVID-19 test. COVID-19 symptoms include:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Repeated shaking with chills

Transportation:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to require that masks be worn, regardless of vaccination status, on all public transportation, including school buses and other district operated vehicles.

Contact Tracing:

The district will continue to partner with the Lawrence County Health Department for the purpose of contact tracing.

Schools are required to report new diagnoses of COVID-19 to the local health department as soon as they are discovered. School officials or their designee will notify, to the extent allowable by applicable privacy laws, teachers, staff, and families of students who were close contacts and will be contacted as soon as possible after they are notified that someone in the school in the school has tested positive.

Only those individuals who are in direct contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 will be contacted.

Environment/Mitigation:

Social Distancing

Physical distancing of at least 3 feet will be maintained between students in the classroom. In some classrooms, physical barriers will continue to be utilized.

Hand Hygiene

The district will continue efforts to teach and reinforce hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If hand washing is not possible, hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol will be made available in the classroom and strategically placed throughout the school buildings. Appropriate signage will be placed throughout the school buildings to promote hand hygiene.

Facilities

Improvements to equipment, materials, and systems will be implemented or modified in school operation for the 2021-2022 academic years. These improvements include but are not limited to:

- Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) setting to maximize ventilation
- Elimination of drinking fountains, replaced with bottle fillers
- Routine/schedule disinfecting of high traffic surface areas
- Daily sanitization of buildings using equipment, safe chemicals, and techniques
- Access to hand sanitizer in the classroom and strategic locations throughout the buildings
- Access to cleaning supplies and disinfectant in the classroom
- Cleaning of communal spaces before/after use
- Modified schedules and layouts

Note: COVID related protocols are subject to change based on federal, state, and/or local mandates.

Guidelines for Quarantine After Exposure in K-12 Classroom Settings

While great strides have been made in controlling the spread of COVID-19, the virus remains a threat, and the ongoing health and safety of K-12 students, staff, and volunteers remains paramount. **Ohio's goal is to keep K-12 students in school, in person five days a week. Students benefit cognitively, emotionally, and developmentally from in-person learning.**

This guidance can help guide quarantine decisions after a student or adult contact is exposed to someone with COVID-19 **in the classroom setting.**

As Ohio prepares to enter the 2021-22 academic year, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) recommends in its [COVID-19 Health and Prevention Guidance for Ohio K-12 Schools](#) following layered prevention strategies that were remarkably effective at controlling COVID-19 during the 2020-21 school year. These include strongly recommending vaccination for those who are eligible; strongly recommending use of face masks in K-12 settings, particularly for those who are not fully vaccinated; maximizing distance between people; prompt identification and providing appropriate care for people exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19; practicing good hygiene; and routine environmental cleaning and disinfection.

Modified quarantine procedures for K-12 schools

The K-12 school environment is a setting in which layered public health strategies have been shown to be effective at reducing spread of COVID-19. During the 2020-21 school year, Ohio modified standard quarantine procedures for K-12 students based upon studies and pilot evaluations, including the [Ohio Schools COVID-19 Evaluation](#), which is further supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) new Close Contact K-12 Exception. Modified quarantine procedures will continue as Ohio schools begin the 2021-22 school year. With layered prevention strategies in place, more students will be able to remain in the classroom and continue participating in sports and extra-curricular activities.

COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective at preventing severe illness; while some infections are expected to occur in fully vaccinated people, these breakthrough infections are typically mild. To help prevent the potential spread of COVID-19 and keep students in school, everyone should follow recommended prevention measures after possible exposure to COVID-19.

The below guidance can be used to address **COVID-19 exposures in K-12 in-person learning environments** and on required school transportation (e.g., school buses). Consult with your local health department if you have questions or concerns about quarantine procedures.

Please note that this guidance applies for **contacts** who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19. The person who tested positive for COVID-19 should follow standard isolation procedures.

- **Quarantine is not necessary** for students and adults possibly exposed to COVID-19 in K-12 school settings, regardless of vaccination status, if ALL the following prevention measures have been in place:
 - **Masking** for students and staff (regardless of vaccination status).
 - **Physical distancing** is maximized (at least 3 feet between desks).
 - Documented **COVID-19 prevention policies** (e.g., identification of individuals experiencing symptoms, strategies to increase ventilation, protocols for cleaning, etc.).

- If not all prevention measures listed above were in place, **quarantine is not necessary** for fully vaccinated* students and adults provided they adhere to the following precautions: Wear a mask indoors, as much as possible, either for 14 days or until a viral (PCR or antigen) test performed three to five days after exposure has come back as negative. In addition:
 - Self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days following exposure; unless symptoms develop, individuals can continue attending in-person class and participating in sports and extra-curricular activities.
 - Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 should isolate away from others and be evaluated for COVID-19. Testing for SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) may be recommended in coordination with the local health department, school, healthcare provider, or parents/guardians.
 - If they test positive, they should isolate for at least 10 days from the date symptoms started (or the date of the positive test if they have no symptoms).
 - *Note: A person is considered fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving the second dose of a two-dose vaccine (Moderna or Pfizer vaccine) or two weeks after receiving a single-dose vaccine (Johnson & Johnson vaccine).
- If not all prevention measures listed above were in place, **quarantine is not necessary** for students and adults who are not fully vaccinated if the **person who was exposed** was wearing a **face mask** consistently and correctly and physical distancing was maintained. However, they should take the following precautions:
 - Wear a mask indoors, as much as possible, either for 14 days or until a viral (PCR or antigen) test performed at least five days after exposure has come back as negative. While this negative result would allow them to discontinue masking in school after day seven, we encourage them to continue masking.
 - Self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days following exposure; unless symptoms develop, individuals can continue attending in-person class and participating in sports and extra-curricular activities.
 - Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 should isolate away from others and be evaluated for COVID-19. Testing for SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) may be recommended in coordination with the local health department, school, healthcare provider, or parents/guardians.
 - If they test positive, they should isolate for at least 10 days from the date symptoms started (or the date of the positive test if they have no symptoms).

