



EDGEWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION

3500 Busenbark Rd.
Trenton, OH 45067

Office: (513) 867-3400

Important COVID Update

Dear Edgewood Parents, Guardians, and Students,

On Monday, October 25th, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) released new quarantine guidance for close contacts in a school setting. It was approved at our Board of Education Meeting that evening to implement this guidance once we could get some additional clarification and processes in place. Thank you for your patience as we continue to work on keeping our students and staff safe.

After careful consideration, the following changes to our COVID protocols of "Mask to Stay" will go into effect on **Monday, November 15th**:

- Masks will be strongly recommended for all K-12 students and staff, regardless of vaccination status;
- Masks will still be required on school buses per the federal order; and
- We will follow ODH's new "Mask to Stay" and "Test to Play" quarantine guidelines.

As we have done since the start of the pandemic, in addition to reviewing the guidance from ODH, we have consulted with Butler County General Health District before making this decision.

Consistent with the Warren County pilot that informed this guidance, Edgewood has also seen a very low rate of quarantined close contacts actually contracting COVID. Please understand that we will continue to watch our positive numbers closely. If we see a spike in positive cases, we may choose to reinstate the mask requirement at any time.

Mask to Stay

Per ODH, those identified as a close contact in a school setting may now stay in school by following these "Mask to Stay" protocols, regardless of vaccination status:

- Wear a mask consistently and properly for 14 days after the last date of exposure;
- Self-monitor, or parent-monitor, for symptoms of COVID-19; and
- Isolate and get tested if they start to experience symptoms associated with COVID-19 (regardless of the level of severity).
- If a close contact submits a negative COVID test result from day 5-7 to the school, the "Mask to Stay" protocols may end on day eight (8).
- If a close contact refuses to wear a mask, they must stay home for 10 days from the last date of contact. They may return to school on day eight (8) if they submit a negative COVID test result from day 5-7. Mask waivers do not apply under these circumstances.

ADMINISTRATORS

Russ Fussnecker *Superintendent*
Randy Stiver *Treasurer*
Alesia Beckett *Director of Human Resources*
John Thomas *Director of Business Operations*
Scott Fussnecker *Director of Curriculum*

Patti Bowers *Director EMIS and Student Registration*
Lindsey White *Director of Special Services*
Frank Russo *Director of Public Relations*
Alicia Adams *Coordinator of Special Services*
Pam Theurer *Coordinator of Teaching and Learning*



EDGEWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION

3500 Busenbark Rd.
Trenton, OH 45067

Office: (513) 867-3400

Test to Play

To continue participating in extracurricular activities, close contacts in a school setting must follow these "Test to Play" protocols, regardless of vaccination status:

- Remain asymptomatic;
- Wear a mask as much as possible;
- Test negative for COVID within 24 hours of being identified as a close contact and submit the results to school;
- Test again between days 5-7. If negative, they may choose to stop wearing a mask on day 8.
- To qualify, negative test results must be a PCR or antigen test that was observed by a medical professional. Please contact your child's school nurse if you have additional questions.

While we understand that parents have very strong feelings on both sides of the mask issue, it has always been our priority to keep our kids safe and in school. Edgewood's mask requirement reduced daily quarantines from over 650 students a day to approximately 30 students out today on quarantine.

These new "Mask to Stay" quarantine guidelines from the State give us an option to not only keep healthy close contacts learning in the classroom (with the added precaution of a mask for the safety of others), but also give families the option to choose whether their child will wear a mask.

Please note: Eligibility to participate in "Mask to Stay" and/or "Test to Play" is contingent on the exposure being in the school setting or school-related activities. This does not apply to household exposures or exposures outside of the school setting or school-related activities.

Please understand that, although we will not require masks beginning on Monday, we strongly recommend that our students and staff continue to wear them.

Sincerely,
Russ Fussnecker
Superintendent

ADMINISTRATORS

Russ Fussnecker *Superintendent*
Randy Stiver *Treasurer*
Alesia Beckett *Director of Human Resources*
John Thomas *Director of Business Operations*
Scott Fussnecker *Director of Curriculum*

Patti Bowers *Director EMIS and Student Registration*
Lindsey White *Director of Special Services*
Frank Russo *Director of Public Relations*
Alicia Adams *Coordinator of Special Services*
Pam Theurer *Coordinator of Teaching and Learning*