



# COVID and Health Guidance

**Updated August 30, 2022**

Community Webinar

August 23, 2022

# Welcome to the 2022-23 School Year!

**AAPS schools will be fully open** for academic, enrichment and community activities during the 2022-2023 school year. **Parents/guardians are welcome in schools** according to principal instructions and district safety protocols.

Our goal is to **keep students learning in school** while balancing the risks of COVID illness and transmission among students and staff at school.

# Slideshow Contents

- Welcome - Superintendent Swift
- Preventing Communicable Disease in Schools
- Daily Operations and CDC Community Levels
- Management of Symptomatic Students, Cases, and Exposures
- 5 Key Actions for students, families, and staff

# Preventing Communicable Disease in Schools - Beyond COVID-19

- Make sure your student is up to date on all pediatric vaccinations

## [Immunization Requirements](#)

- Know when a student should stay home from school

## [AAPS School Illness Policy](#)

- **When calling in a sick absence, let us know your student's symptoms or diagnosis - added 8/30**
- Prevent the spread of flu, strep, and other illnesses through hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.
- Get a flu shot! Watch for clinic info.



Australia's early, severe flu season may be predictive for the U.S.

# Daily School Operations and CDC COVID Community Levels

*Responsive to Student and School Needs • Focused on  
High Risk Situations • Adaptable as Guidance and  
Circumstances Change*



# Daily Operations for Schools

- ❑ Continue enhanced ventilation and use of outdoor spaces as feasible
- ❑ Encourage all to use the AAPS [Daily Symptom Checker](#) and stay home when sick
- ❑ Promote Mask-Friendly environments for students, staff, and visitors
- ❑ Keep supplies of masks, hand sanitizer, and home tests in schools
- ❑ Monitor cases and respond to potential clusters

## **Also....to prevent many illnesses:**

- ❑ Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette
- ❑ Routine cleaning and disinfection as necessary

# Managing **Symptomatic** Students at School

- Student will go office/nurse clinic for pick-up.
- Student will put on a mask in the clinic (per OSHA), if not already wearing one.
- At the nurse's discretion & with parent permission, may be able to test the student for COVID at school OR the nurse/OP may provide a home test to parent/guardian at pick-up.
- AAPS strongly recommends testing before returning to school and/or a doctor visit to rule out flu, strep, or other illnesses.
- Keep the student home until they are feeling better. If there are lingering symptoms (cough, runny nose/sneezing), please wear a mask while at school.

# Managing **Individual Cases** in Students and Staff

- Focus area for AAPS protocols, since returning from isolation can be a high risk time for transmitting COVID to others.
- See slides 20 and 21 for specific guidance for students and staff who test positive.

Note: There will no longer be notification (emails) regarding individual cases in a classroom or building. Slide 9 provides information on notification when there are multiple cases.



# Managing **Multiple Cases** in Students and/or Staff

- The COVID Response Team will continue monitoring cases for classroom/group clusters.
- Schools will send notification to a classroom/group if 10% or more of the individuals in the group test positive within 7 days

## **Outbreak Guidance, K-12 setting**



- 10% of the group within 7 days: Begin masking if not already masked, especially indoors. Begin testing, at school or at home, if possible.
- 20% of the group within 7 days: Report to WCHD. Continue or begin masking; continue or begin testing.
- 30% of the group within 7 days: Consider closing the class/group or move remote for 3-5 days. Ask students/staff to do at-home rapid tests (or in school) three times and anytime symptoms develop.

# WHAT'S A COVID-19 COMMUNITY LEVEL?

- It's a new tool to help communities decide what prevention measures to take based on the latest data
- Every community in the United States is classified as:

## Low

Limited impact on healthcare system, low levels of severe illness

## Medium

Some impact on healthcare system, more people with severe illness

## High

High potential for healthcare system strain; high level of severe illness



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)

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CDC updates the county levels nation-wide on Thursdays, by the late evening EST.

A message with the county level will go out to the district every Friday for the following week.

Check Washtenaw County's level here: [COVID-19 by County](#) or Google "CDC Community Level"

# CDC Recommendations at each Community Level

## LOW COVID-19 COMMUNITY LEVEL

### You should:

- Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines
- Get tested if you have symptoms



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)

## MEDIUM COVID-19 COMMUNITY LEVEL

### You should:

- Talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions if you're at **high risk for severe illness**
- Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines
- Get tested if you have symptoms



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)

## HIGH COVID-19 COMMUNITY LEVEL

### You should:

- Wear a mask indoors in public
- Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines
- Get tested if you have symptoms
- Take additional precautions as needed, if you're at **high risk for severe illness**



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)

Expect Washtenaw County to shift through these levels all year.

# Daily Operations for Schools - Posted Masking Signs



**Masks are  
welcome  
inside our schools**



Washtenaw County COVID Status  
COMMUNITY LEVEL

**LOW**

The AAPS is always a mask-friendly environment



**Masks are  
encouraged  
inside our schools**



Washtenaw County COVID Status  
COMMUNITY LEVEL

**MEDIUM**

The AAPS is always a mask-friendly environment



**Masks are  
strongly  
recommended  
inside our schools**



Washtenaw County COVID Status  
COMMUNITY LEVEL

**HIGH**

The AAPS is always a mask-friendly environment

# Summary: AAPS COVID Response

We know that clusters and outbreaks, and impacts on school operations, can occur at any CDC Community Level.