Quarantine should be required if the student or teacher is not fully vaccinated, and layers of prevention were not in place as described above.

- **If quarantine is necessary because layers of prevention were not in place as described above**, it should last for at least seven days since the last exposure, and the contact should have a negative viral (PCR or antigen) test collected on or after day five. Individuals should watch for any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days.
 - During quarantine, contacts should be advised to stay home and away from others as much as possible.
 - If they become symptomatic at any point, they should receive clinical evaluation or testing for COVID-19.
- **The above guidelines for students and adults only apply to exposures occurring in classroom settings.** Individuals who are not fully vaccinated and exposed to COVID-19 outside of the school setting should refrain from attending in-person school and participating in organized sports or extracurriculars throughout their quarantine period.

Updated Aug. 5, 2021.

For additional information, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.

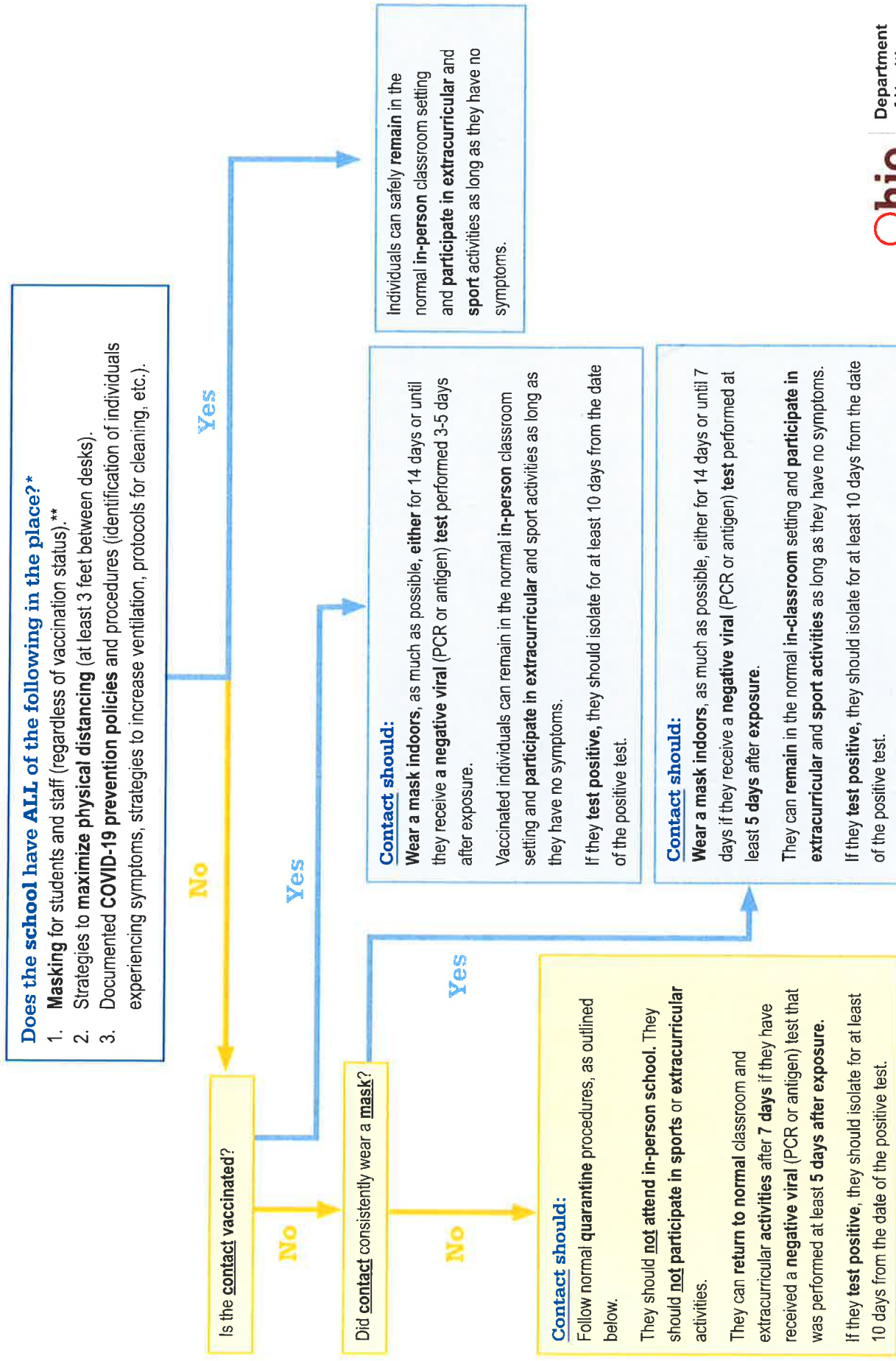
For answers to your COVID-19 questions, call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

Your mental health is just as important as your physical health. If you or a loved one are experiencing anxiety related to the coronavirus pandemic, help is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Call the COVID-19 CareLine at 1-800-720-9616.

For more information, visit: coronavirus.ohio.gov

Guidelines for Quarantine After Exposure in K-12 Classroom Settings

This chart can help guide quarantine decisions after a student or adult contact is exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the classroom setting.



*This flowchart applies only to COVID-19 exposures that occurred within a K-12 classroom setting. It is not applicable to exposure in the community, extracurricular, or sports environment.
**The person who tested positive for COVID-19 should follow standard isolation procedures.

