



# *COVID-19 PLAN*

## *2021-2022*

**Approved August 17, 2021**

Just as our reopening team attempted to create instructional plans that are flexible and adaptable, we all need to accept that the current pandemic is ongoing and evolving and will require patience and understanding among all members of the Urbana Hillclimber community.

# **Hillclimber COVID-19 Plan 2021-22**

## **Guiding Principles**

### **National, State and Local Health Officials and Leaders Make Health Decisions**

Decisions made by officials and leaders impact the implementation of our plan.

The Champaign County Health District has reviewed the Champaign County Schools Common Return to Learn Guidance which has been adapted to the needs of the Urbana City School District.

### **Student and Faculty Safety Takes Priority Over Educational Issues**

It is not possible to eliminate risk, only reduce it.

Reducing risk will allow us to have students in school more in order to maximize learning.

### **Balancing Resources and Educational Needs**

The limitations of District resources were considered in the planning process.

### **In This Together**

Implementing our future educational plan efficiently and effectively will require ALL of us to work together.

## **Key Health And Safety Recommendations**

As students return to school for the 2021-22 school year, the Ohio Department of Health recommends the following layered prevention strategies:

- Strongly Recommend Vaccinations for Staff and Eligible Students
- Wearing Masks
- Improving Ventilation
- Social Distancing
- Implementing Good Hygiene Practices
- Increased Sanitation of High-Touch Surfaces

### **Parent and Family Support**

For the most successful return to school this fall, parent and family support is needed for:

- Teaching and practicing hand hygiene which includes washing hands with soap for at least 20 seconds AND not touching your face
- Working on physical (social) distancing to create more space between individuals
- Selecting a face mask which is comfortable for the student in case a facial covering is mandated due to the pandemic conditions

Parent and family support will be critical to maintain the safety of our staff to help keep our schools open.



## **DISTRICT PLAN FOR IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION**

- Parents assess student health before school each day
- Although strongly recommended for all, face masks are optional for all students and staff
- Increased cleaning of surfaces
- Hand sanitizing available in every classroom and most common areas
- Due to Federal transportation regulations, all students required to wear mask on the bus
- All students will have assigned seat on the bus
- Review use of hallway spaces to reduce two-way traffic when possible
- Breakfast may be prepacked grab and go
- Reduced large group student activities



## DISTRICT PLAN FOR REMOTE LEARNING FORMAT

- All students learning at home through online programming

If necessary to implement remote learning due to the pandemic conditions, the following guidelines will be put in place

**PLEASE NOTE:** If teacher and staff COVID-19 absenteeism exceeds available substitutes, the District may be required to shift to the Remote Learning Format irregardless of the level of public emergency designation.

Remote Learning will:

- Have academic expectations similar to the classroom setting
- Be conducted online. Grade levels 6-12 with one-to-one school provided devices will not have paper copies available
- Follow the district's attendance and truancy policy
- Require daily attendance and participation in lessons
- Use the grading scale to determine letter grades, academic standing, GPA, graduation and promotion to the next grade, and eligibility
- Require consideration of adjustments to special education services

**PLEASE NOTE:** Teaching staff may be working adjusted schedules during remote learning which may include evening "office hours" to assist students and families with school assignments. Please understand that staff will not be accessible at all times. The expectation is that staff will respond to parent and student communication within at least 48 hours during scheduled school days.

## **GENERAL SAFETY PRECAUTIONS OVERVIEW**

**Below are a number of the many safety precautions that will be implemented for the 2021-2022 school year.**

Hand sanitizer will be available in all entries, potential gathering places, near water fountains, and in all classrooms.

Sanitizing wipes and sprays will be available in all classrooms.

Additional sanitizing of high-touch surfaces will be conducted throughout the school day.

Exterior doors will be held open during arrival and dismissal to reduce contact.

No snacks will be allowed in classrooms. This includes birthdays and classroom parties.

It is recommended that each student has a personal clear refillable water bottle for use at school. Drinking fountains will be unavailable, but the bottle filling stations will be available for students.

Families will need to consider arrangements for picking up a sick child from school as they will not be allowed to be sent home on a school bus.