Our focus is on being responsive as school cases emerge, focused on high risk situations, and adaptable as circumstances change.

We'll continue to use and perfect systems that were developed in the 2021-22 school year.

# **5 Actions Everyone Can Take to Avoid Getting Sick and Protect Others**

# 5 Actions to Take During all CDC Community Levels for Staff, Students, and Families

1. Stay up to date with **vaccinations and boosters**
2. **Stay home** when sick or symptomatic
3. Know when to **mask** indoors
4. Be ready to **test** at home and at school
5. Know what to do if with **positive test result or exposure**

# 1. Stay Up-to-Date on Vaccinations and Boosters

- Why? Vaccination provides individual protection from severe illness and hospitalization, and high vaccination coverage reduces the burden of COVID-19 on people, schools, healthcare systems, and communities.
- You are “Up to Date” with your COVID-19 vaccines when you have received all doses in the primary series and all boosters recommended for you, when eligible. Learn more about [COVID-19 booster recommendations](#).
- New boosters specific to the Omicron variants are in development and may be available this fall/winter.





## 2. Stay Home When Sick

- Continue to monitor yourself or your student for symptoms using and the [Daily Symptom Checker](#) (updated August 2022)
- If symptomatic:
  - Stay home and test - keep a stock of tests at home, if possible.
  - Stay home even with a negative test if not feeling well. Get screened for flu and strep if needed.
  - Consider masking when returning to school if you have lingering respiratory symptoms.



*You have to test to know for sure!*

# 3. Know When to Mask Indoors

**AAPS is mask friendly! Well-fitting masks, such as multilayer surgical, KN95, or N95 masks, are best.**

Wearing masks indoors will be strongly recommended:

- For students, staff, and visitors when the [CDC's Community Level is "High/Red"](#) for Washtenaw County.
- For students/staff who are household or personal contacts of a COVID case.
- When notified that 10% of school classroom, team, or group has tested positive.
- For anyone with respiratory symptoms, even if testing negative for COVID or flu.

In the AAPS, wearing masks indoors will be required in the following situations:

- For students/staff who test positive and return to school during days 6-10 of their isolation period.\*
- During classroom, team, or other group outbreaks.
- In the school nurse clinics and during clinical health services in buildings (e.g. WCHD hearing/vision screenings). This is an OSHA requirement.
- ~~In preschool classrooms, per federal requirements.~~ No longer required as of 8/30.

***\*Those who decline to mask or are unable to mask must stay out of school for the entire isolation period. When reporting their student's case, parents/guardians will affirm their plan of masking or keeping their student out of school.***

## 4. Be Ready to Test at Home and School

- We encourage everyone to keep a supply of rapid antigen tests at home.
- Washtenaw County Health Department offers [Tips for testing children at home](#)
- When there are clusters/outbreaks, tests will be sent home via backpack or available for pick up at school. Testing up to three times may be recommended.
- See more on local testing sites and how to get free at-home tests [here](#).

**Order by Friday, 9/2**  
**Get free tests from**  
**Covidtests.gov**



# 5. Know What to do if You Test Positive for COVID-19

- Report the case to AAPS (links below go live on 8/29)
  - Students: [bit.ly/StudentCOVIDCase22-23](https://bit.ly/StudentCOVIDCase22-23)
  - Staff/Volunteers: [bit.ly/StaffCOVIDCase22-23](https://bit.ly/StaffCOVIDCase22-23)
- Stay home and isolate from others, including people in your home, for at least 5 days. How to count isolation days:
  - Day 0 is the day symptoms began or
  - Day 0 is the date of positive test (if no symptoms)
  - Day 6 is earliest date of return
- Wear a well-fitting mask if you must be around others indoors. A multilayer surgical, KN95, or N95 mask is best.
- Test is strongly recommended prior to leaving isolation, and continue isolation until receiving a negative result OR until day 10.
- CDC [What To Do When You Are Sick](#) - detailed information on managing symptoms and when to seek medical attention



# 5. (Cont'd) Ending Isolation After Testing Positive

- If no symptoms, end after 5 days, returning to school on day 6, mask days 6-10
- If you had symptoms, you can end isolation after 5 days if:
  - Fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication
  - Symptoms are greatly improved or gone
  - You agree to wear a well-fitting mask on days 6-10. A multilayer surgical, N95, or KN95 is best.
- Strongly encourage testing on day 5
  - If negative, and no fever for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication and symptoms improving, end isolation
  - If positive, continue isolating until a negative test result is received OR day 10. Return to school on day 11.
- If you had moderate illness, such as shortness of breath, or severe illness (were hospitalized), or you are immunocompromised, you may need to isolate for 10 days and should discuss with your healthcare provider when it is appropriate for you to end isolation.

# 5. (Cont'd) Know What to Do if You Were Exposed to COVID-19



- Watch closely for symptoms for 10 days after last exposure to COVID positive individual
- Wear a well-fitting mask when around others while indoors for 10 days after last exposure - a multilayer surgical, KN95, or N95 mask is best.
- Test 5 days after exposure or sooner if symptomatic.
- Follow isolation guidelines if you test positive
- Use caution around people more likely to get sick for 10 days

**These protocols may be revised as guidance and local conditions change.**



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