



Madison County Public Health COVID-19 Case, Contact, Isolation, and Quarantine Guidelines Madison County K-12 Schools 2020-2021 School Year

- We know that consistent symptom screening and testing are excellent strategies to identify individuals with COVID-19. Case interviews and contact tracing are equally effective disease control strategies. This involves asking sick individuals to isolate and their contacts to quarantine at home. Screening, testing, and case/contact tracing are actions that can be taken to slow the spread of transmission of COVID-19 here in Madison County. These strategies must be carried out in a way that protects privacy and confidentiality consistent with applicable laws and regulations.
- We know how quickly COVID-19 can spread in congregate indoor settings. To keep schools open as much as possible, it is absolutely critical to control cases and contacts. Madison County Public Health (MCPH) staff will walk with you every step of the way during this school year. We are the health experts in the county. We will guide you all year to help maintain the safest environment possible for your students and your staff.

Definitions used with COVID-19	
Symptoms	Fever (over 100°F), chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.
Confirmed Case	Tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 RNA (the virus that causes COVID-19 illness) by a lab.
Probable Case	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 antigen or antibody and had close contact with a confirmed case. 2) Tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 antigen or antibody and has symptoms of COVID-19 illness. 3) Close contact with a confirmed case and has symptoms of COVID-19 illness. <p><i>*This is a simplified definition of a probable case.</i></p>
Suspected Case	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Pending lab test for SARS-CoV-2. 2) Has any symptom of COVID-19 illness. 3) Had close contact with a confirmed case but has no symptoms. <p><i>*This is a simplified definition of a suspected case.</i></p>





Definitions used with COVID-19	
<p>Exposure/Contact (also called "close contact")</p>	<p>During the 2 days prior to the onset of the first symptom (or if it is an asymptomatic case, 2 days prior to the date the test was performed):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Within less than 6 feet of someone who is either a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 for a total of (cumulative) 15 minutes or more (regardless of mask or barrier use). 2) Direct physical contact with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 for any length of time. 3) Someone in the same household is either a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19. 4) Shared eating or drinking utensils with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19. 5) A confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you. <p>For the school setting, keeping homerooms together (cohorting) and limiting mixing between homerooms/groups will reduce the number of exposures and therefore reduce the number of people who will need to be quarantined if there is a positive case.</p>
<p>Isolation</p>	<p>Requires all confirmed cases, all probable cases, suspected cases with pending lab results, and suspected cases with any symptom to stay at their own residence except to seek medical care. This is a period of time not less than 10 days.</p>
<p>Release from Isolation</p>	<p>Confirmed or probable cases with no symptoms can be released from isolation when:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ten days have passed since the positive test, <u>AND</u> b) No symptoms developed during the isolation period. <p>Confirmed or probable cases with mild to moderate illness (i.e., non-hospitalized cases) can be released from isolation when:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ten days have passed since the onset of the first symptom, <u>AND</u> b) No fever the last day of isolation (a full 24 hours fever-free without the use of medications), <u>AND</u> c) Other symptoms have improved. <p>Confirmed or probable cases with severe to critical illness (i.e., hospitalized cases) can be released from isolation when:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Twenty days have passed since the onset of the first symptom, <u>AND</u> b) No fever the last day of isolation (a full 24 hours fever-free without the use of medications), <u>AND</u> c) Other symptoms have improved.



Our Mission

We are committed to monitoring and responding to our community's health and wellness needs through innovative services, education, collaboration, and compassionate care.