Individuals with suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 must meet CDC and/or local health department criteria before returning to school.

## **BUS TRANSPORTATION**

With minor exceptions, all bus routes will run as normal when students are scheduled to be in school.

As per Federal regulations, students will be required to wear a mask on the bus.

All students will have an assigned seat on the bus most likely with family/household groupings.

Bus windows will be opened as much as the weather will allow. This decision will be based mostly on the amount of precipitation.

All students will have **ONLY ONE** assigned pickup location and **ONLY ONE** assigned drop location.

Students will not be transported to multiple locations throughout the week.

The pickup and drop off locations do not have to be the same, but once set can only be changed with administrative approval.

## **FOOD SERVICE**

Breakfast and a regular plate lunch (both free for all students) will be served daily.

Additional locations, including classroom spaces, may be used for food service.

Additional lunch items will be available for purchase.

It is highly recommended that families make use of the PaySchools program to reduce/eliminate students from handling lunch money for those who wish to purchase additional lunch items beyond the regular lunch. The PaySchools program allows for funds to be put on a student account either by check or online to pay for student lunches. Additional information about signing up for this program will be provided to all parents.

In order to reduce the contact and potential transmission of COVID-19, there will be no change provided for students paying in cash in the cafeteria. All remaining change will be placed on the student account for future purchases.

Students will be expected to be able to independently open food and consume all food that is brought to school in a packed lunch.

## **PARENT AND FAMILY PREPARATION AND PLANNING SUGGESTIONS**

As stated earlier, parent and family support is needed for the most successful return to school this fall. We are suggesting that parents and families consider these preparation and planning suggestions prior to students returning to school this fall

### **Hygiene**

Teach and practice hand hygiene which includes washing hands with soap for at least 20 seconds AND not touching your face

Work on physical (social) distancing to create more space between individuals

Reinforce that you must use a tissue or your elbow when coughing or sneezing

### **Supplies**

Select face masks which are comfortable for the student in case there is a future requirement for wearing masks. Place the student's name on the face masks.

Consider getting a clear water bottle for your student to use at school

Write the student's name on the inside collar of his/her coat or jacket

### **Logistics**

Consider how your family might adjust child care plans in the event the District must implement the Remote Learning Format during the school year

Plan the pick up location and the drop off location for your student  
(Each must be consistent for the duration of the school year)

Create an alternate plan for where your student should go after school in case of an emergency  
(Make emergency plans with a neighbor, relative, or family friend)

Ensure the school has your up-to-date contact information in the event of an emergency

Plan for who will be available to pick up your child from school in case of an emergency

Arrange for alternate adult(s) to pick up your student in case he/she becomes sick at school  
(This can be designated on the emergency medical authorization form)

### **Breakfast/Lunch**

Students paying for lunch items will not receive change back  
(It will be added on to the student's account)

Consider using the PaySchools program to put funds on your student's lunch account  
(Providing a check or online transfer reduces the transfer of cash and potential loss)

Write the student's name on her/his lunch box for packed lunches





## **CHAMPAIGN COUNTY SCHOOLS**

### **COMMON RETURN TO LEARN GUIDANCE**

August 2021

To promote success for all students through clear communications these general principles will guide each school district as they move forward with return to learning throughout Champaign County.

1. Each school district will utilize local control in implementing safety protocols in alignment with the guidance of the Champaign Health District (CHD).
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. School districts are planning to maintain their previously approved school calendars.

These principles will be common to all Champaign County public school districts:

#### **Daily Self-Monitoring**

- Students, staff, volunteers and visitors should monitor their own temperatures and their health on a daily basis before coming to school. For younger children parents should monitor their child's health.

