Updated COVID-19 Protocols

August 7, 2023

DON'T FEEL WELL?
STAY HOME

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

COUGH

FEVER
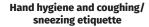
SORE THROAT

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

Evaluate large gatherings outside of classroom/core groups

Face coverings at county board discretion

Monitor classroom or school positivity rates

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.

» Day 0 is the first day of symptoms or positive test 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 for 10 full days (days 6-10) 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 negative test on day 5 or later.

» Students should not be allowed to participate in unmasked extracurricular activities while in isolation and potentially infectious. Schools may consider allowing students to participate in unmasked extracurricular activities during days 6-10 if they obtain a negative antigen test on day 5 or later.

Case Reporting and Considerations for School Closure

» Schools are to report in aggregate the number of positive staff and students for the prior week (Thursday to Thursday) 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.

» Schools may consider closing 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 not required; however, parents should be notified if there is a positive case in the school or classroom.