

## Danville Local Schools COVID 19 Update

8/6/21

The Ohio Department of Health and Knox Public Health has shared guidance on the health and safety of students and staff regarding the ongoing fight with COVID 19. They shared many recommendations and only *one* federal mandate (busing) and one Ohio Revised Code (3707.08) mandate that we must adhere to. Although we appreciate and respect the recommendations of KPH, Danville Local Schools believes that we need to consider other factors such as mental health into our decision on our mode of operations. Therefore we will follow the guidelines and actions below until further notice. **Please understand this may change at any time pending further information from health officials and potential infection rates within our local community and school district.**

- The CDC requires that masks be worn on all public transportation, including school buses. This requirement is regardless of vaccination status. Please support us in making sure your child(ren) are wearing a mask when they are riding a bus.
- Facial coverings are optional in the buildings and a parent/student choice. Parents will still have the option to have their child(ren) wear masks while in school or participating in school activities. If we begin to see significant COVID 19 cases in the district and/or our attendance rate drops below 80% we will again implement universal masking and take further precautions as we did last year.
- We will continue to follow social distancing practices to the best of our ability.
- During school mealtimes, we will continue to follow physical distancing and sitting in cohorts to the best of our ability. Students who wish to eat in alternative areas will need to discuss options with the building principal.
- We will continue to use the same protocols for sanitizing and disinfecting as last year.
- We will continue to encourage hand-washing, hand sanitizing, and proper respiratory etiquette to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.
- With the ESSER grants, we will continue to update our HVAC systems and replace windows at the high school to improve ventilation. This should be completed by the end of the 2021-2022 school year.
- Per Ohio Revised code 3307.08 regarding contagious disease, we will continue to follow the Knox Public Health procedures for monitoring COVID-19 symptoms, contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine. Please be aware that quarantining will prevent students and staff from attending school and participating in extra curriculars.
- The Knox Public Health Department will continue to provide vaccination clinics for staff and students throughout the school year. Sometime in September they will be on our campus to administer vaccinations including COVID 19 for those who are eligible and wish to participate. These information be posted on the district website and FB page.
- At this time, there are no restrictions on spectators attending athletic events from the OHSAA.

- Students should be fever free for 48 hours before attending or returning to school.
- Danville Local Schools will NOT be offering online learning at this time. If you do not want your child(ren) to attend in person classes there are many online schools in Ohio. If you are enrolled in an approved Ohio charter school and live in the district, you are eligible for extracurricular participation.
- To reduce the risk of being exposed to the virus and having to be quarantined due to close personal contact the following is recommended:
  - A. Wear a facial covering
  - B. Practice social distancing
  - C. Get vaccinated (if eligible)

We understand that there are many opinions and concerns in this matter. We just ask that all stakeholders respect the safety, concerns and beliefs of others. Thank you for your cooperation and stay healthy!

Jason Snively - Superintendent

## **Knox Public Health** **COVID-19 Update August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**The COVID pandemic is different from last year.** The COVID delta variant is currently the predominant strain in Ohio. The delta variant is 50% more contagious than the alpha variant, which is itself 50% more contagious than the original COVID virus from early 2020.

**COVID vaccines and masks work.** It is clear the evidence supporting the effectiveness of vaccines and masks is overwhelming. That debate is over. While other protective actions such as distancing, ventilation, and regular cleaning are important, they all pale in comparison to the impact vaccines and masks can have to prevent disease. COVID vaccines represent a superb advancement in modern medicine. Knox Public Health (KPH) is proud to offer safe and effective COVID vaccine to anyone who is eligible to receive it.

### **Recommendation for K-12 Schools**

**Knox Public Health (KPH) strongly urges schools to adopt all of the CDC, AAP, and the Ohio Department of Health recommendations for schools this year including universal masking.**

KPH strongly believes that masks are the non-negotiable prevention strategy school leaders must require now. Masks are a proven method to limit transmission of COVID and, besides vaccine, are the best tools to keep everyone in school as much as possible. Until vaccine becomes available to all school-age students, the need to protect our most vulnerable population has never been greater. In Knox County, less than 31% of eligible school-aged children are vaccinated (12-19 years of age). When vaccine becomes available to those age 11 and younger, KPH will offer to conduct vaccine clinics at the schools in addition to our operations at our office. Masks reduced transmission and helped keep students in school last year. Masks, combined with distancing of at least three feet, permit students who are exposed to someone who tests positive for COVID to continue to attend school (to “break quarantine”). Ideally all students and staff in schools should wear a mask regardless of vaccination status as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). Masks work best when everyone wears them.