#### **Illnesses**

- Anyone with a fever over 100F should stay home.
  - o Anyone that has the following symptoms of COVID-19 should consider their individual circumstances and stay home from school/work.
  - o Two of the following symptoms: fever (measured or subjective), chills, rigors, myalgia, headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or runny nose **OR**
  - o Any of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, new taste disorder

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### Quarantine

The Ohio Department of Health and Local Health Departments continue to have enforcement power over quarantines for close contact of COVID-19 cases. Below are bullet points regarding quarantining:

- School districts will implement processes to comply with orders from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) regarding communications about COVID 19.
  - Parents must report to the CCHD and the school any positive exposures or positive tests for COVID 19;
  - All parents or legal guardians of students, as well as school staff, must notify the school of a confirmed diagnosis within 24 hours.
- School districts will facilitate communications between the Champaign County Health Department and parents, community members, and school employees. As a school district, we do not order quarantines or isolations but do work with Health Department officials in the area of contact tracing and communications.
- The Champaign County Health Department will determine quarantines from close contact based on the layers of protective measures in place. The protective measures may include indoors versus outdoors, physical distancing, time (15 minutes or more within 6 feet), masking, other barriers, and vaccination status. Based on these protective measures, the Champaign County Health Department will determine whether a person has to quarantine. Letters will be coming directly from school nurses on behalf of the Champaign County Health Department.

**(Additional information on quarantining is available on the flow chart provided by the Ohio Department of Health. It will also be posted on the schools websites.)**

### Returning to School/Work After Illness

- Anyone that is diagnosed as having COVID-19, must meet the following criteria to return to school:
  - 24 hours with no fever (without using fever reducing medication) **AND**
  - Other symptoms improved **AND**
  - 10 days since symptoms first appeared or 7 days if there is proof of a negative test.
- Those individuals that only have a fever and no other symptoms and have not had any contact with an individual that has COVID-19 may return to school after they are fever free for 24 hours without using any fever reducing medications.
- Any other illnesses should be handled in the routine manner according to district policies
- Individuals should consider their personal health when assessing symptoms.
- The following statement is located on page 10 of the K-12 SCHOOLS GUIDANCE document: "Fully vaccinated students DO NOT have to quarantine. Districts will continue to follow the Ohio modified quarantine guidelines for K-12 environments."

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#### Communications when a student/staff member has been diagnosed with a COVID 19 positive case

- School districts will implement processes to comply with orders from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) regarding communications about COVID 19.
  - Parents must report to the CHD and the school any positive exposures or positive tests for COVID 19;
  - All parents or legal guardians of students, as well as school staff, must notify the school of a confirmed diagnosis within 24 hours.
- School districts will facilitate communications between the Champaign County Health District and parents, community members, and school employees. School districts do not order quarantines or isolations but do work with Health Department officials in the area of contact tracing and communications.

#### Food Service

- All districts will offer food service. Students may have required seating during breakfast and lunch period to facilitate contact tracing if needed. School districts will tailor specific food service operations to promote safety for all.

#### Classroom Occupancy

- Districts will implement safety protocols to the largest extent possible 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.
- Voluntary masking is a level of protection that parents may consider in order to reduce the risk of quarantine.
- Classroom occupancy will be determined based on each individual circumstance with the maximum amount of safety considerations possible.
- ODH and the Center for Disease Control (CDC), strongly recommends facial coverings/masks; schools will also recommend facial coverings/masks, but will not require them, unless mandated by ODH.
- Seating charts will be used to facilitate contact tracing if needed.

#### Visitors/Volunteers/Parties:

- Each district will make decisions about school visitors that are unique to that school facility and event that address community needs and promote safety for all.
- Visitors may be required to adhere to safety protocols such as taking temperatures and completing a health questionnaire.

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## Guidelines for Quarantine After Exposure in K-12 Classroom Settings

While great strides have been made in controlling the spread of COVID-19, the virus remains a threat, and the ongoing health and safety of K-12 students, staff, and volunteers remains paramount. **Ohio's goal is to keep K-12 students in school, in person five days a week. Students benefit cognitively, emotionally, and developmentally from in-person learning.**

This guidance can help guide quarantine decisions after a student or adult contact is exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the classroom setting.

As Ohio prepares to enter the 2021-22 academic year, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) recommends in its [COVID-19 Health and Prevention Guidance for Ohio K-12 Schools](#) following layered prevention strategies that were remarkably effective at controlling COVID-19 during the 2020-21 school year. These include strongly recommending vaccination for those who are eligible; strongly recommending use of face masks in K-12 settings, particularly for those who are not fully vaccinated; maximizing distance between people; prompt identification and providing appropriate care for people exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19; practicing good hygiene; and routine environmental cleaning and disinfection.

