

Updated COVID-19 Protocols



JANUARY 2022



**West Virginia Board of Education
2021-2022**

Miller L. Hall, President
Thomas W. Campbell, CPA, Vice President
F. Scott Rotruck, Financial Officer

Robert W. Dunlevy, Member
L. Paul Hardesty, Member
Daniel D. Snavely, M.D., Member
Debra K. Sullivan, Member
Nancy J. White, Member
James S. Wilson, D.D.S., Member

Sarah Armstrong Tucker, Ph.D., Ex Officio
Chancellor
West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission
West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education

W. Clayton Burch, Ex Officio
State Superintendent of Schools
West Virginia Department of Education

KEY MITIGATIONS FOR SCHOOLS *(including extracurricular activities)*

These practices are important to not only guard against COVID-19, but also the spread of other infections such as the flu and the common cold.

The most effective mitigation strategy is the vaccination for those eligible to receive it.



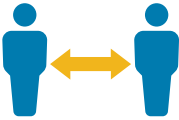
Cleaning and disinfecting



Hand hygiene and coughing/sneezing etiquette



Evaluate large gatherings outside of classroom/core groups



Social distancing



Face coverings at county board discretion



Contact tracing dependent on mask requirements

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE BUREAU FOR PUBLIC HEALTH.

West Virginia Bureau for Public Health Legislative Rule 64 CSR7-3: Reportable Diseases, Events, Conditions and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html



The ultimate goal is to protect our students and staff and prioritize in-person learning.

- » Staff members are considered fully vaccinated if their primary series is within the last 6 months or they have received the booster. Students ages 5-17 are considered fully vaccinated if they have had the primary series meaning booster is not required.
- » Fully vaccinated staff members and students who have been exposed, do NOT have to quarantine if they are asymptomatic. Testing is recommended on day 5 and masks should be worn through day 10.
- » Unvaccinated students and staff must quarantine for 5 days if within 6 ft. of a positive individual. Testing is recommended on day 5. If after day 5, there are no symptoms then individual may return to school but mask must be worn through day 10.
- » Universal mask policy counties (Masks are worn inside at all applicable times regardless of the DHHR map color) do NOT have to quarantine students and staff who have been exposed if masks are worn at the point of exposure (including extracurricular activities).
- » Staff and students who test positive must self-isolate for 5 days and may return on day 6 if fever free for 24 hours and symptoms are improving. The individual must wear a mask on days 6-10 and social distance anytime a mask can't be worn such as in the cafeteria. If a staff member or student does not want to wear a mask or social distance for days 6-10, then they must remain home.
- » Rapid tests and home testing are options for meeting testing requirements.

Participation in Extra-Curricular Activities

Exposed youth may return to school following CDC guidelines for individuals exposed to COVID-19 based on their vaccination status:

- Should wear a mask inside the school during days 6-10.
- Days 6-10 should not be allowed to participate in unmasked extracurricular activities without implementation of a test to play strategy. This prioritizes in-person instruction and keeps play safe.
- A test to play strategy recommends testing on the date the individual has been identified as a close contact and again 5 days after exposure to be allowed to participate in unmasked extracurricular activities.

Positive Youth

- Must self-isolate for 5 days and if they are asymptomatic or their symptoms are resolving (without fever for 24 hours).
- Should wear a mask inside the school during days 6-10.
- It is recommended that youth who have tested positive for COVID-19 should not participate in unmasked extracurricular activities during days 6-10 unless they obtain a negative antigen test result towards the end of the 5-day isolation period. Antigen tests should only be collected if the individual has been fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications and other symptoms have improved (loss of taste and smell may persist for several weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation).

Do household contacts of confirmed cases need to be quarantined?

Public health recommendation for quarantine of household close contacts with ongoing exposure depends on the vaccination status of the household members.

The following groups do not need to quarantine if they came in close contact with someone with COVID-19:

- Individuals who are 18 years of age or older and have received all the recommended vaccine doses, including boosters and additional primary shots for some immunocompromised people.
- Individuals who are aged 5-17 years and completed the primary series of COVID-19 vaccines.
- Individuals who had confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days.

The following groups do need to quarantine if they came in close contact with someone with COVID-19:

- Individuals who are 18 years or older and completed the primary series of recommended vaccine but have not received a recommended booster shot when eligible.
- Individuals who received the single dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine more than two months ago and have not received a recommended booster shot.
- Individuals who are not vaccinated or have not completed a primary vaccine series.

» Household contacts who need to quarantine should get tested as soon as their household member tests positive for COVID-19. If they test positive their isolation period begins. If they test negative, they should remain in quarantine, and test again on the day their household member meets the criteria to be released from isolation. If they remain negative they can be released from quarantine and should wear a mask while around others for 10 days.

Case Reporting and Considerations for School Closure

Starting January 24, 2022 schools will report in aggregate the number of positive staff and students for the prior week (Sunday to Saturday) to an online portal: <http://www.wvdhhr.org/EpiInfoWebSurvey/Home/3fe5c197-32b3-4057-99d5-30e7426ccd0c>. This will allow for a more robust tracking of COVID-19 cases and will measure the true burden COVID-19 has on our school system by measuring the percent positivity.

Outbreaks will no longer be reported to your local health department, however this does not eliminate the requirement under the reportable disease rule 64-CSR7, to isolate and quarantine for COVID-19.

Schools may consider closing for a five-day period to slow transmission, in consultation with the local health department, based on one of the thresholds:

- School is unable to maintain a safe school environment due to the number of staff out with COVID.
- School COVID-19 percent positivity exceeds 20% on the weekly report.

Five-day closures do require all extra-curricular events to be cancelled/postponed. However, schools needing to close for a day or two due to staffing, may conduct extra-curricular events based on their county-level policies.

VACCINATION INFORMATION

Health officials are administering the Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson vaccines in West Virginia to help protect against COVID-19. Vaccines are important to:

- » Protect population against virus spread and additional variants;
- » Reduce deaths and hospitalizations; and
- » Maintain critical services and acute care.

Both Moderna and Pfizer require two rounds of vaccinations while the Johnson & Johnson is a single dose.

Vaccinated adults (18 and older) must be within 6 months of the primary series or had a booster to be considered fully vaccinated.

Vaccine Second Dose Administration:



21 days



28 days



2nd dose not required

For complete vaccine information provided by the DHHR, visit <https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/Vaccine.aspx> or contact the COVID-19 Vaccine Info Line at 1-833-734-0965 with questions. If a school or county wishes to host vaccine clinics, please contact Michele Blatt at mlblatt@k12.wv.us.



W. Clayton Burch
West Virginia Superintendent of Schools

 [/WVEducation](https://www.facebook.com/WVEducation)  [@wveducation](https://twitter.com/wveducation)
wvde.us