

COVID-19 Exposure/Illness

This document reflects current policy as of 1/28/21. Please note recent updates regarding masks (#2), and travel and gathering (#5).

Overview

Although the Preparedness and Response Plan developed for our schools addresses exposure and COVID-19 related illness in some depth, this document provides more specifics about how various situations will be addressed. We continue to monitor CDC recommendations, and will adjust our practices in accordance with the most updated information. As recommended by the CDC, we will partner with the Wayne County Health Department and other medical professionals, and act in accordance with government directives in decisions regarding school closure. Although protocols have been established, each situation will be considered individually, as circumstances will vary.

The early childhood and latchkey portions of our schools are licensed. It is our intention to keep these programs in operation even though the elementary and middle school may be closed by government order. We will, however, abide by any laws that pertain to our schools. Since March, future planning has not been entirely in our hands, but our goal has been, and continues to be, to keep children, families, and staff safe and well, while at the same time providing the care and education that parents want and children need.

Protocols

We value above all the health and safety of our students, their families, and our staff, and accordingly, we have established the following protocols:

- 1. SCREENING:** All staff and students are screened daily through temperature checks and a questionnaire.
- 2. MASKS:** Children aged 24 months and older and all adults are required to wear a properly fitting mask covering both nose and mouth when in the school building, and when transitioning between spaces. This includes transitions between indoors and outdoors, restroom use, and the car line during drop-off and pickup.

Masks are not required when eating or drinking, and are optional (although recommended) outdoors. Vented masks do not meet safety standards, and are not acceptable.

- 3. RESPONSES TO EXPOSURE, SYMPTOMS, and/or A POSITIVE TEST FOR COVID-19**

Exposure, for purposes of this document, is defined as close contact with a person who has tested positive or is sick with COVID-19. Close contact may include any of the following:

- *Being within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes. (The exposure time does not need to be continuous; it may be cumulative throughout a 24 hour period.)*
- *Providing care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19.*
- *Direct physical contact with an infected person (touching, hugging, or kissing him or her).*
- *Sharing eating or drinking utensils with an infected person.*
- *The infected person sneezed, coughed, or otherwise got respiratory droplets on you.*

Scenario 1: Third-party exposure (Child or staff member is exposed to a person who has been exposed to COVID-19 but is not symptomatic.)

Procedure: This person poses a potential risk to family, friends, and community for 14 days.

- a. A staff member will return to school following a negative COVID test.
- b. A student may return to school immediately, but must:
 - ~ Stay six feet from other people, both indoors and outdoors.
 - ~ Wear a mask to keep nose and mouth covered when outside their home.
 - ~ Wash hands often or use a hand sanitizer.
 - ~ Monitor for COVID-19 symptoms and take his or her temperature if feeling ill.

Scenario 2: Child or staff member is exposed to COVID-19 but not symptomatic

Procedure:

- a. Exclude the child and/or staff member from the school for 14 days since the last date of exposure.
Require them to self-monitor for symptoms, and self-quarantine.
- b. Notify Wayne County Health Department and follow their directive.
- c. Notify staff and families of students who may have come in contact with the exposed person.
- d. Deep clean and disinfect the areas where the person is known to have been, and sanitize any materials with which the child or staff member has had contact.

Scenario 3: Household member of an enrolled child is exposed to COVID-19 but not symptomatic

Procedure:

- a. The child or staff member may remain in school and is monitored for COVID-19 symptoms.
- b. If symptoms develop in the household member, he or she is instructed to be tested.
- c. The child or staff member is excluded from school until test results are available.
- d. In the event of a negative test, the child or staff person may return to school.
- e. If the test is positive, the child or staff member is excluded from school and will self-quarantine until 14 days after the date of last close contact with the household member. Notification and cleaning procedures listed in Scenario 1 will be followed.

Scenario 4: Child or staff member is symptomatic and awaiting COVID-19 test results

Procedure:

- a. If the person becomes ill at school, isolate him or her, and require that a mask be worn. Call parents to pick up the child; send the staff person home.
- b. Exclude the student or staff member from school until they obtain a negative test result and are symptom-free without the use of medications for 48 hours.
- c. Notify Wayne County Health Department and follow their directive.
- d. Notify staff and families of students who may have come in contact with the affected person, and require them to monitor for symptoms.
- e. Deep clean and disinfect the areas where the person is known to have been, and sanitize any materials with which the child or staff member has had contact.

