



COVID-19 Case and Exposure Guidance K-12 SCHOOLS

The purpose of this document is to provide COVID-19 guidance for cases and those exposed to COVID-19 cases in the K-12 school setting within the Delaware Public Health District (DPHD) jurisdiction.

Healthcare providers, including school nurses, are required by law to report certain communicable diseases to the DPHD. Examples of reportable infectious diseases include measles, mumps, varicella (chicken pox), tuberculosis, and COVID-19.

Schools are required to report case names and contact information, for both students and staff, for all reportable diseases to DPHD, except individual case names for COVID-19 unless there is a COVID-19 outbreak.

COVID-19 Cases

Specifically, for COVID-19, schools are required to report the total number of cases to the DPHD on a weekly basis. COVID-19 remains a Class A reportable infectious disease in Ohio. See Director's order-[2nd-Amended-Reporting-Requirements-COVID-April22.pdf \(ohio.gov\)](#).

COVID-19 cases should follow the isolation guidance as described in the following link: [DPHD-COVID-19-Isolation-and-Exposure-Guidance.pdf \(delawarehealth.org\)](#). This document can be found on the DPHD website under COVID-19.

Cases are required to isolate at home for at least 5 days. Once the criteria for ending isolation have been met, a case may return to school with a mask for days 6-10. For times when a mask will not be worn at the school (eating), the case should be a minimum of 6 feet from others.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) does not recommend mask wearing for children younger than 2 years. Additionally, other very young children and some children with disabilities may not be able to consistently and correctly wear a well-fitting mask. If a case is unable to wear a mask, he or she must isolate at home for the full 10 days.

If you are a COVID-19 case, please complete a COVID-19 self-report form at the following link:

[New Submission \(delawarehealth.org\)](#)



This information is kept confidential and will help prevent further spread.

COVID-19 Exposures

Individuals exposed to a COVID-19 case should follow the exposure guidelines as described in the following link: [DPHD-COVID-19-Isolation-and-Exposure-Guidance.pdf \(delawarehealth.org\)](#)

If an exposed individual is asymptomatic, that person may return to school regardless of whether he or she is able to consistently wear a well-fitting mask. The CDC does not recommend mask wearing for children younger than 2 years. Additionally, other very young children and some children with disabilities may not be able to consistently and correctly wear a well-fitting mask.

For those able to do so, exposed individuals should wear a mask for 10 days from the date of last exposure. For asymptomatic exposed children unable to wear a mask, they may return to school. However, in those situations, it is recommended that K-12 schools employ other prevention strategies, such as improving ventilation and avoiding crowding. [Operational Guidance for K-12 Schools and Early Care and Education Programs to Support Safe In-Person Learning | CDC](#). **Note: this only applies to exposed individuals. COVID-19 cases unable to mask must isolate at home for 10 days.**

After a K-12 school reports cases, DPHD will then determine how to proceed with the investigation. If a school or classroom is experiencing a COVID-19 outbreak, DPHD has the authority to enact additional restrictions to prevent further spread of the illness. This may include temporarily closing one or more classrooms or potentially closing the entire building.

If you have questions, please email COVID19@delawarehealth.org or call 740-368-1700.