### **Modified quarantine procedures for K-12 schools**

The K-12 school environment is a setting in which layered public health strategies have been shown to be effective at reducing spread of COVID-19. During the 2020-21 school year, Ohio modified standard quarantine procedures for K-12 students based upon studies and pilot evaluations, including the [Ohio Schools COVID-19 Evaluation](#), which is further supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) new Close Contact K-12 Exception. Modified quarantine procedures will continue as Ohio schools begin the 2021-22 school year. With layered prevention strategies in place, more students will be able to remain in the classroom and continue participating in sports and extra-curricular activities.

COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective at preventing severe illness; while some infections are expected to occur in fully vaccinated people, these breakthrough infections are typically mild. To help prevent the potential spread of COVID-19 and keep students in school, everyone should follow recommended prevention measures after possible exposure to COVID-19.

The below guidance can be used to address **COVID-19 exposures in K-12 in-person learning environments** and on required school transportation (e.g., school buses). Consult with your local health department if you have questions or concerns about quarantine procedures.

Please note that this guidance applies for **contacts** who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19. The person who tested positive for COVID-19 should follow standard isolation procedures.

- **Quarantine is not necessary** for students and adults possibly exposed to COVID-19 in K-12 school settings, regardless of vaccination status, if ALL the following prevention measures have been in place:
  - **Masking** for students and staff (regardless of vaccination status).
  - **Physical distancing** is maximized (at least 3 feet between desks).
  - Documented **COVID-19 prevention policies** (e.g., identification of individuals experiencing symptoms, strategies to increase ventilation, protocols for cleaning, etc.).

For more information, visit: [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov)

- If not all prevention measures listed above were in place, **quarantine is not necessary** for fully vaccinated\* students and adults provided they adhere to the following precautions: Wear a mask indoors, as much as possible, either for 14 days or until a viral (PCR or antigen) test performed three to five days after exposure has come back as negative. In addition:
  - Self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days following exposure; unless symptoms develop, individuals can continue attending in-person class and participating in sports and extra-curricular activities.
  - Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 should isolate away from others and be evaluated for COVID-19. Testing for SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) may be recommended in coordination with the local health department, school, healthcare provider, or parents/guardians.
  - If they test positive, they should isolate for at least 10 days from the date symptoms started (or the date of the positive test if they have no symptoms).
  - \*Note: A person is considered fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving the second dose of a two-dose vaccine (Moderna or Pfizer vaccine) or two weeks after receiving a single-dose vaccine (Johnson & Johnson vaccine).
- If not all prevention measures listed above were in place, **quarantine is not necessary** for students and adults who are not fully vaccinated if the **person who was exposed** was wearing a **face mask** consistently and correctly and physical distancing was maintained. However, they should take the following precautions:
  - Wear a mask indoors, as much as possible, either for 14 days or until a viral (PCR or antigen) test performed at least five days after exposure has come back as negative. While this negative result would allow them to discontinue masking in school after day seven, we encourage them to continue masking.
  - Self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days following exposure; unless symptoms develop, individuals can continue attending in-person class and participating in sports and extra-curricular activities.
  - Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 should isolate away from others and be evaluated for COVID-19. Testing for SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) may be recommended in coordination with the local health department, school, healthcare provider, or parents/guardians.
  - If they test positive, they should isolate for at least 10 days from the date symptoms started (or the date of the positive test if they have no symptoms).

**Quarantine should be required if the student or teacher is not fully vaccinated, and layers of prevention were not in place as described above.**

- **If quarantine is necessary because layers of prevention were not in place as described above**, it should last for at least seven days since the last exposure, and the contact should have a negative viral (PCR or antigen) test collected on or after day five. Individuals should watch for any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days.
  - During quarantine, contacts should be advised to stay home and away from others as much as possible.
  - If they become symptomatic at any point, they should receive clinical evaluation or testing for COVID-19.
- **The above guidelines for students and adults only apply to exposures occurring in classroom settings.** Individuals who are not fully vaccinated and exposed to COVID-19 outside of the school setting should refrain from attending in-person school and participating in organized sports or extracurriculars throughout their quarantine period.

