



IONIA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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EMERGENCY ORDER FOR CONTROL OF EPIDEMIC ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE ORDER IN EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS

The Ionia County Health Officer, having made the following determinations, issues this Order pursuant to the authority set out in the Michigan Public Health Code, MCL 333.2451 and 333.2453, Public Act 339 and R.325.175 (3) and (4), which is an administrative rule promulgated by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to MCL 333.2226(d).

1. On October 5, 2020 and as recently as April 16, 2021, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services through its Directors declared an Emergency Order to address threats to the public health posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. The virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person, primarily through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person or carrier coughs, sneezes, or talks. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of persons who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. Spread is more likely to occur when people are in close contact with one another.
3. Vaccinations in Ionia County have only reached 50% for those eligible for vaccine (12 years and older). Continued vaccination will lead to reduced community transmission, but COVID-19 remains a public health issue that impacts local institutions such as educational settings.
4. Isolation of individuals who test positive for COVID-19, and quarantine of healthy persons who are a close contact, are necessary and effective in controlling the transmission of COVID-19.
5. Controlling community transmission has a demonstrated positive impact on the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, and reduces the strain on hospitals, emergency medical services, ambulance and patient transport service, and other essential public health services.
6. The Ionia County Health Department determines that a person is a close contact based upon the guidelines issued by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as applied to the local conditions of the COVID-19 epidemic in Ionia County, at the time of the contact.
7. Because a close contact is able to infect others with COVID-19 before they, or the Ionia County Health Department, have a reasonable basis to believe that they harbor the specific infectious agent that causes COVID-19, certain procedures are required, including the quarantine of healthy persons who have been close contacts of positive COVID-19 cases.
8. Household transmission of COVID-19 is common, with one study finding that transmission rates were as high as 53%. Because risk of transmission is high among households, household members who are not sick but have been exposed to COVID-19, pose a higher risk to



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educational settings if they return before a quarantine period has been completed.

9. It has been observed in educational settings that when prevention strategies such as masking, distancing, and handwashing are applied consistently that school-associated transmission of COVID-19 is significantly reduced.
10. Many students in schools who are identified as COVID-19 cases have competing household exposures, supporting continuation of quarantine for household close contacts who are affiliated with educational settings.
11. Enforcement of quarantine guidelines is the responsibility of the local health department and must be compliant with MCL 333.2451 and 333.2453, Public Act 339 and R.325.175(4), which is an administrative rule promulgated by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to MCL 333.2226(d).

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that all Educational Institutions and all Persons in Educational Settings must adhere to the following rules:

1. All persons identified as confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 must complete a period of isolation for 10 days after either: (a) symptom onset; or (b) specimen collection for persons who were asymptomatic when tested.
2. Persons identified as positive cases must cooperate with identification of close contacts who would have been at high risk of exposure during the period beginning 2 days (48 hours) before symptom onset (or specimen collection) and continuing through the date interviewed by case investigators. Positive cases must identify and provide contact information for close contacts.
3. Household close contacts of COVID-19 cases who continue to reside in a shared household with a case during the case's isolation period must postpone the 10-day countdown to the end of quarantine (and are restricted from gatherings with people outside of their household) until after the end of the isolation period for all cases that occur within the shared household.
4. All Persons in Educational Settings in close contact with a COVID-19 case must comply with quarantine requirements as outlined in 5, 6, 7, and 8.
5. If strict mitigation measures are not in place, including universal masking, all close contacts are required to quarantine for 10 days from the date of exposure. Close contacts may, at the discretion of the Ionia County Health Department, quarantine for 7 days, take a COVID-19 test on day 7, and return to school on day 8 after a negative result is reported, and continue to self-monitor for symptoms daily for 14 days.
6. Persons identified as close contacts may avoid quarantine if they are willing to cooperate with serial testing (i.e. "Test to Stay") so that any new cases can be promptly identified for isolation. Serial testing for close contacts must be administered by an identified representative from the Educational Institution each morning prior to facility entry. Serial testing must occur every day for 5 days following the most recent date of exposure (day 0) and then on day 7. Close contacts who continue to reside in a shared household with a case during the case's isolation period must postpone initiating serial testing until after the end of the isolation period for all cases that occur within the shared household. If the serial testing option is elected, and testing days 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 occur on a Saturday or Sunday, the person does not need to be tested unless entering the Educational Institution or attending an event held at the Educational Institution on the weekend. If day 7 of testing occurs on a Saturday or Sunday, the person must test on Monday prior to entering the Educational Institution.

