



GCHD COVID-19 Response Guidance 2022-2023

At this time, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and the CDC recommend the management of COVID-19 transition from a pandemic emergency response model toward a more standard approach used in the management and control of other respiratory viral diseases, such as influenza. Seasonal variations in COVID-19, as well as the appearance of more virulent or contagious variants may cause modification in this approach.

Currently, in the preK-12 school setting, schools should focus on basic illness prevention, detection, and responding to in-school clusters of cases, ongoing transmission in the school, and outbreaks.

Important strategies for COVID-19 and other illness prevention should include:

- Recommending COVID-19 vaccination, including proper booster doses when appropriate, to all eligible students and staff.
- Recommending seasonal influenza vaccination and other routine vaccinations.
 - Free school-based curricula are available for all grade levels to educate about the immune system and how it works, diseases and their causes, and vaccines and the science behind them. Go to <https://vaccinemakers.org/lessons>.
- Supporting students, staff, and families who choose to continue to wear a mask even if not needed.
- Following isolation guidance for students and staff diagnosed with or showing symptoms of COVID-19 or other illnesses.
- Promoting transmission prevention strategies following a case or exposure to a case of COVID-19, including masking, testing, symptom monitoring, and, potentially quarantine.
- Cases of COVID-19 must be reported to GCHD as required by the public health code.
- Monitoring for potential signs of clusters or in-school transmission. If you are concerned about a cluster or outbreak, consult with GCHD.
- Monitor COVID-19 conditions in your area using the following webpages:
 - [CDC: COVID-19 Integrated County View](#)
 - NOTE: at a CDC HIGH COVID-19 Community Level, indoor masking is recommended.
 - [MDHHS: Coronavirus Webpage](#)
 - [MDHHS: K-12 Aged ISD Reporting](#)
 - [MI Safe Start Map](#)

What is required of schools in regards to COVID-19?

- Positive COVID-19 cases (confirmed or probable), must be excluded from school based on the [Michigan Public Health Code: 333.5201](#) and the [Michigan Administrative Code](#) (p. 2-3).
- Notify GCHD of COVID-19 cases per the [Michigan Public Health Code](#).
- Standard school infectious disease policies mandate requiring students and staff to stay home when sick.

Individual Illness Decision Making Recommendations