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*Updated Aug. 9, 2021.*

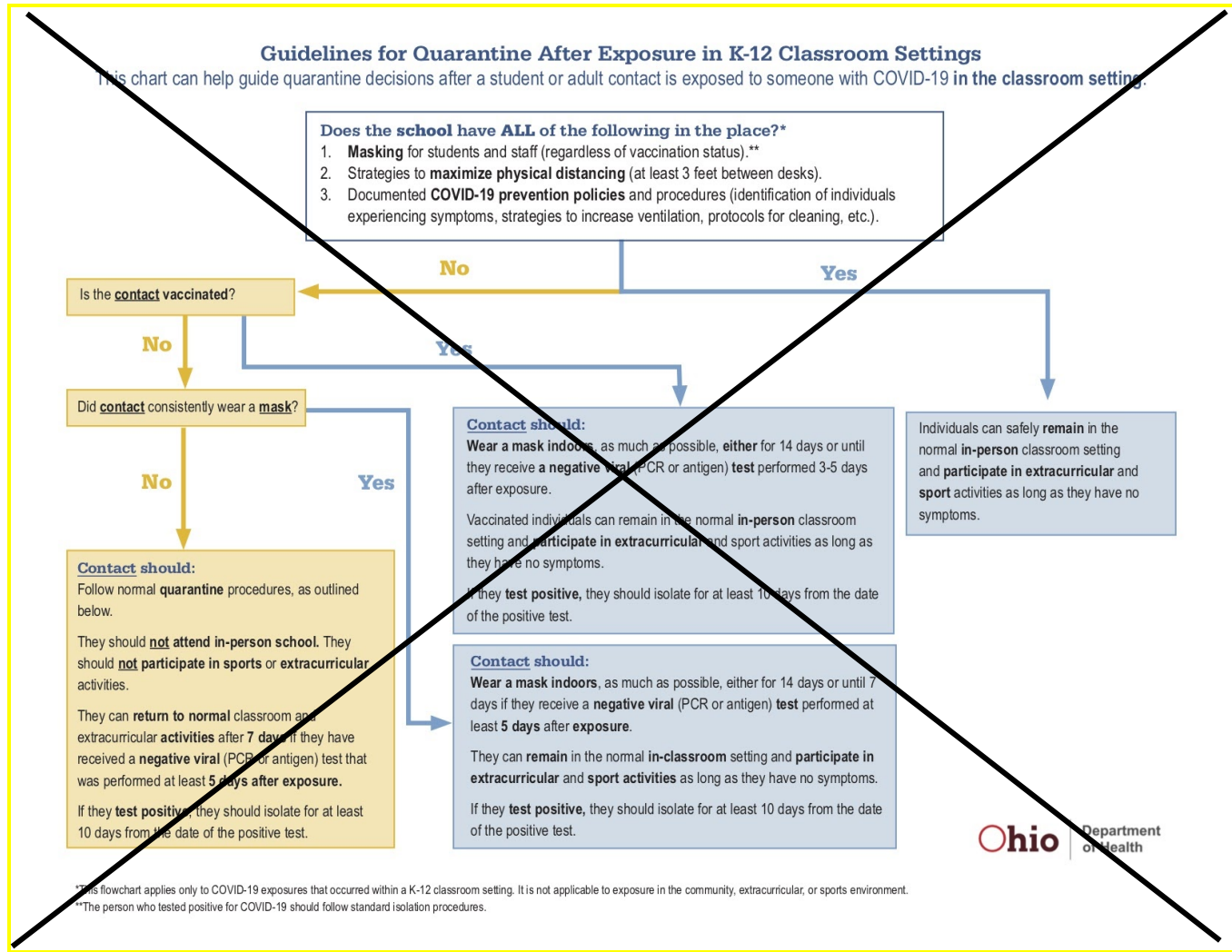
For additional information, visit [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov).