Knox Public Health is grounded in data, studies, and policies but viewed through the lens of practical implementation and acceptance in our county. The focus of this document is centered around current knowledge of:

- Vaccine effectiveness in the reduction of COVID cases, severe illness, and spread.
- Vaccine performance against emerging variant strains of COVID.
- Vaccine availability to school-age students.
- School-age and overall population vaccination rates.
- Attitudes and behaviors towards vaccination and prevention measures.

- Necessity of prevention measures in the context of community transmission rates and communicability/severity of circulating variants of COVID.
- Overall COVID case incidence rates and trends.

Promote vaccination among all staff and age-eligible students. School-based vaccine clinics are available upon request throughout the year. Fully vaccinated people do not have to quarantine following an exposure to a positive case as long as the exposed person remains symptom-free.

### **ADDITIONAL Mask Information**

Masks must be worn over the nose, mouth, and chin. Students who may be exempted from a mask are those who 1) have a significant behavioral/psychological issue undergoing treatment that is exacerbated specifically using a facial covering (i.e., severe anxiety or a tactile aversion), 2) are living with severe autism or with extreme developmental delay who may become agitated or anxious wearing a mask, and 3) have a facial deformity that causes airway obstruction. When possible, students who are exempted from a mask should wear a clear face shield. Facial coverings may be removed for eating during school-designated breakfast and lunch times (or snack time for elementary students) and briefly to get a drink of water. Mask breaks occurring in the classroom or on a bus will nullify "Breaking Quarantine" guidelines outlined by the Ohio Department of Health. Provide education to staff and students on 1) how to properly wear coverings, 2) not touch coverings while they are on, 3) how to clean or sanitize your hands after touching the covering, 4) how to properly remove a facial covering, and 5) how to properly put a facial covering back on. *(consider explaining to elementary students to remove their face covering if they have to vomit)*

Intervention specialists, title teachers, speech teachers, pre-k through third grade teachers, teachers with a documented medical hearing issue, and all their associated students should wear a mask if they are in an identified mask groups above; however, a clear face shield may be used in lieu of a mask only during times of instruction when the observation of mouth features and movement are needed.



## ADDITIONAL PROTECTIVE FACTORS

<b>Physical Distancing</b>	Maintain as much distance between students and staff as physical infrastructure will allow. Physical distancing is not as critical when masking is implemented. Three feet of distance between students, <u>combined with masks</u> , is required to permit exposed students to “break quarantine” to attend school.
<b>Ventilation &amp; Air Flow</b>	Within the scope of and compliance with school safety plans, mix as much outside air into buildings and buses (i.e., open doors and windows) while working to maintain a reasonably comfortable indoor environment. Within system design capabilities, set HVAC systems to bring in the maximum amount of outside air. Actively work to improve central air filtration by increasing air filtration to as high as possible (MERV 13 or 14). Operate ventilation systems and exhaust fans continuously 24 hours a day, 7 days a week whenever possible.
<b>Symptoms &amp; Testing</b>	Staff and students should check themselves for all COVID symptoms each day before coming to school. Staff or students should not enter school if they 1) have a symptom of COVID (especially those who are unvaccinated), 2) have a household member that is a confirmed case, or 3) are themselves quarantined as a contact of a case who has tested positive for COVID. Students who develop symptoms at school should wear a surgical mask, be separated from other students, and be picked up within 1 hour of notification to the parent or guardian. Anyone who experiences symptoms of COVID should immediately seek testing from a healthcare provider or through a proctored, verifiable at-home test kit.
<b>Cleaning &amp; Disinfection</b>	Clean and disinfect surfaces at least once a day. If a school has had a sick person or someone who tests positive for COVID, deep clean and disinfect the spaces the person occupied within the last 24 hours.
<b>Hand Hygiene &amp; Respiratory Etiquette</b>	Teach and reinforce handwashing and respiratory etiquette (covering all coughs and sneezes) to keep from spreading infectious illnesses such as COVID. Provide hand sanitizer in all rooms and in high-touch and high-flow areas.
<b>Contact Tracing</b>	Maintain lists of students and seating arrangements in classrooms and lunchrooms. Encourage small pods wherever possible. Work with KPH to identify students and staff who may have been in close contact with a positive case.
<b>Higher Risk Activities: Meals, Music, Sports, Theater, Drama, Physical Education, &amp; Assemblies</b>	Conduct higher risk activities such as eating, music/choir/band, sports, theater and drama practice, physical education, and gatherings/assemblies outdoors whenever weather permits. When indoors, use the largest room possible and mix in the greatest amount of outside air as feasible. Use bell covers, instrument socks, and wear multi-layer masks for indoor music/choir/band. Physical distancing of at least 6 feet between members of different households should be maintained whenever possible during higher risk activities.



