



**Ann Arbor Public Schools  
Updated School Guidance:  
COVID-19 Protocols for K12 Students and Staff  
January 2022**

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## Overview

AAPS continues to prioritize in-person learning while implementing available prevention measures to reduce risk of COVID-19 transmission in our schools. The purpose of this document is to share updated AAPS COVID-19 protocols for students based on new guidance from the Washtenaw County Health Department and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

As before, AAPS uses a responsive and layered approach to COVID-19 mitigation strategies. The protocols below show a general response to student cases. Each case will be considered and managed based on the individual factors involved. The district response may be adapted as necessary based on the number of cases impacting a school or other factors.

*Please note: Public health guidance and related implementation protocols are subject to change based on a number of factors, including case trends and new research findings.*

## Summary of Protocol Changes

The new guidance represents a shift from identifying and quarantining close contacts based on most types of in-school exposures. The intensive efforts to reach every close contact of a student or staff person who tests positive now will be limited to “high risk” situations.

### ***What does this mean in practice for students and staff?***

1. **Vaccination status still matters for all staff and for students ages 5-18.** Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated individuals are more likely to become ill, and more likely to be placed in quarantine based on exposure to a case at school or at home.
2. **For students and staff who test positive, a possible reduction in isolation days.** An option for a five day isolation with earliest return on day 6 is available if criteria are met: symptoms are resolved (see page 5) and agreement to wear a high filtration mask throughout the school day. A negative rapid antigen test is strongly recommended but not required.
3. **Significant reduction in the number of students who are placed in quarantine.** With contact tracing limited to specific high risk situations, we are anticipating that fewer students will be required to quarantine. “Test to Stay” will



continue to be offered as an option instead of quarantine when AAPS resources allow.

- 4. Case notification and response process.** Case notification will continue in adherence to MDHHS to notify parents within 24 hours. Notification letters will be sent to school communities no more than once per day and include all cases reported in the last 24 hours. Individual case response will look different -- in most situations, case response will not include contact tracing and phone calls to parents regarding quarantine.

### **Critical Actions for Parents**

To keep schools open to in-person learning, and maintain the safest environments possible for students and staff, AAPS urges parents to partner with AAPS in preventing COVID transmission.

Parents must follow these critical steps to prevent the spread of COVID in AAPS:

- Monitor your student(s) for COVID symptoms every day using [this updated screener](#).
- Keep your symptomatic student home until you can get him/her tested. See the flowchart on page 4 for more information.
- Immediately contact your school office if your student tests positive.
- If anyone in your household tests positive for COVID, keep your student home according to the guidelines on page 8 for vaccinated and unvaccinated students.
- Get your 5-18 year old student vaccinated and/or boosted. Unvaccinated students automatically will be required to quarantine in some situations.
- Be ready to provide consent for your student to be tested at school as part of a Test to Stay program or in case your student develops symptoms at school.

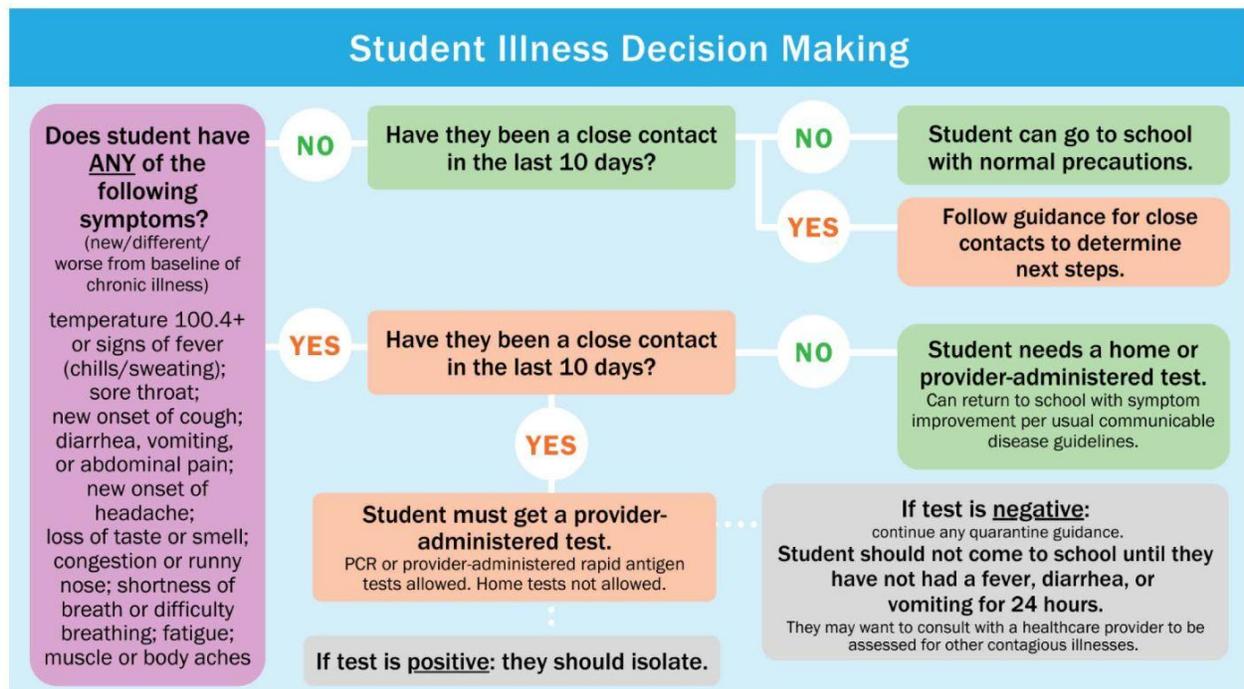
The next several pages provide detailed information based on common parent questions.