Scenario 5: Household member of an enrolled child or staff member is symptomatic and awaiting test results

Procedure:

- a. Exclude the child or staff member from the school until test results are known.
- b. If the test results are negative, the student or staff member may return to school.
- c. In the event of a positive test, the student or staff members will be excluded from school for 14 days from the date of last contact with the household member, with the requirement that he or she be monitored for symptoms and be quarantined during that period.
- d. Notify the Wayne County Health Department and follow their directive.
- e. Notify staff and families of students who may have come in contact with the affected person's child.
- f. Deep clean and disinfect the areas where the person is known to have been, and sanitize any materials with which the child or staff member has had contact.

Scenario 6: A child or staff member is confirmed to have COVID-19

Procedure:

- a. The child or staff member is excluded from school and instructed to isolate at home until 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared, he or she is fever-free without the use of medications, and symptoms have abated.
- b. Notify staff and families that there is a positive case in the school. Classmates and staff members who have been in close contact with the person (see above for definition) are excluded from school for 14 days after their last date of contact with the positive case.
- c. Notify Wayne County Health Department and follow their directive.
- d. Notify our Michigan Child Care Licensing consultant.
- e. Deep clean and disinfect the areas where the person is known to have been, and sanitize any materials with which the child or staff member has had contact.

Scenario 7: A household member of a child or staff member is confirmed to have COVID-19

Procedure:

- a. The child or staff member is excluded from school and instructed to isolate at home until 14 days have passed from the last date of close contact with the household member. If he or she becomes symptomatic during the quarantine period, procedures in Scenario 6 will apply.
- b. Notify Wayne County Health Department and follow their directive.
- c. Notify staff and families of the possible exposure.
- d. Deep clean and disinfect the areas where the person is known to have been, and sanitize any materials with which the child or staff member has had contact.

4. RETURN-TO-SCHOOL PROTOCOLS FOLLOWING ILLNESS: For children and staff to be able to return to school after being ill, we will follow the guidelines from LARA (Michigan licensing) and the Wayne County Health Department:

- a. If a staff member or child has a fever or cough, they must be fever free for 48 hours before returning.
- b. If a staff member or child exhibits multiple symptoms of COVID-19, possible exposure is suspected, or an individual tests positive for COVID-19, the individual must stay at home:
 - ~ Until they have been fever-free for at least 48 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine, and...
 - ~ At least 10 days have passed since their symptoms first appeared, and...
 - ~ They have received a negative PCR COVID-19 test, and...
 - ~ Symptoms have abated.

5. POST-TRAVEL & POST-GATHERING POLICY: After traveling away from the family's primary residence or gathering with people outside his or her own household, a child or staff member poses a risk to family, friends, and community. In consideration of that risk, and in keeping with current CDC guidelines, the following policies apply:

a. A **staff member** may return to school after:

- 1) receiving a negative PCR COVID test (not a rapid test) that is administered ***five days*** after returning from travel away from his or her primary residence, or participating in a gathering with people outside his or her own household ***and***
- 2) quarantining for seven days after possible exposure, ***and***
- 3) being **symptom-free**.

b. A **student** may return to school after:

- 1) receiving a negative PCR COVID test (not a rapid test) that is administered ***five days*** after returning from travel away from his or her primary residence, or participating in a gathering with people outside his or her own household ***and*** quarantining for seven days, OR
- 2) may return to school without a test after quarantining for 10 days after traveling or gathering as above.
- 3) In both cases, the student must be symptom-free.**

The Michigan Safe Start Plan (Phase 4) states, *All schools, public and private, must cooperate with the local public health department if a confirmed case of COVID-19 is identified, and in particular, must collect the contact information for any close contacts of the affected individual from two days before he or she showed symptoms to the time when he or she was last present at the school.*

CDC Guidance regarding a confirmed COVID-19 case in the school states, *Immediately notify local health officials. These officials will help administrators determine a course of action for their child care programs or schools. You will likely dismiss students and most staff for 2-5 days. This initial short-term dismissal allows time for the local health officials to gain a better understanding of the COVID-19 situation impacting the school, and for custodial staff to clean and disinfect the affected facilities. Work with the local health officials to determine appropriate next steps, including whether an extended dismissal duration is needed to stop or slow further spread of COVID-19.*

...and a Qualifier

As with any document relating to COVID-19, this one is fluid. Though written in compliance with current knowledge and regulations, it is subject to revision or updating as a result of new information or government actions. Many thanks to the medical professionals in our school community, including Dr. Maha Abu Khdeir, and Dr. Mohamed Moussa for their advice and counsel.