## COVID-19 Fact Sheet: 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 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.

- **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 is advised 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.

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*Updated Aug. 5, 2021.*

For additional information, visit [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov).

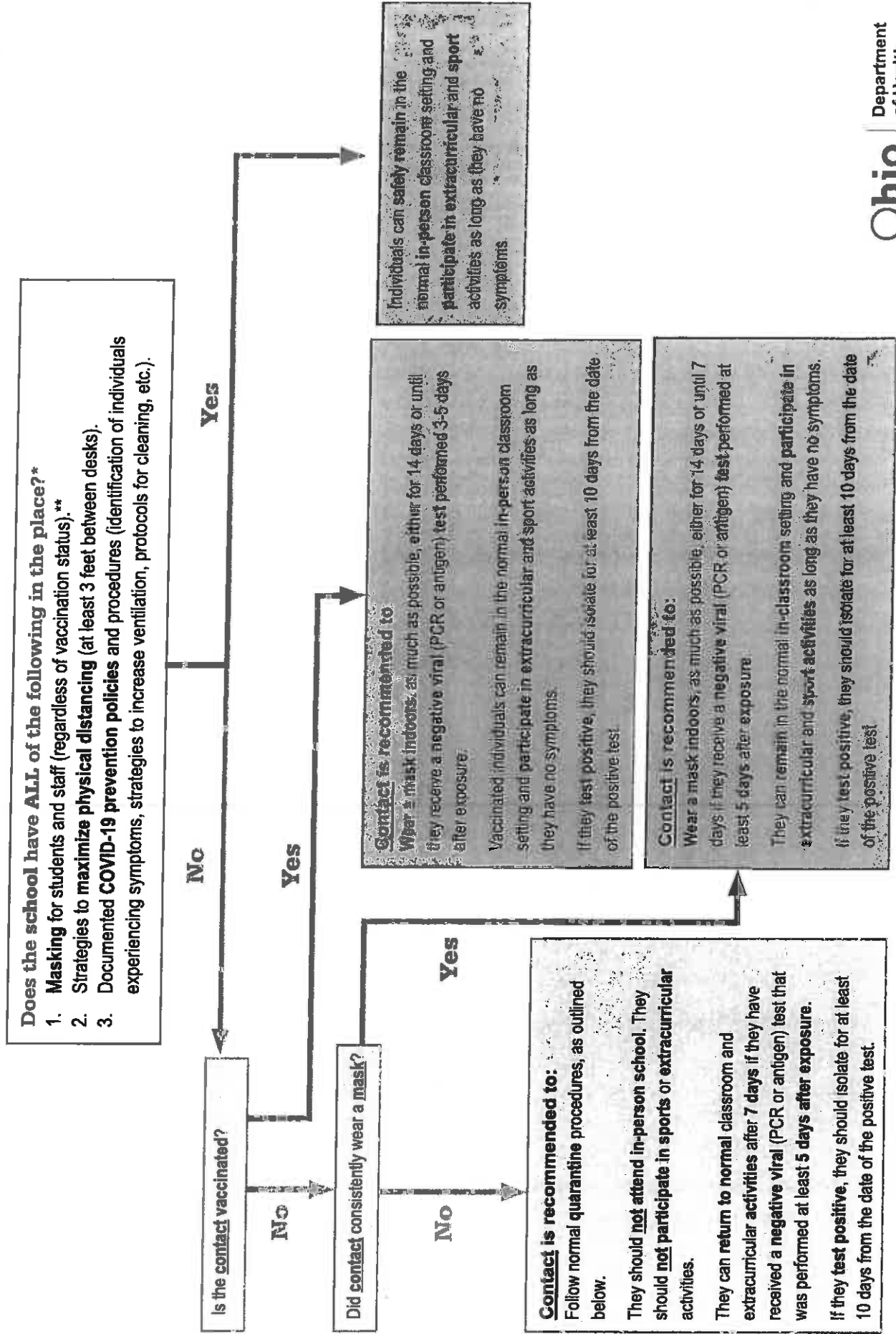
For answers to your COVID-19 questions, call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

**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](https://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.  
 \*\*If masking has not been implemented, local health departments (LHDs) may use this workflow if it can be established that the person WITH COVID-19 and individuals within 3 to 6 feet of the infected person were consistently and correctly wearing masks.