Definitions used with COVID-19	
Quarantine	Requires exposures/contacts and suspected cases with no symptoms to stay at their own residence except to seek medical care. This is a period of time not less than 14 days after the <i>most recent</i> contact with or exposure to the case.
Release from Quarantine	<p>People who are placed in quarantine must always complete, at a minimum, 14 days of quarantine. If a person is tested for SARS-CoV-2 during their quarantine period and receives a negative result, they <u>may not</u> end their quarantine early as it may take 14 days to test positive. Day 1 of quarantine is the day <i>after</i> your most recent exposure to the person. Day 14 runs through the end of that last day. Example: Joe rides in a car with Mary for 2 hours on June 1. Mary has symptoms on June 3 and tests positive on June 5. Joe had no other contact with Mary after June 1. Joe's first day of quarantine is June 2 and his last day of quarantine is June 15 and is released on June 16 to resume normal activities (provided he had no symptoms).</p> <p>Three most common quarantine scenarios:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <i>You will not have further contact or interactions with the confirmed or probable case while they are sick (i.e., a co-worker or classmate):</i> Date of most recent exposure to the person + 14 days = release from quarantine. 2) <i>You live with someone who is a confirmed or probable case (i.e., family member), that case has isolated by staying in a separate bedroom, and you had no close contact with the person since they isolated:</i> Date the case began home isolation + 14 days = release from quarantine. 3) <i>You live with someone who is a confirmed or probable case (i.e., family member) but you cannot or do not avoid additional close contact with the case:</i> Date the case ends home isolation + 14 days = release from quarantine (typically this is a total of 24 days). <p>Any time a new household member gets sick with COVID-19 and you had contact/exposure, quarantine must be restarted.</p> <p>If a quarantined person develops symptoms, he/she becomes a case, begins the isolation period (not less than 10 days), and must meet the release from isolation criteria.</p>
Personal Protective Equipment	Also known as PPE, COVID-19 personal protective equipment for people monitoring those with symptoms compatible with COVID-19 illness includes, at a minimum, a NIOSH-approved N95 respirator, protective gown, eye protection (either goggles or face shield, not prescription glasses), and gloves.





Case Reporting and Contact Tracing

There are two primary routes of case reporting. Cases are required to be reported to MCPH by labs and doctor's offices within 24 hours of receiving test results for a patient. Occasionally a patient will receive notification of a positive test result from their doctor's office or via their patient portal before it is reported to MCPH; this could result in a school staff member or parent of a student reporting the positive case to the school *before* MCPH becomes aware of the case.

When a positive case is reported:

- 1) MCPH will contact the designated school leadership and school nurse.
- 2) MCPH will call the case and conduct an interview. The case will be isolated by MCPH staff in accordance with the definitions in this document. The case will receive an email or letter from MCPH explaining isolation requirements and release from isolation criteria that must be met before going back to school. During the interview with the case, MCPH will identify contacts/exposures who are *not* other students or school staff (contacts outside of school).
- 3) The school will identify all contacts/exposures to the case as a result of school activities (classroom, sports, bus, etc.) and provide the names, phone numbers, and emails of those staff and students (parents of students). *Note: to ensure the right people are quarantined, cohorting, maintaining seating charts, and keeping accurate records of student/staff movements and interactions is incredibly important.
- 4) MCPH will call or email all contacts/exposures identified and conduct a brief interview. The contacts will be quarantined by MCPH staff in accordance with the definitions in this document. The contacts will receive an email or letter from MCPH explaining the quarantine requirements and release from quarantine criteria that must be met before going back to school.
- 5) MCPH will add all isolated cases and all quarantined contacts to the Madison Schools Sharepoint Line List (MSSLL) including release dates. All isolated cases will receive a call from MCPH at the end of isolation and a letter authorizing his/her release. All quarantined contacts will receive a letter authorizing his/her release.

The school should perform deep cleaning in all areas where the case was present up to and including 2 days before the onset of the first reported symptom or 2 days before the test was performed in the case does not have symptoms.

If a positive case is identified during the school day, case and contact tracing will take place immediately. Contacts that are at school will be identified and asked to be removed from school as soon as possible. For logistical purposes, it may be helpful to separate contacts who are waiting to be picked up from school away from other students.

Someone who has been tested and is waiting for lab results should not be at school since that person is considered a suspect case and must be isolated in their residence.

If a positive case lives outside Madison County, the Health Department in the case's county of residence will conduct the initial interview and will consult with MCPH.



Students/Staff with Symptoms

When a student or staff member displays any of the symptoms of COVID-19 illness during the school day, he/she will be immediately isolated and sent home as soon as possible. The isolated person must wear a cloth facial covering while waiting for pick-up or transportation home and be moved to a designated "sick" room separate from "well" people (well people are those who may need clinic services such as medications or treatment for an injury). Any staff member who is monitoring a symptomatic person must wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). See the *Returning to School* section for additional guidance on handling staff and students who call in sick. Refer those displaying symptoms of COVID-19 illness to a health care professional or testing location.

