



GUIDANCE FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOLS



PREFACE: All Ohio schools closed for the remainder of the school calendar beginning on March 10, 2020, by order of the Governor and the Director of the Ohio Department of Health in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Ohio Department of Health released guidelines for schools to follow during the 2020-21 school year on July 2, 2020.

These general principles will guide each school district as they move forward with re-opening schools throughout Montgomery County.

- ✓ Each school district will implement recommended safety protocols to the highest degree possible.
- ✓ Each school district will work closely with Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County to promote safety in each school building.
- ✓ Each school district will be transparent with all stakeholders that some level of risk will always be present when children and school district employees occupy school district facilities.
- ✓ School districts recognize the need for consistency in areas of operations while recognizing that individual differences in classroom sizes, school facilities, and building operations may lead to some inconsistencies.

Daily Self-Monitoring

Students and staff should self-monitor symptoms and temperature in the morning before arriving at school.

Symptoms may include:

 Fever over 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or chills	 Cough	 Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing	 Fatigue	 Congestion or runny nose	 Nausea or vomiting
 Muscle or body aches	 Headache	 New loss of taste or smell	 Sore throat	 Diarrhea	

Incorporating guidelines for Family, Caregivers and Staff exposed to COVID-19 (Quarantine)

Staff or Parents/Caregiver should notify the school if they have been exposed to COVID-19 or if they, or any member of the household have been diagnosed or who are presumed to have COVID-19. When this occurs:

- The reported personnel or student must self-quarantine at home for 14 days (consider other learning options for quarantined student).

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/parents-caregivers.html>

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Plan for a Suspected Case or Positive Case

Staff or student begins exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day:

- They should immediately be isolated (placed in a separate room, monitored by personnel maintaining social distancing and wearing PPE).
- Send the ill staff member home - request they seek out their medical provider for further guidance.
- Call family to pick up sick student as quickly as possible.
- Establish procedure for safely transporting anyone with severe symptoms from COVID-19 to a healthcare facility in case of an emergency.
- If calling an ambulance or taking someone to the hospital, try to call ahead to alert the hospital staff that the person may have COVID-19.

Districts must be prepared for the possibility that a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19.

- Once the school is aware of staff or a student that has tested positive for COVID-19, please contact Public Health to report the case at 937-225-4508.
- A positive case will prompt a case investigation on the positive case resulting in needed information on potential close contacts.
- The school district will cooperate with Public Health in contact tracing to identify close contacts of the case of COVID-19.
- Public Health will assist in developing a letter for school districts to use and the letter will explain/define what is considered close contact to a COVID -19 case and the need for a 14 day quarantine.
- Definition of close contact: someone within 6 ft. of a case for at least 15 minutes during the contact window.
- Definition of contact window:
 - o Symptomatic case - 48 hours before symptom onset date until the date the case is isolated.
 - o Asymptomatic case - 48 hours before the specimen was collected until the case was isolated.
- To expedite in the assistance in contact tracing, plans should include updated attendance records, seating charts, and updated contact/phone numbers.

Returning to School After Illness

Student or staff diagnosed as having COVID-19 with symptoms must meet the following criteria to return to school:

- 1 day (24 hours) with no fever (without using fever reducing medication) and
- other symptoms improved and
- 10 days since symptoms first appeared

Student or staff diagnosed as having COVID-19 without symptoms (asymptomatic) must meet the following criteria to return to school:

- 10 days have passed since test without any symptoms developing

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html>



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Food Service

Food service will be determined by each district in compliance with Public Health requirements:

- No self-service using common utensils or shared condiments (salad bars etc.)
- Utilize other areas such as classrooms, library etc. for lunch areas.
- Public Health recommends assigning seats.
- Drinking fountains should be cleaned and sanitized, but encourage staff and students to bring their own water to minimize use and touching of water fountains.
- Clean and sanitize chairs and tables between seatings of students for meals.
- Cafeteria occupancy will be determined based on each individual circumstance with the maximum amount of safety considerations possible. Separation recommendation, based on Ohio School Guidance, is 6 ft where possible.

Classroom Occupancy

Districts will inform parents that safety protocols are in place but any student who attends school will incur some level of risk. Districts will decrease the likelihood of infection with hygiene, cleaning, and safety procedures, but being in a public place has a certain level of risk that cannot be eliminated.

Classroom occupancy will be determined based on each individual circumstance with the maximum amount of safety considerations possible. Separation based on Ohio School Guidance is 6 feet where possible.

Face masks are recommended for all students in grades 3 - 12.

As with other businesses, all school staff and volunteers must wear face masks unless it is unsafe to do so or where doing so would significantly interfere with the learning process. There are exceptions to this as listed in the Ohio guidance. Schools must develop a face mask policy.

Public Health recommends assigning seats.

Public Health recommends no sharing of school supplies (no pooled resources.) All students should have their own crayons, scissors etc.



Visitors/Volunteers

There are different levels of school visitors, and each district will make decisions for each situation.

Visitors are generally discouraged from being in school district facilities. If visitors are present, a face mask is required.

Safety protocols such as taking temperatures and monitoring health symptoms will be implemented for all visitors.

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Transportation

Districts should attempt to seat siblings together.

Seating charts are recommended to assist with contact tracing if that is needed.

Face masks are required for drivers and highly recommended for students if social distancing cannot be maintained.



Recess

School districts will make every effort to maintain consistency with other safety procedures.

This may mean that districts limit student access to certain pieces of playground equipment and restrict activities that are “high touch” and difficult to clean or maintain social distancing.

Students must sanitize or wash their hands after recess.

Specialty Classes

Due to the nature of band, choir, theater, and other similar classes, 6-foot social distancing may not be adequate. Teachers and students should maintain as much distance as possible when actively playing and performing.

Library items should be removed from circulation for 72 hours after item is returned.

Cleaning/Sanitizing

Public Health strongly recommends that approved sanitizers and cleaners be used: [EPA sanitizers and cleaners effective against COVID-19](#)

Schools must clean surfaces frequently, paying close attention to high touch areas and shared materials, and make sanitation wipes or disinfectants labeled for use against SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) available in each room and common space. The sharing of supplies and materials should be minimized and if items must be shared, sanitized between each user.

Water Systems

To minimize the risk of [Legionnaire’s disease](#) and other diseases associated with water, [take steps](#) to ensure that all water systems and features (e.g., sink faucets, drinking fountains, decorative fountains) are safe to use after a prolonged facility shutdown.

Drinking fountains should be cleaned and sanitized, but encourage staff and students to bring their own water to minimize use and touching of water fountains.

<https://epa.ohio.gov/Portals/28/documents/pws/flushing-home-plumbing-when-water-service-is-restored.pdf>

<https://epa.ohio.gov/Portals/28/documents/pws/guidance-for-premise-plumbing-water-service-restoration.pdf>

Other Resources

[COVID 19 Health and Prevention Guidance for Ohio K – 12 Schools](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/schools/K-12-Schools-Guidance.pdf) <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/schools/K-12-Schools-Guidance.pdf>

[Reset and Restart Education Planning Guide for Ohio Schools and Districts](https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/OH00D/2020/07/02/file_attachments/1488298/Reset-Restart-full%2006.20.20.pdf) https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/OH00D/2020/07/02/file_attachments/1488298/Reset-Restart-full%2006.20.20.pdf