



## Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department

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### **Proposed Face Covering Protocol for Wood County Schools**

- I. Masks are recommended for students, staff members, and visitors for all indoor activities.
- II. Masks are recommended for spectators at indoor extra-curricular events.
- III. Masks will be required for all students, staff, and visitors while indoors or on a bus when Wood County is Orange or Red on the DHHR Metrics Map. The mask requirement will remain in place until Wood County is Gold or better on the DHHR Metrics Map for five consecutive days. Masks may also be required at individual school sites if school spread is evident.
- IV. The district will update the mask requirement status on the district website.

#### **Why require masks if the County is Orange or Red?**

- Masking will assist in keeping schools open for in-person instruction and will decrease the number of students who need to be quarantined if exposed to a positive case. High rates of transmission in the county (indicated by an orange or red status) make it more likely that students will be exposed to COVID-19 in the community or school setting. Wearing masks is a prevention strategy to protect students and staff and to help prevent school spread.
- Students or staff members who are exposed to a positive case of COVID-19 will not need to quarantine if fully vaccinated as long as they remain asymptomatic.

#### **Contact Tracing with Local Health Department**

- For cases requiring quarantining, students who have been fully 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 within six feet of an infected person as opposed to quarantining an entire class and sending students home unnecessarily.
- **In the classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within three to six feet of an infected student where both students are wearing masks.**

\*Any student who cannot wear a mask due to a medical condition, a mental health condition, disability, or trouble breathing and students who would be unable to remove a mask without assistance are not required to wear face coverings. Medical Documentation must be provided excusing the student from the mask requirement.

\*\*These recommendations are in accordance with current CDC guidelines