



# SCHOOL GUIDANCE

## For School Administrator and Local Public Health Coordination

[Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](https://Michigan.gov/Coronavirus)

Updated March 11, 2022

School administrators and leaders should partner with and follow guidance from their local health department for the application of COVID-19 mitigation measures, such as isolation, quarantine, and masking, to promote healthier and safer school settings for students and staff and to support the goal of in-person, classroom-based learning for school-aged Michiganders and their families.

Additionally, while local health departments are valuable partners and advisors to school districts in responding to health threats, school districts are also responsible for performing their independent legal authority to protect students who are on school property or under school supervision and control. Schools are encouraged to consult local health departments for expertise on measures to protect the safety and welfare of students, however they do not need a health department order to act.

### Why do these requirements and recommendations benefit school and community health and wellness?

- ✓ Helps to increase community vaccination rates and support greater community and state-wide immunity & protection in Michigan.
- ✓ Isolation and quarantine help to break the chain of transmission and illness in the community.
- ✓ Prevents local health systems from becoming overwhelmed and not being able to provide care to all community members.
- ✓ Supports the educational, physical, mental, social, and emotional development of Michigan’s children and families.

### School Administrator & Leader Requirements

Provide “for the safety and welfare of pupils while at school or a school sponsored activity or while in route to or from school, or a school sponsored activity,” as specified under the Revised School Code, [MCL 380.11a\(3\)\(b\)](#).

Reporting suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases, outbreaks and unusual occurrences to the local health department as specified under [Michigan Administrative Code R. 325.173 \(9\)](#).

Ensure employees who 1) test positive, 2) display principal symptoms, and/or 3) had a “close-contact”\* to COVID-19, do not come to work during isolation or quarantine period as required by [Michigan Compiled Laws 419.405](#).

As **directed by** local health officer, exclude children from school or group programs who are symptomatic or test positive with COVID-19, a communicable disease, during isolation period and exclude children identified as close contacts\* during quarantine period from school, as specified under: [Michigan Administrative Code R 325.175 \(2\)-\(4\)](#).

Assist with contact tracing **as requested** by the local health department, as specified under [Michigan Administrative Code R. 325.174 \(2\)](#).

\*Close contact is inclusive of household/personal contact and other contact as used in current guidance.

### Public Health Recommendations\*\*\*

Recommend and make masking accessible for staff, students, and visitors who may be immunocompromised and/or have risk factors\*\* for increased illness from COVID-19.

Monitor and implement masking requirements as needed based on population served and review of local conditions in partnership with local public health.

*Establish a supportive setting that encourages students and staff to make choices that best protect themselves and families.*

Encourage, promote, and provide opportunity for COVID-19 vaccination for staff, students & families. Work with local health department or submit a clinic request to MDHHS [here](#).

Support student access to COVID-19 testing through participation in the MI Backpack Program and other [MI Safe Schools testing resources](#).

Enhance and promote Health & Wellness for all in-school settings:

- Improve ventilation in classrooms and other school facilities
- Teach and promote handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- Implement regular cleaning and disinfecting school facilities

Enhance physical distancing where feasible and in support of staff and students who may be medically frail and/or have risk factors\*\* for increased illness from COVID-19.

Provide notification and communication to families (students) and individuals (staff) when there has been an exposure opportunity to an individual with a communicable disease (such as COVID-19). Additional guidance provided in [Managing Communicable Diseases in Schools](#).

**\*\*Risk factors** include older adults (60+) and those who have serious chronic medical conditions like heart disease, diabetes, or lung disease (at any age), and those who live in high-risk congregate settings (like nursing homes, corrections facilities, and shelters). If you live with others who have risk factors, consider their health in addition to your personal health.

\*\*\*Recommendations per the CDC and the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services. Please see the MDHHS Website for additional resources for [K-12 School Guidance](#).