



# Ovid-Elsie Area Schools

8989 E. Colony Road | Elsie, MI 48831-9725

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[www.ovidelsie.org](http://www.ovidelsie.org)

Dear Marauder families,

Recently, the CDC has changed the [Covid-19 guidelines](#) for isolation and quarantine. The Mid-Michigan District Health Department has updated its COVID recommendations and guidance for K-12 schools to match closer to the CDC guidance of reducing days in quarantines and isolations. As stated by the health department, “this is in part because the risk of spread is highest in the first 5 days.” However, “the risk of transmission does not end after 5 days, making proper and consistent mask use on days 6-10 critically important for these modifications to work to lessen time out of the classroom.” In addition, the CDC and MMDHD define close contact at 3 feet versus 6 feet in the K–12 indoor classroom setting, helping reduce the number of quarantines.

Please remember that our basic sick protocols, including Covid-19 protocols, are still in place - wash your hands and stay home if you are sick (no fever, vomiting, diarrhea without medications for 24 hours).

MMDHD has posted its [newest guidance](#) on their website and provided additional documents:

- [Up-to-date vaccination guidance](#)
- [Quarantine and Isolation Guidance](#)

Therefore, our district has updated our protocols for positive cases and close contacts. Our goal is to continue to be maximizing full, in-person instruction. We have used all of this guidance to safely do that. The district procedures for handling isolation and quarantines are outlined below.

**Students who fit the following criteria do not need to quarantine or Test to Stay (TTS) when they are exposed to someone with COVID in or outside of school, as long as they remain free of symptoms:**

- Ages 18 or older and received all recommended vaccine doses including booster
- Ages 5-17 and completed primary series of COVID-19 vaccines
- Any student with a confirmed positive COVID-19 viral test within the last 90 days.

**Students who are exposed and do not meet the criteria above have the following options, as long as they remain free of symptoms:**

- Stay home (quarantine) for 5 days from the original date of contact and mask for an addition 5 days;
- Test every other day of days 1-5 and wear a mask for 10 days; or,
- Use the District’s QR Code daily, before entering school or getting on the school bus, and wear a mask for 10 days.



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Individuals unable (or unwilling) to mask should continue to isolate or quarantine for the full 10 days.

Test to Stay students need to wear a well-fitting mask for 10 days, watch for symptoms. If any test is positive, the student must then isolate and follow the isolation guidelines\*\*. This will become the new day 0.

**Students that are ill or have a positive test\*\* must isolate regardless of vaccination status or previous infection and need to isolate for at least 5 full days. They can return to school if the following are met:**

- Will properly wear a mask for 10 days except when eating at lunch/snack (whenever at school activities, including band, athletics, after hours, etc.)
- Is 24 hours fever, diarrhea and/or vomiting free without medication
- Has no or improving symptoms

\*\*In addition, the Mid-Michigan District Health Department and schools in Clinton, Gratiot, and Montcalm Counties are reminding parents and guardians of the importance of reporting positive at-home COVID-19 test results. This is especially important as the Omicron variant is running rampant throughout our communities. Reporting positive at-home test results will help prevent the spread of COVID-19, will help keep schools open for in-person learning, and allow kids to continue to take part in all the extracurricular activities they love. The Health Department and the schools depend on the public to report positive cases because it helps to identify outbreaks and allows close contacts to be notified, both of which helps to control the spread of COVID-19. Positive at-home COVID-19 tests should be reported to the main office of your child's school and on the Health Department ["COVID-19 Positive Self Reporting Form."](#)

Thank you for your continued cooperation and understanding as we work to transition to these newest guidelines. We appreciate your continued patience as we work to maximize full, in-person learning for our students.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns and to discuss "test to stay" scheduling.

Melissa Jones, RN

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For the most current and up-to-date [COVID-19 District information](#), please visit [www.ovidelsie.org](http://www.ovidelsie.org), click on Transparency Report, then District COVID-19 Update.