## Frequently Asked Questions from Parents

Below are commonly asked questions regarding implementation of the new protocols based on [updated guidance for K12 schools](#) from the Washtenaw County Health Department. A separate guidance document for Winter Indoor Sports and Performing Arts is available [here](#).

### My student has COVID symptoms. What should I do?

The Washtenaw County Health Department provides parents with the flowchart below for student illness decision-making. Resources for COVID-19 testing are available [here](#).



From page 2 of the Washtenaw County Health Department Summary of Guidance for K-12 Schools.

### My student tested positive for COVID. Now what?

Let your school office know that your student tested positive as soon as possible.

- Provide the date symptoms began
- Provide the date the test was done, and what type of test was used

*Isolation means separation from others, even household members, after someone tests positive for COVID-19.*



Your student is required to **isolate** for a minimum of 5 days.

- Day **zero** is the day symptoms began, or
- If no symptoms, the day the COVID test was done.

### When can my student return to school after testing positive?

The earliest a student can return is **day 6**, provided that:

- Symptoms have resolved, including:
  - No fever for 24+ hours (without fever-reducing medications)
  - Cold symptoms are resolved so that mask wearing can be consistent throughout the day
  - Cough significantly improved and not disruptive to school activities
  - Energy level allows for a full day of school participation
- The student agrees to wear a well-fitting high filtration mask such as a surgical, KN95, or N95 mask between days 6-10. (If needed, ask school office staff if masks are available.) The mask must be worn at all times except when eating.
- Contact your school nurse with questions about symptoms and school return

If symptoms have not resolved or significantly improved by **day 6**:

- Continue to isolate until symptoms are resolved or until 10 days have passed
- Contact your school nurse with questions about safely returning to school

**Additional recommended steps:**

- Take a rapid antigen test on **Day 5**
- Negative: End isolation**; return to school following guidelines above.
- Positive:** Continue isolation through **Day 10** or until a negative rapid antigen test received.

### What are the updated Contact Tracing and Quarantine Guidelines for Students?

Under the new WCHD guidance, most K-12 school settings are considered “Low Risk” and do not require contact tracing and quarantine. WCHD classifies exposures that occur in classrooms, buses, meal times, and most extracurriculars do not require



contact tracing and quarantine. However, schools can choose to treat a “lower risk” situation using “higher risk” guidelines based on their own judgment and unique factors.

As we know, during meals and classroom snack times (elementary school only), students are unmasked for short periods of time. We recognize the concern around meals and snacks, and will continue to monitor this situation.

Higher-risk situations continue to require contact tracing and quarantine and will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Some examples include:

- Some extracurriculars (basketball, wrestling, ice hockey, unmasked theater, band, and choir), and carpooling,
- Classrooms without mask use (special ed classrooms)
- Classrooms experiencing outbreaks
- Other situations identified as “High Risk” as determined by the school nurse in consultation with the WCHD.

## Will my student have to quarantine?

Students who are identified as close contacts in high risk situations may need to quarantine, based on their vaccination status.

The following students **DO NOT** have to quarantine as long as they have **no symptoms**:

- 5-17 years old who are 14+ days past their second dose of COVID-19 vaccine
- 18+ years old who have received all CDC recommended vaccine doses, including boosters
- Any student who had a confirmed case of COVID in the last 90 days and has no symptoms

***Quarantine** means separation from others, even household members, after being exposed to an individual who tested positive for COVID-19.*

Students who **DO** have to quarantine:

- If not vaccinated or are only partially vaccinated, OR
- If 18+ years old, and:
  - ✓ Completed the second dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over 6 months ago and are not boosted, OR
  - ✓ Completed the first dose of J&J vaccine over 2 months ago and are not boosted

## My student has been exposed to someone at school who tested positive for COVID-19. Now what?

If the exposure happened in a “Low Risk” setting (see page 6), your student can continue to come to school as normal.