For answers to your COVID-19 questions, call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

**Your mental health is just as important as your physical health. If you or a loved one are experiencing anxiety related to the coronavirus pandemic, help is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Call the COVID-19 CareLine at 1-800-720-9616.**

For more information, visit: [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov)

## PLEASE SEE UPDATED FLOWCHART BELOW

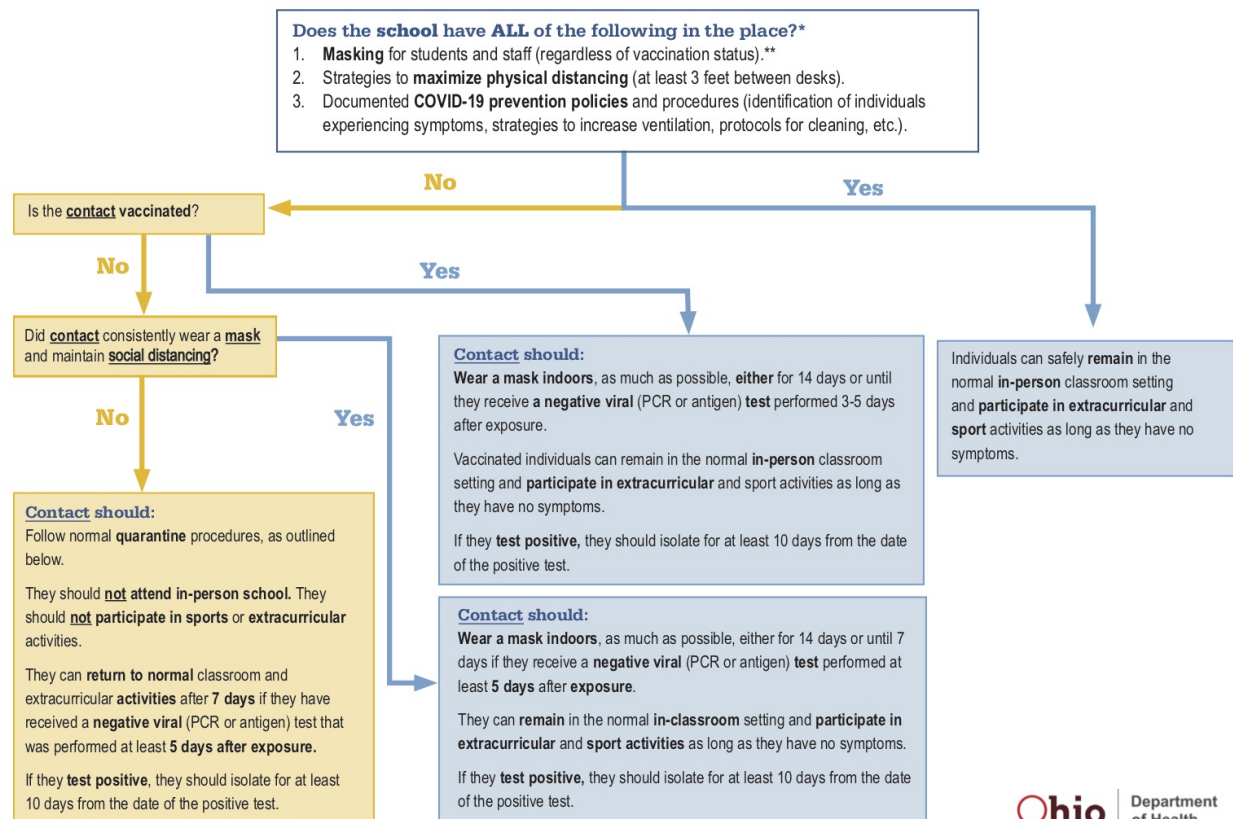




# UPDATED FLOWCHART AS OF SEPTEMBER 29, 2021

## Guidelines for Quarantine After Exposure in K-12 Classroom Settings

This chart can help guide quarantine decisions after a student or adult contact is exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the classroom setting.



\*This flowchart applies only to COVID-19 exposures that occurred within a K-12 classroom setting. It is not applicable to exposure in the community, extracurricular, or sports environment.  
 \*\*The person who tested positive for COVID-19 should follow standard isolation procedures.