

Updated COVID-19 Protocols



DECEMBER 2021

WEST VIRGINIA BUREAU FOR PUBLIC HEALTH LEGISLATIVE RULE 64 CSR7-3: REPORTABLE DISEASES, EVENTS, CONDITIONS



Goal is to protect our students and staff and prioritize in-person learning.

Schools with Universal Mask Policy

(Masks are worn inside at applicable times regardless of the DHHR map color)

- » Universal mask policy schools 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 symptoms are improving. Positive individual must wear a mask days 6-10.
- » If a staff member or student does not want to wear a mask for days 6-10, then they must remain home.

Schools with No Universal Mask Policy

- » Students and staff who have been fully vaccinated within the last 6 months or had the booster do NOT have to quarantine if they are asymptomatic. Recommend testing on day 5 and wearing a mask 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.
- » If a staff member or student does not want to wear a mask for days 6-10, then they must remain home.
- » Unvaccinated athletes who have been exposed must quarantine for 5 days and test negative in order to begin playing during days 6-10. Masks should be worn as appropriate during days 6-10.

Definition of School Outbreak

- » Cases of COVID-19 are immediately reportable to the local health department. Local health departments, under the reportable disease rule 64-CSR7, have the authority to isolate and quarantine for COVID-19.
- » An outbreak in a school setting is defined as:
 - › Multiple cases comprising at least 10% of students, teachers, or staff, within a specified core group (e.g. classroom, extracurricular activity, sports team).
 - › OR at least three cases within a specified core group (e.g. classroom, extracurricular activity, sports team).
 - › COVID-19 cases with symptom onset or positive test result within 14 days of each other that were not identified as close contacts of each other in another setting (i.e., household) AND epidemiologically linked in the school setting.

Considerations for Closing

- » Schools may consider closing individual classrooms for a 10-day period when rapid transmission occurs in a classroom to slow transmission. Schools should use the threshold five or more students in a single classroom or if 10% of the classroom has COVID-19, whichever is greater.
- » Schools may consider closing for a 10-day period to slow transmission if recommended by the local health department to the county superintendent based on meeting one of the thresholds:
 - › School is unable to maintain a safe school environment due to the number of staff out.
 - › School baseline absenteeism is double the average daily absences due to students out with COVID-19.