- Monitor your student for symptoms and follow the guidance on page 4 if symptoms develop.

If your student is identified as a close contact based on exposure in a “High Risk” setting, s/he may have to quarantine according to their vaccination status and case history. There may be a “Test to Stay” option based on available resources.

## Someone in my house tested positive. My student tested negative (or hasn’t tested). Does my student need to quarantine?

Make sure that the person(s) who tested positive in the household is isolated from your student.

**Unvaccinated students** with a household member who is positive for COVID-19 must quarantine for at least 5 days. The date of last exposure is considered day 0.

### Return to school (Unvaccinated):

- Day 6 if no symptoms
- Wear a surgical, KN95, or N95 mask on days 6-10.(If needed, ask the school office staff if masks are available.)
- Testing on day 5 after exposure is strongly recommended

**Vaccinated students** who are close contacts may continue coming to school unless they have symptoms. **If symptomatic, stay home, get a test, and await results.** If positive, follow isolation guidelines.

### Return to school (Vaccinated):

- If symptomatic but test negative and if symptoms are improving.
- Wear a surgical, KN95, or N95 mask on day 6-10. (If needed, ask the school office staff if masks are available.)

## My student is unvaccinated and was a close contact in a “High Risk” situation. What happens now?

### Your student must quarantine for at least 5 days:

- This means staying home, not attending school or any other extracurricular activities
- If symptom free, can return on day 6. Wear a well-fitting high filtration mask such as a surgical, KN95, or N95 mask on days 6-10. (If needed, ask the school office staff if masks are available.)
- Testing on day 5 after exposure is strongly recommended

## What about the Test to Stay Program?

“Test to Stay” (TTS) allows students who would normally be quarantined to attend school while testing frequently. A “Test to Stay” program may be an option if district resources allow. The school nurse will let you know if your student is eligible and the program is available.

The Test to Stay program is for asymptomatic students who are able to:

- Test at school on days 1, 3, and 5 of the quarantine period
- Wear a well-fitting, high filtration mask such as a surgical, KN95, or N95 mask throughout the TTS time period. (If needed, ask the school office staff if masks are available.)

For their student to participate in Test to Stay, parents must fill out a registration and consent form, and may be asked to stay at school until their student’s test result is read.

## I have more questions. Who should I contact?

For personal medical questions, contact your child’s health care provider.

For questions about attending or returning to school, or about these protocols, contact your school nurse. Call your school office or see links below for nurse building assignments and email addresses:



**AAPS School Nurse Care Corner For Elementary Students and Families:**

<https://sites.google.com/aaps.k12.mi.us/nurses-resources/school-nurse-care-corner?authuser=1>

**AAPS School Nurse Care Corner For Secondary Students and Families:**

<https://sites.google.com/aaps.k12.mi.us/nursesresources/school-nurse-care-corner?pli=1&authuser=1>

## DEFINITIONS

**Close Contact:** a person who was within 6 feet of an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes within 24 hours.

**Contact Tracing:** the process of interviewing a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 infection and identifying any close contacts.

**Isolation:** separation from others, even household members, after someone tests positive for COVID-19.

**Quarantine:** separation from others, even household members, after being exposed to an individual who tested positive for COVID-19.

## RESOURCES

**COVID-19 Information** <https://www.washtenaw.org/3095/COVID-19>

**COVID-19 Daily Symptom Screener:**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fJEQabz4Os1A-oBgqonRjylmhpHfE5svS3brtAa7t5o/edit?usp=sharing>

**COVID-19 Testing Information:** <https://www.washtenaw.org/3158/Testing>

**AAPS School Nurse Care Corner For Elementary Students and Families:**

<https://sites.google.com/aaps.k12.mi.us/nurses-resources/school-nurse-care-corner?authuser=1>

**AAPS School Nurse Care Corner For Secondary Students and Families:**

<https://sites.google.com/aaps.k12.mi.us/nursesresources/school-nurse-care-corner?pli=1&authuser=1>

**Washtenaw County Health Department January 6 Guidance for K12 Schools:**



<https://www.washtenaw.org/DocumentCenter/View/22509/WCHD-Summary-Guidance-for-K-12-Schools-1-6-22?bidId=>

**Washtenaw County Health Department January 5 School Indoor Sports and Performing Arts Guidelines:**

<https://www.washtenaw.org/DocumentCenter/View/22943/Washtenaw-County-School-Sports-and-Performing-Arts-Guidelines-10-29-updated-12-6-21-and-1-5-22?bidId=>

**What Families Can Do to Minimize Risk for Their Children:** <https://bit.ly/WhatFamiliesCanDo>

**What to Do if You Test Positive or Are Exposed to Someone with COVID-19:**

<https://www.washtenaw.org/DocumentCenter/View/18539/Isolation-and-Quarantine-Guidance?bidId=>