

# Updated COVID-19 Protocols



***JANUARY 2022***



**West Virginia Board of Education  
2021-2022**

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# KEY MITIGATIONS FOR SCHOOLS *(including extracurricular activities)*

These practices are important to not only guard against COVID-19, but also the spread of other infections such as the flu and the common cold.

***The most effective mitigation strategy is the vaccination for those eligible to receive it.***



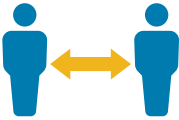
**Cleaning and disinfecting**



**Hand hygiene and coughing/sneezing etiquette**



**Evaluate large gatherings outside of classroom/core groups**



**Social distancing**



**Face coverings at county board discretion**



**Contact tracing dependent on mask requirements**

# THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE BUREAU FOR PUBLIC HEALTH.

West Virginia Bureau for Public Health Legislative Rule 64 CSR7-3: Reportable Diseases, Events, Conditions and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html)



## ***The ultimate goal is to protect our students and staff and prioritize in-person learning.***

- » Staff members are considered fully vaccinated if their primary series is within the last 6 months or they have received the booster. Students ages 5-17 are considered fully vaccinated if they have had the primary series meaning booster is not required.
- » Fully vaccinated staff members and students who have been exposed, do NOT have to quarantine if they are asymptomatic. Testing is recommended on day 5 and masks should be worn through day 10.
- » Unvaccinated students and staff must quarantine for 5 days if within 6 ft. of a positive individual. Testing is recommended on day 5. If after day 5, there are no symptoms then individual may return to school but mask must be worn through day 10.
- » Universal mask policy counties (Masks are worn inside at all applicable times regardless of the DHHR map color) do NOT have to quarantine students and staff who have been exposed if masks are worn at the point of exposure (including extracurricular activities).
- » Staff and students who test positive must self-isolate for 5 days and may return on day 6 if fever free for 24 hours and symptoms are improving. The individual must wear a mask on days 6-10 and social distance anytime a mask can't be worn such as in the cafeteria. If a staff member or student does not want to wear a mask or social distance for days 6-10, then they must remain home.
- » Rapid tests and home testing are options for meeting testing requirements.

## ***Participation in Extra-Curricular Activities***

### **Exposed youth may return to school following CDC guidelines for individuals exposed to COVID-19 based on their vaccination status:**

- Should wear a mask inside the school during days 6-10.
- Days 6-10 should not be allowed to participate in unmasked extracurricular activities without implementation of a test to play strategy. This prioritizes in-person instruction and keeps play safe.
- A test to play strategy recommends testing on the date the individual has been identified as a close contact and again 5 days after exposure to be allowed to participate in unmasked extracurricular activities.

## **Positive Youth**

- Should self-isolate for 5 days and if they are asymptomatic or their symptoms are resolving (without fever for 24 hours).
- Should wear a mask inside the school during days 6-10.
- It is recommended that youth who have tested positive for COVID-19 should not participate in unmasked extracurricular activities during days 6-10 unless they obtain a negative antigen test result towards the end of the 5-day isolation period. Antigen tests should only be collected if the individual has been fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications and other symptoms have improved (loss of taste and smell may persist for several weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation).

## ***Do household contacts of confirmed cases need to be quarantined?***

Public health recommendation for quarantine of household close contacts with ongoing exposure depends on the vaccination status of the household members.

The following groups do not need to quarantine if they came in close contact with someone with COVID-19:

- Individuals who are 18 years of age or older and have received all the recommended vaccine doses, including boosters and additional primary shots for some immunocompromised people.
- Individuals who are aged 5-17 years and completed the primary series of COVID-19 vaccines.
- Individuals who had confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days.

The following groups do need to quarantine if they came in close contact with someone with COVID-19:

- Individuals who are 18 years or older and completed the primary series of recommended vaccine but have not received a recommended booster shot when eligible.
- Individuals who received the single dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine more than two months ago and have not received a recommended booster shot.
- Individuals who are not vaccinated or have not completed a primary vaccine series.

» Household contacts who need to quarantine should get tested as soon as their household member tests positive for COVID-19. If they test positive their isolation period begins. If they test negative, they should remain in quarantine, and test again on the day their household member meets the criteria to be released from isolation. If they remain negative they can be released from quarantine and should wear a mask while around others for 10 days.

## ***Definition of School Outbreak***

- » Cases of COVID-19 are immediately reportable to the local health department. Local health departments, under the reportable disease rule 64-CSR7, have the authority to isolate and quarantine for COVID-19.
- » An outbreak in a school setting is defined as:
  - Multiple cases comprising at least 10% of students, teachers, or staff, within a specified core group (e.g. classroom, extracurricular activity, sports team).
  - OR at least three cases within a specified core group (e.g. classroom, extracurricular activity, sports team).
  - COVID-19 cases with symptom onset or positive test result within 14 days of each other that were not identified as close contacts of each other in another setting (i.e., household) AND epidemiologically linked in the school setting.

**Considerations for Closing**

- » Schools may consider closing individual classrooms for a 10-day period when rapid transmission occurs in a classroom to slow transmission. Schools should use the threshold five or more students in a single classroom or if 10% of the classroom has COVID-19, whichever is greater.
- » Schools may consider closing for a 5-day period to slow transmission if recommended by the local health department to the county superintendent based on meeting one of the thresholds:
- » School is unable to maintain a safe school environment due to the number of staff out.
- » School baseline absenteeism is double the average daily absences due to students out with COVID-19.

# VACCINATION INFORMATION

Health officials are administering the Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson vaccines in West Virginia to help protect against COVID-19. Vaccines are important to:

- » Protect population against virus spread and additional variants;
- » Reduce deaths and hospitalizations; and
- » Maintain critical services and acute care.

Both Moderna and Pfizer require two rounds of vaccinations while the Johnson & Johnson is a single dose.

Vaccinated adults (18 and older) must be within 6 months of the primary series or had a booster to be considered fully vaccinated.

## Vaccine Second Dose Administration:



21 days



28 days



2nd dose not required

For complete vaccine information provided by the DHHR, visit <https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/Vaccine.aspx> or contact the COVID-19 Vaccine Info Line at 1-833-734-0965 with questions. If a school or county wishes to host vaccine clinics, please contact Michele Blatt at [mlblatt@k12.wv.us](mailto:mlblatt@k12.wv.us).



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