



## **GEAUGA PUBLIC HEALTH**

*Promoting and Protecting Community Health*

470 Center St., Building 8, Chardon, OH 44024-1071  
440.279.1900      www.gphohio.org

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September 10, 2021

To: Geauga County Superintendents

Re: Quarantine & Isolation in Schools

The ultimate goal is for our students and teachers to be able to stay in an in-person education environment, and still minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

The following guidelines have been created in regards to COVID-19 exposures and infections due to the virus's following characteristics that we have learned thus far:

1. This is an infection that is primarily spread by respiratory droplets.
2. Not everyone infected with the virus will have symptoms.
3. A person infected with COVID-19 is spreading the virus 2 -3 days before symptoms start.
4. Most people start with symptoms approximately 3 - 5 days after exposure, but it can be up to 14 days.
5. Having a COVID-19 infection depends on the amount of COVID-19 viral particles a person inhales. One of the reason delta variant is so contagious is because there are more viral particles in a person's respiratory droplets than in previous variants.
6. A person with a COVID-19 infection is spreading viral particles for an average of 10 days from the start of symptoms. However, if they continue to have symptoms at the 10 day mark, they are considered contagious until they have not had a fever for at least 24 hours without fever reducing medication, and their condition is improving.
7. If a person has been vaccinated, they are less likely to become severely ill and need to be hospitalized.
8. Current data shows vaccinated and unvaccinated people are spreading the virus if infected with the delta variant. Future variants could pose similar and/or additional problems.

Typical COVID-19 symptoms include, but are not limited to: New onset cough with or without shortness of breath, nasal congestion or runny nose, sore throat, body aches and chills, fever over 100.4 F, vomiting/diarrhea.

Close Contact: Having been closer than 6 feet, for at least 15 minutes total time within 24 hours.

### **Recommendations to Quarantine/Isolate**

If a student experience symptoms of a COVID-19 infection, the student should stay home from school and seek medical attention for possible COVID-19 testing and directions for care.

If a student has tested positive for COVID-19 and is having symptoms, the student should stay isolated from others for 10 days following onset of symptoms. If the student is asymptomatic but has tested positive, the student should stay isolated from others for 10 days following the date of the test.

If a student has been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 and tests positive, they should remain quarantine for a minimum of 10 days with the option to extend quarantine the full 14 days. During quarantine the student should be closely monitoring for symptoms. If a student develops symptoms, then the student would transition from quarantine to isolation and should remain in isolation for 10 days from the start of symptoms. If the student tests negative, they should wear a mask daily and monitor closely for symptoms for 14 days—going into isolation if symptoms were to start.

If a student that is asymptomatic and has not been a close contact tests positive with an at home rapid test that does not come with a tele-health visit, we recommend reaching out to your doctor or other test providers to get an additional test.

**In the classroom setting:** If a student is exposed for over 15 minutes while masked and at least 3 feet distanced, with a person who tested positive for COVID-19 virus, they are not considered to be a close contact and it would be recommended for the exposed student to wear a mask while they attend school every day. The student should also monitor for any symptoms and should stay home if they show any signs of illness.

If a student is exposed for over 15 minutes, but is over 6 feet away from the person who tested positive for COVID-19 virus, they are not considered to be a close contact and could continue to attend school.

These recommendations may vary depending on school district policies.

Geauga Public Health and the School Districts rely on both parents and students taking personal responsibility for disclosing illness, quarantining/isolation as necessary, and notifying appropriate persons regarding symptoms that might arise.