Returning to School

When a staff member or student is released from isolation or quarantine he/she will receive a letter from MCPH. If the person lives outside Madison County, the Health Department where the person resides will provide a letter releasing the person from isolation or quarantine. MCPH will maintain and update the Madison Schools Sharepoint Line List (MSSLL) with release dates.

Any student or staff member (*who is not currently isolated or quarantined*) with even one symptom compatible with COVID-19 illness will only be permitted back to school if they are fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of medications **and** meet one of the following criteria:

- 1) Provide written lab or physician results of a negative SARS-CoV-2 RNA PCR test collected in the previous 72 hours. **Negative antigen or antibody test results are not acceptable.*
- 2) Provide verifiable written documentation from a physician of a more likely alternative diagnosis (i.e., influenza, strep throat, etc.). **The diagnosis must be provided by the physician, not just a "return to school" note.*
- 3) At least 10 days have passed from the onset of the first symptom.
**If the person was hospitalized during the illness/symptoms, at least 20 days have passed from the onset of the first symptom.*

If a student (parent) or a staff member refuses to get a test or see a doctor, criteria 3 must be met.

Testing Resources

There are two testing providers in Madison County:

- 1) Madison Health (main hospital campus) located at 210 North Main Street in London. An appointment and a doctor's order are required. After your doctor sends the order to Madison Health, call 740-845-7242 to schedule an appointment. If you do not have a doctor, Madison Health Urgent Care located at 371 Lafayette Street in London may be able to provide testing. Call 740-845-6735 for the Urgent Care. Do not go to the Madison Health Emergency Department for (non-emergency) general testing.
- 2) Rocking Horse Community Health Center located at 212 North Main Street in London. An appointment is required but you do not need a doctor's order. Call 740-845-7286 to schedule.

Madison County Public Health coordinates testing capacity and supplies within the county but does not provide testing for the public. There are many additional test sites close to Madison County.

Visit covidtest.madisonph.org

Chris Cook, MPH, RS
Health Commissioner

Dr. James Kaehr, MD
Medical Director

Madison County Public Health
306 Lafayette Street, Suite B, PO Box 467
London, Ohio 43140 | Fax 740-852-5418



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Information Sharing – MCPH/School

Under the Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3701.17 (B) (4) MCPH may disclose the identity of confirmed cases, probable cases, suspected cases, and exposures/contacts with school leadership for the purpose of 1) ensuring that a case does not come back to school until isolation has ended, 2) development of a list of contacts that had exposure to the case at school or during school activities during the infectious period, and 3) ensuring that the quarantined contacts do not come back to school until quarantine has ended. This information may be shared with school nurses and with designated school leadership by a phone call (whenever possible) and by secure email. This information will also be maintained using a shared information system (Madison Schools Sharepoint Line List, or MSSLL) managed by MCPH; designated school staff will be given access to this secure information system. This information contains Protected Health Information and is covered by all related privacy laws. Once this information is provided to schools it must remain within the school and may not be transmitted or re-used in any form. This information is not subject to public record requests. The school is responsible for protecting this information both in electronic and paper format. Parental consent for MCPH to share information with designated school leadership is not required under state law in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3701.17 (B) (4).

If the school receives information about a case or contact from a source other than MCPH, the designated school staff member should contact their school nurse (or any MCPH staff member) to confirm the accuracy of the information and begin contact tracing. During an emergency, under 34 Code of Federal Regulations 99.36 schools may share information with MCPH without consent. In accordance with Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3701.81 (B) and (C), if a school has reasonable cause to believe that someone is a confirmed, probable, or suspected case, the school must report this information to MCPH. Schools should consult with their legal counsel regarding this sharing of Protected Health Information.

Information Sharing – Parents/Staff

All positive cases will receive information by letter or email outlining isolation requirements and release from isolation criteria.

All contacts/exposures of a case will receive information by letter or email outlining quarantine requirements and release from quarantine criteria.

The identity of a case should never be revealed to parents or students. The identity of a case should never be confirmed or denied if a parent or student directly asks school leadership or staff. The date of an exposure may be shared with parents or students but the location (i.e., classroom) generally should not be shared (unless MCPH staff, in accordance with law, determine it is necessary to avert a clear threat). The identity of a case should only be shared with school staff members necessary to control, prevent, or mitigate the spread of illness.