

COVID-19 Guidance for the 2022-2023 School Year

Last year ODH has announced a shift away from universal contact tracing, case investigation, and exposure notifications to a cluster or outbreak-based model. This means that CCCHD no longer conducts case investigations or contact tracing in the community, outside of high-risk settings, such as congregate residential settings, or for certain circumstances, such as outbreaks in schools.

What this means for you:

- **Please report positive cases** of COVID-19 to CCCHD using the following link:
<https://forms.office.com/r/wxXXbCzZqe>
 - **Additionally, please encourage your families to self-report their at-home tests on our website. I have attached a letter that you may use to share this information.**
- Please keep an eye out for disease clusters or outbreaks in your schools and reach out to CCCHD when you suspect a cluster or outbreak so that we may assist you in case investigation and contact tracing. During times of significant community spread, it is difficult to draw a line between in-school transmission and community transmission, so please use your best judgement. Never hesitate to reach out to our Communicable Disease Team for advice/assistance – we are here to help!
- **Masking in schools:**
 - At a high COVID-19 Community Level, universal indoor masking in schools and ECE (Early Care and Education) programs is highly recommended, as it is in the community at-large.
 - At medium or low transmission levels, anyone who chooses to wear a mask should be supported in their decision to do so.
 - As of 8/11/22, **Clark County is at Medium Community Level**
[\(https://www.cdc.gov/TemplatePackage/contrib/widgets/covidcountycheck/\)](https://www.cdc.gov/TemplatePackage/contrib/widgets/covidcountycheck/)

It is important to share that even though formal universal contact tracing has been suspended, other expectations remain the same:

- If someone tests positive, they need to stay home and isolate for 5 days.
 - If they have symptoms:
 - **Day 0 is the day they were tested** (not the day they received their positive test result)
 - **Day 1 is the first full day** following the day they were tested
 - If they develop symptoms within 10 days of when they were tested, the **clock restarts at day 0 on the day of symptom onset**
 - After 5 days, assess they should assess their symptoms and if they have met the criteria below, they can end isolation but still wear a mask through day 10:
 - They are fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication)
 - Their symptoms are improving
 - If they do not have symptoms:
 - **Day 0 of isolation is the day of symptom onset**, regardless of when they tested positive
 - **Day 1 is the first full day** after the day their symptoms started
 - After 5 days, they may end isolation but still wear a mask through day 10.
 - **Option to test to remove mask sooner than day 10:**
 - Consider using antigen tests if they are available. With two sequential negative tests 48 hours apart, the sick person may remove their mask sooner than day 10.
 - Note: If their antigen test results are positive, they may still be infectious. They should continue wearing a mask and wait at least 48 hours before taking another test. The sick

person should continue taking antigen tests at least 48 hours apart until they have two sequential negative results. This may mean they need to continue wearing a mask and testing beyond day 10.

- Anyone who is a known close contact should wear a mask for 10 days, self-monitor for symptoms, and test on day six. There is no restriction on activities.
- If a child is sick, they should remain at home and not go to school.
- COVID-19 is still a reportable condition. Any individual having knowledge of a person suffering from COVID-19 is required to report it to their local health department in accordance with OAC 3701-3-03.

I have attached two more **optional** letters to this message:

- Notice of Exposure 1: This is a more specific letter that can be used in situations where the student has been identified as a close contact through contact tracing.
- Notice of Exposure 2: This is a more general letter that can be sent to the whole classroom.

Without structured contact tracing in place, it is more important now than ever that you encourage mitigation strategies that work against the transmission of COVID-19, such as vaccination, proper masking, physical distancing, improving ventilation, hand washing, cough etiquette, testing, and staying home if you are sick.

As always, our team is interested to hear your feedback and available to answer any questions.