7. If strict mitigation measures, including universal masking are in place, persons who are close contacts and have maintained a distance between 3ft and 6ft can remain in school, but must be notified of the potential exposure, must wear a mask, and monitor for symptoms daily for 14 days.
8. If strict mitigation measures, including universal masking are in place, persons who are close contacts and have had a contact within 3 feet may do any of the following:
 - a. Quarantine for 10 days and continue to self-monitor for symptoms until 14 days;
 - b. Quarantine for 7 days, take a COVID-19 test on day 7, and return to school after a negative result is reported, and continue to self-monitor for symptoms until 14 days;
 - c. Cooperate with a serial testing program as outlined in (6) above.
9. In accordance with Public Act 339 of 2020, an employee who has close contact with an individual who tests positive for COVID-19 shall not report to work until 1 of the following conditions is met:
 - a. The quarantine period has passed since the employee last had close contact with the individual.
 - b. The employee is advised by the local health department that they have completed their period of quarantine.
10. When probable or confirmed cases are identified among staff, students, or visitors to an Educational Institution, representatives of the relevant organization must support case investigation and contact tracing, by helping to identify and provide contact information for persons who: (a) were excluded from the organization's facilities; or (b) might have had opportunity for exposure to COVID-19.
11. The contents of this Order shall be published to the members of the public at large by all reasonable means available.
12. Schools must disseminate, publish, and post this Order so that it is visible to all staff, students, attendees, or visitors.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the following terms shall have the following definitions for purposes of this ORDER:

- a. "COVID-19 case" is defined by the August 2020 interim position statement published by the Council for State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) Executive Board and referenced in the Michigan State and Local Public Health Standard Operating Procedures. For the purposes of this Order, a person must meet the confirmed or probable case definition as defined by CSTE and be documented in the Michigan Disease Surveillance System as a COVID-19 case. The CSTE definition can be found at the following site:
<https://ndc.services.cdc.gov/case-definitions/coronavirus-disease-2019-2020-08-05/>
- b. "Close contact" means being within 6 feet of someone who is a COVID-19 case for a total of 15 minutes or more.
- c. "Educational Institutions" or "Educational Settings" is broadly defined and includes but is not limited to, youth camps, youth programs, childcare centers, preschools, primary through

secondary schools, vocational schools. This definition includes educationally affiliated extracurricular activities such as school athletics.

- d. "Fully vaccinated persons" means persons for whom at least two weeks has passed after receiving the final dose of an FDA-approved or authorized COVID-19 vaccine.
- e. "Household close contact" means a close contact that lives with a COVID-19 case in a shared dwelling with common kitchen or bathroom facilities. In dwellings with shared kitchen or bathroom facilities occupied by 20 or more unrelated persons, households are defined by individuals who share a bedroom.
- f. "Persons in Educational Settings" means students, teachers, administrative staff, attendees, volunteers, coaches, camp leaders, and other employees or volunteers of Educational Institutions.
- g. "Prior to facility entry" means in a setting within the institution that limits co-mingling, provides for safety and security, and is a location other than the classroom.
- h. "Face mask" or "facial covering" means a tightly woven cloth or other multi-layer absorbent material that closely covers an individual's mouth and nose. The following are **NOT** considered face masks or facial coverings in compliance with this order: mesh, netting, lace, or material that is see-through.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order shall not apply to the following persons who are close contacts in Educational Settings:

- a. Persons who were a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case in the past 90 days and have been cleared from isolation.
- b. Fully vaccinated persons. Fully vaccinated persons are encouraged to receive a COVID-19 test 3-5 days after exposure.

IT IS FURTHER REMINDED that:

- 1. On January 29, 2021, the CDC issued an Order that required face masks to be worn by all people while on public transportation (which includes all passengers and all personnel operating conveyances) traveling into, within, or out of the United States and U.S. territories. The CDC Order includes school buses, both public and private
- 2. This order does not repeat or supersede current MDHHS or Federal Epidemic Orders, which are incorporated by reference herein.


IMPLEMENTATION

- 1. Nothing in this order modifies, limits, or abridges protections provided by state or federal law for a person with a disability.
- 2. Pursuant to MCL 333.2443, a person who violates a regulation of a local health department or order of a local health officer is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 6 months or a fine of not more than \$200.00, or both.
- 3. Nothing in this order affects any prosecution or civil citation based on conduct that occurred before the effective date of this order.

4. Consistent with MCL 333.2262, violations of this order are punishable by a civil fine of up to \$1,000. If any provision of this order is found invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, whether in whole or in part, such decision will not affect the validity of the remaining part of this order.
5. An organization that requires or permits a known case or close contact to act contrary to this Order is also in violation of this Order and subject to the penalties prescribed by the Michigan Public Health Code.
6. This Order may also be enforced pursuant to Part 24 of the Michigan Public Health Code

THIS ORDER is effective at midnight (12 a.m.) on September 27, 2021, and remains in effect until further notice from the Ionia County Health Officer.

Dated: SEPTEMBER 17, 2021


_____, Health Officer
Ionia County Health Department