

# Updated COVID-19 Protocols

August 2022

# DON'T FEEL WELL? STAY HOME

If you have the symptoms below,  
let your family and teachers know.



**COUGH**



**FEVER**



**SORE  
THROAT**



West Virginia DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

# 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**



**Monitor school positivity rates**

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## **When student or staff tests positive for COVID-19:**

- » Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19, should stay home for at least 5 days and isolate from others.
- » Students are not allowed to participate in extracurricular activities while in isolation and potentially infectious.
- » Day 0 is the first day of symptoms or day tested if asymptomatic.
- » Students and staff may return to school if they:
  - › Stayed home and isolated for at least 5 full days
  - › Are fever free for 24 hours (without the use of fever reducing medications)
  - › Have symptoms that are improving
- » Individuals who were severely ill or immunocompromised should stay home and isolate for 10 days.
- » Students and staff should take precautions when returning to school after completing their 5-day isolation. This includes wearing a well-fitted mask from days 6 to 10 inside the school. If a mask is unable to be worn, they should continue to isolate and remain at home for 10 days or have a two negative antigen tests on day 5 or later at least 48 hours apart.
- » Schools may consider allowing students to participate in unmasked extracurricular activities during days 6-10 if they obtain two negative antigen tests on day 5 or later at least 48 hours apart.

## **Case reporting and other considerations**

- » Schools are to report in aggregate the number of positive staff and students for the prior week to an online portal: <http://www.wvdhhr.org/EpiInfoWebSurvey/Home/3fe5c197-32b3-4057-99d5-30e7426ccd0c>. This will allow for a more robust tracking of COVID-19 cases and will measure the true burden COVID-19 has on our school system by measuring the percent positivity. Routine screening testing is no longer recommended in schools.
- » Schools and/or counties should share the number of positive cases weekly per school.
- » Superintendents may consider closing a school for a five-day period to slow transmission, in consultation with the local health department, based on one of the thresholds:
  - › School is unable to maintain a safe school environment due to the number of staff out with COVID.
  - › School COVID-19 percent positivity exceeds 20% on the weekly report.
- » Five-day closures do require all extra-curricular events to be cancelled/postponed. However, schools needing to close for a day or two due to staffing, may conduct extra-curricular events based on their county-level policies.
- » Universal contact tracing is no longer recommended for COVID-19.