



Every child. Every opportunity. Every time.

Kalamazoo Public Schools
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Dear KPS Staff and Families:

The purpose of this letter is to provide an update on school quarantine guidance released this week from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). Please note these are changes from my last letter due to guidance from the federal, state, and local health department. The key guidance updates provided by MDHHS:

- updates the isolation and quarantine guidance to align with the CDC, and
now applies to teachers and staff exposed in a school setting, in addition to students.

First, the MDHHS continues to recommend universal masking in schools, which KPS has done all year. Second, the MDHHS recommends that students, teachers, and staff age 5 and up get vaccinated and students, teachers, and staff age 12 and up receive the booster as soon as they're eligible. KPS has hosted multiple vaccination clinics and will continue to host several more.

The updated guidance is designed to help schools maintain in-person learning by outlining mitigation strategies when students, teachers, and staff are exposed to a COVID-19 case in a school setting. When layered prevention strategies are in place and applied consistently, school-associated transmission of COVID-19 is significantly reduced.

School Quarantine Guidance
What to do when students or staff are exposed to COVID-19 in a school setting, but do not have symptoms.
Students and staff experiencing symptoms should not attend school activities.
Students and staff should monitor for symptoms throughout quarantine period (days 1-10). If symptoms develop, test immediately. Day "0" is day of last close contact with a COVID-19 positive student, teacher or staff.
Actions to Take:
Up to Date on Vaccines No Need to Quarantine: Students and staff without symptoms do not need to quarantine. They should monitor for symptoms and wear a well-fitted mask for 10 days.
Not Up to Date on Vaccines Need to Quarantine: Home quarantine for days 1-5 and test on day 5; and "Mask to Stay" for days 6-10. OR "Test to Stay" for days 1-6 AND "Mask to Stay" for days 1-10. OR Home quarantine for days 1-10 if unable/unwilling to mask.
*Mask to Stay: The consistent and correct use of a well-fitting mask when around others in school and public places
**Test to Stay: Test every other day for six days following the exposure and consistent and correct use of a mask
Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 should not attend school and should isolate at home for five full days after symptom onset (or five days after the positive test if they do not have symptoms). They may return to school on day six if they have no symptoms and can wear a mask for five additional days.
MDHHS continues to recommend universal masking in all K-12 school settings.
Michigan.gov/Coronavirus

The first thing to note on the left side of the chart is that this school quarantine guidance is for students or staff who have been exposed to COVID in a school setting **but do not have symptoms**. Anyone exposed in another setting or anyone experiencing symptoms should not attend school or work.

If you are up-to-date on vaccinations there is no need to quarantine — if you do not have symptoms. Someone exposed should monitor for symptoms and wear a mask for 10 days - although in our case, we always wear a mask in all KPS buildings.

For anyone not up to date on vaccinations, there are options. First, you can home quarantine for days 1-5. Day “0” is the date of last close contact with a COVID-19 positive student, teacher or staff person. During quarantine, you should test on day 5. If your test is negative, you can return to school on day 6. Second, is to participate in the Test to Stay program where you take an antigen test at school every other day through day 6 following the school exposure. These quarantine guidelines are only for someone who is asymptomatic and has been exposed in a school-based setting.

Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 should not attend school and should isolate at home for five full days after the onset of symptoms or five days after the positive test. They may return on day six if they have no symptoms.

I understand that the guidelines can be confusing especially since they have been modified by health officials. For any questions about a specific school-based case, please contact your child’s school. Additional resources are also linked below.

Finally, I want to emphasize that I understand how difficult these times have been and how we are in an impossible situation. Nobody has been immune to the uncertainty of this virus, the staff shortages, supply shortages, mental health crisis, and other glaring hardships this pandemic has either created or exacerbated around the globe. Let’s all do our best to take care of our children and each other with kindness and empathy.

Sincerely,



Dr. Rita Raichoudhuri
Superintendent

Additional resources:

[KPS Health and Safety Guidelines webpage](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)

[Michigan Department of Health and Human Services](#)

[Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services Department](#)