



Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County has developed the following guidance for K-12 schools returning for Fall 2021. This guidance is designed to limit the spread of COVID-19 within our schools and community.

## Vaccinations are Recommended

---



Public Health recommends that faculty, staff and eligible students (12 or older) should get vaccinated against COVID-19.

COVID-19 is a vaccine-preventable, respiratory illness caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2. The disease can spread rapidly among individuals who are not vaccinated\* and result in serious illness or death. The COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective and offer the best protection against serious illness.

### **\*Someone is considered fully vaccinated:**

- Two weeks after their second dose in a two-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or
- Two weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as the Johnson & Johnson Janssen vaccine.

## Layered Protection

---



While in school, everyone should frequently wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Maintain a distance of at least 3' from others. Increase ventilation in rooms and buses to the extent possible.

## Use of Masks

---



The use of face masks is recommended for all teachers, staff, students and visitors to schools, regardless of vaccination status.

Masking is a critical component of layered prevention strategies that have been shown to be effective at reducing risk of transmission. Schools should be aware that consistent and correct mask use, in addition to the maximizing of physical distancing, are needed to allow unvaccinated students to remain in the classroom setting following a potential classroom exposure.

All individuals should wear a mask when;

- In any indoor location that is not a residence.
- In crowded outdoor settings.

# Montgomery County K-12 Back to School Guidance - Fall 2021

## Reporting of Positive Cases to Public Health and the Community

---



Schools are required to notify Public Health of all positive cases and those indicated below within 24 hours of becoming aware of a student, teacher, staff member, or coach who has tested positive or been diagnosed with COVID-19.

The parents/guardians of all students in a school where there has been a positive case, must be notified in writing in the following ways:

- Written notification of a positive test or case shall be sent to the parents or guardians of all students who share a classroom space or have participated in a school activity during the COVID-19 infectious period of a student, teacher, staff member or coach.
- Written notification shall also be provided to all parents or guardians of students at the school building notifying them of a positive result. This notification may be made using email or an established website.

### Reporting Procedure

Schools shall report all positive COVID-19 cases to Public Health using the K-12 SCHOOLS reporting link located on the [phdmc.org](https://phdmc.org) website. The process for schools reporting positive COVID-19 cases has been streamlined and the K-12 Schools COVID-19 REPORT FORM from last year has been eliminated. Schools will be able to access a specific reporting tool on the Public Health website located on the COVID-19 Update Tab. Click on the K12-SCHOOLS Reporting tab/link located on the left side bar. A survey will appear. Please complete the survey and submit. All fields are required.

Schools shall notify close contacts of exposure (and families of close contacts in the school setting), as soon as possible after notification of a positive case and quarantine close contacts per the ODH Guidelines for K-12 Student Quarantine Procedure: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/covid-19-fact-sheet-k-12-exposure-and-quarantine.pdf>

Please do not send any positive reports via email. Email is only monitored for COVID-19 related questions.

## Busing and Transportation

---



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC's Order](#)) has issued an order requiring the use of masks that applies to all public transportation conveyances including school buses.

Regardless of the mask policy at school, passengers and drivers must wear a mask on school buses, including on buses operated by public and private school systems, subject to the exclusions and exemptions in CDC's Order. Learn more [here](#). Schools should provide masks to those students who need them (including on buses), such as students who forgot to bring their mask or whose families are unable to afford them.

This is a federal rule and must be enforced by the transportation provider, in this case the schools, or RTA if students use their service. Any concerns about lack of compliance should be addressed with the transportation provider.

# Montgomery County K-12 Back to School Guidance - Fall 2021

## Ohio Department of Health Quarantine Procedure

---



<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/covid-19-fact-sheet-k-12-exposure-and-quarantine.pdf>

The following guidance can be used to address COVID-19 exposures in schools. This guidance is informed by recent studies and pilot evaluations, including the Ohio Schools COVID-19 Evaluation, which indicate that the risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools may be limited with strict adherence to prevention measures in a monitored environment.

- *Fully vaccinated students and adults* possibly exposed to COVID-19 do not have to quarantine, and can continue attending in-person class and participating in sports and extra-curricular activities, unless symptoms develop.
- *Unvaccinated students and adults* possibly exposed to COVID-19 in schools may continue to attend in-person school, if the following conditions are met:
  - o The school has documented COVID-19 prevention policies, including universal mask wearing, strategies to maximize distance between students, handwashing, identification and management of students exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, and routine environmental cleaning and disinfection protocols.
  - o The exposure occurred within a classroom environment or while on required school transport (e.g., school bus)
  - o The person with COVID-19 and any associated contacts were wearing face masks that covered their nose and mouth at all times.
  - o Distancing between students is maximized in classroom and other settings, ideally a 6-foot distance, but 3 feet is acceptable.
  - o They remain symptom-free.

**The above guidelines for unvaccinated students and adults only apply to exposures occurring in classroom settings.** Unvaccinated students should not attend in-person school or participate in organized sports or extracurriculars if their COVID-19 exposure occurred somewhere other than the classroom.

Any unvaccinated student who is not required to quarantine due to exposure occurring in a classroom setting is permitted to participate in organized sports activities and extracurricular activities as long as they remain symptom-free and follow applicable guidance.

Anyone, vaccinated or unvaccinated, who is a close contact possibly exposed in the classroom should self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days following exposure. Any contact who develops symptoms should be isolated away from other students and adults and evaluated for COVID-19. Testing for SARS-CoV-2 may be recommended in coordination with the local health department, school, healthcare provider, or parents/guardians. Close contacts who continue to attend in-person school and/or to participate in activities should also follow normal protocols for quarantine when they are not in the classroom

## Montgomery County K-12 Back to School Guidance - Fall 2021

or participating in activities. For the unvaccinated, this includes staying home and, if possible, staying away from people who are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. For more information, visit: [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov). To minimize the risk of introduction of COVID-19 into the classroom setting, unvaccinated students and their parents or guardians are advised to restrict their activities outside of the classroom, including gatherings with individuals outside of their household and activities during which face masks cannot be safely or effectively worn.

***Recommendations are subject to change based on CDC and ODH guidance or changes in community transmission.***