

# PERRY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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On Thursday, September 9, 2021, the Perry County Health Department Board of Trustees voted to shift priorities, effective immediately, away from close contacts of COVID-19 to other COVID activities as well as priorities the HD has been unable to focus on since the start of the pandemic.

We understand that with this decision, schools may struggle with the recommendations that may be safe for students. To provide some guidance on this, the Health Department would recommend those exposed be allowed to remain in school if:

1. A mask is worn for a minimum of 10 days after the last date of exposure when socially distancing (3ft) from others is not possible
2. School personnel and parents closely monitor the individual for any symptoms of COVID-19, isolate them away from others immediately upon symptom development, and exclude them from school to seek COVID testing or an alternative diagnosis before returning to school
3. MSHAA guidelines are followed when it comes to participation in competitive play

Individuals who are fully vaccinated (two weeks have passed since the last dose in the series) and those who have been previously positive in the last 90 days will not need to adhere to these recommendations if they remain asymptomatic.

This change will be effective immediately and, following previous practice set forth by the Health Department, current quarantine will be void for contacts who remain asymptomatic.

The Health Department will continue to monitor COVID numbers and may move to a more strict stance on close contacts or schools if the data within a school or the community overall warrants such a decision.

Perry County Health Department Board of Trustees