**Madison County Isolation & Quarantine Guidance**

**For Madison County Schools**

**August 17, 2021**

**Case Investigation and Contact Tracing for Isolation and Quarantine:**

Schools should continue to collaborate with the Madison County Department of Health (MCDOH) in identifying students, teachers, and staff who testpositive for COVID‐19. MCDOH is primarily responsible to investigate each reported positive COVID‐19 case and to trace all those with close contacts to implement Isolation and Quarantine orders.

The following are based on CDC/NY State Education guidelines[[1]](#footnote-1).[[2]](#footnote-2) and will be applicable during contact tracing.

1. Fully vaccinated close contacts:
   1. Should be referred for COVID‐19 testing.
   2. If asymptomatic, do not need to quarantine at home following an exposure (they can continue to attend school in‐person and participate in other activities). In addition to correctly wearing masks in school, they should wear a mask in other indoor/outdoor public settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result on a molecular PCR test collected 3‐5 days after contact.
2. Individuals who were COVID-19 positive within the last 3 months and are close contacts:
   1. If asymptomatic, do not need to quarantine at home following an exposure (they can continue to attend school in‐person and participate in other activities). In addition to correctly wearing masks in school, they should wear a mask in other indoor/outdoor public settings for 14 days
      1. NOTE: Individuals who were COVID-19 positive within the last 3 months should not be tested.
3. Unvaccinated close contacts:
   1. Should be referred for COVID‐19 testing, if symptomatic.
   2. Regardless of test result, they should be in **mandatory quarantine** (MQ) at home for 10 days after last exposure.
4. Masked students who are within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student in a K‐12 indoor classroom will not be quarantined.
5. Students, regardless of mask use, who are less than 3 feet of an infected student in a K-12 classroom will be quarantined. (Cumulative 15 min in a 24 hr. period). Exception: see number 1 above.
6. Schools should report new diagnoses of COVID‐19 to MCDOH as soon as they are informed.

**Lunch:**

Lunch: masks typically off when eating, so MQ students within 6 feet to the case.

**Gym, Band, Theatre, and Choir:**

If wearing masks and 6ft spacing, no MQ regardless of length time. Otherwise we will review on a case by case basis.

**Buses (all ages):**

* MQ in adjacent seats (in front, behind, directly across) for over 15 minutes in 24 hour period
* Shorter rides, or individuals sitting farther away: no MQ.

**Staff (COVID+ “staff to staff” exposures):**

Use general rule of MQ for:

* Mandatory Quarantine for teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting within 6 ft. for 15 minutes cumulative within 24 hrs. Mask use, vaccination status, and/or COVID-19 positive within the last 3 months will be considered to determine who is quarantined.

**Important considerations:**

1. Close contact is defined as:

* Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes).
  + Exception: In the K–12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time.
    - This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.

1. Recommend to have individual student (s) **assigned seats to** identify close contacts.
2. Importance whether there is an outbreak (2 or more clusters in the same school within 14 days period).
3. Adherence to masking policy
4. Vaccination Status of infected and exposed individuals
5. Vaccination rates in Madison County, including vaccination rates of staff and students
6. Total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days in Madison County
7. Percent positive during the past 7 days
8. Spread of new variants of SARS-CoV-2 virus in Madison County.

*The Madison County Health Department will be closely monitoring infections within the school community.*

**Staying home when sick and getting tested:**

Students, teachers, and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as flu or COVID‐19, should stay home and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care, regardless of vaccination status. If a student becomes sick at school, follow CDC guidelines to handle such situation. (Appendix A)[[3]](#footnote-3) Vaccinated individuals should self-monitor for symptoms and if they develop any symptoms within 14 days they should isolate and be tested.

**Appendix A**



1. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/back-school/nysed-health-and-safety-guide-for-the-2021-2022-school-year.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. CDC: What to do when if a student becomes sick or reports a new COVID‐19 diagnosis: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019‐ncov/community/schools‐childcare/student‐becomes‐sick‐diagnosis‐flowchart.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)