

What to do if someone tests positive (isolation)

Here is a general overview of guidance for students and staff, regardless of vaccination status.

- Isolate at home for at least 5 days after symptom onset
 - Day 0 is the day symptoms started or test sample was collected. Use the calendar below for how to count days after testing positive.
- On day 5, does case have no symptoms or symptoms are resolving?
 - If yes, Can stop isolation on day 6. However, should continue to wear a well-fitting mask around others through day 10.
 - If no, should NOT stop isolation - continue isolating until symptoms resolve or 10 days have gone by since tested positive or first developed symptoms. If case has a fever, continue to isolate until fever goes away (24 hours fever-free with no medication).
 - "Resolving symptoms," means symptoms have gotten noticeably better. Some symptoms (like fatigue and loss of taste and/or smell) may last a longer time.
- GCHD strongly recommends that neither students nor staff return to school if they are still feeling ill.
- Continue to wear a mask around others for another 5 days, including at home.
 - When a student or staff returns to school between days 6 and 10, they should wear a KN95, N95, or surgical mask, and not a cloth mask.
 - If a student or staff returns on Day 6, they should wear a mask at all times except while actively eating.

Which test can be used?

- In almost all circumstances, rapid antigen tests and PCR tests are both acceptable options for testing.
- Most at-home rapid antigen test results are not reported to the Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS) except for certain at-home tests that include an app. Schools should report any positive at-home antigen test results to the Health Department.

Expanded Mitigation Measures

Schools may wish to enhance mitigation strategies if local COVID-19 or other illness transmission is worsening or there are other concerning changes. These enhancements could include:

- Ensure ventilation allows the maximum amount of outdoor air, filtration of recirculated air, and use of outdoor spaces to the maximum possible.
 - Ventilation is one of the most important COVID-19 prevention strategy for schools and childcare settings. Good ventilation can reduce the number of virus particles in the air, thereby reducing the likelihood of spreading COVID-19.
 - Good ventilation and indoor air quality are important in reducing airborne exposure to viruses and other airborne illnesses, chemicals, and odors. Buildings vary in design, age, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems, and their ability to provide adequate ventilation and air filtration.
 - For more detailed guidance, see the [EPA's Clean Air in Buildings Challenge](#) and the [Harvard Healthy Buildings](#).
- Encourage masking or consider mandatory masking during periods of increased respiratory illness.