



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

TO: Kalamazoo County School Superintendents
FROM: Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department
DATE: January 12, 2022
RE: Supplemental Guidance to MDHHS K-12 COVID-19 Isolation and Quarantine for Kalamazoo County School

Attachment: MDHHS MI Safer Schools Guidance for Managing COVID-19 Exposures in K-12 School Settings

On January 10, 2022, MDHHS issued updated COVID-19 guidance for K-12 schools (see attachment). This memorandum supplements the MDHHS guidance for Kalamazoo County and serves as an update from our November 10, 2021 communication and December 13, 2021 addendum on Test to Stay frequency.

Highlighted points and clarifications:

- MDHHS January 10, 2022 guidance applies to exposures in school settings; household exposures should follow general population guidance
- HCS and MDHHS recommend students, teachers, and staff age 5 and up get vaccinated, and that students, teachers, and staff ages 12 and up receive their booster as soon as they're eligible.
- HCS and MDHHS continue to recommend universal masking in all K-12 school settings
- MDHHS K-12 guidance now also applies to teachers and staff exposed in a school setting; Test to Stay strategies for teachers and staff may help limit operational disruptions
- Schools in Kalamazoo County can implement Test to Stay strategies for school-associated exposures for both exposed masked and unmasked students and staff; masking post-exposure remains part of the Test to Stay strategy
- Note that MDHHS guidance includes a Pfizer booster vaccination for those 12-17 years 5 months after completion of the Pfizer primary series when defining what qualifies as up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccines; i.e., if eligible and not boosted, and exposure occurs, the individual should follow "Not Up to Date on Vaccines" options in the MDHHS infographic
- Note that MDHHS guidance includes a booster vaccination if eligible for those aged 18 years or older when defining what qualifies as up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccines; i.e., if eligible and not boosted, and exposure occurs, the individual should follow "Not Up to Date on Vaccines" options in the MDHHS infographic
- For the purposes of previous infection in the last 90 days, schools can accept either a COVID-19 antigen or PCR test. Antibody tests are not acceptable. Although difficult to

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Communicable Disease Surveillance Unit

311 East Alcott | Kalamazoo, MI 49001

Phone: 269.373.5044 | www.kalcounty.com/hcs

verify the result of an antigen test, the increased availability of antigen tests makes inclusion of antigen tests practical. HCS encourages schools to implement parental attestations of test results.

- HCS recommends Test to Stay beginning on day 2 following exposure, if possible, and continue on day 4 and day 6 (every other day). There is some preliminary evidence that the incubation period (time to infection after exposure) of the Omicron variant is shorter.
- Those who are exposed, not up to date on vaccines, and do not elect a Test to Stay option may test on day 5 or day 6 and return on day 6 if negative (standardization for 1st and 2nd test dates on MDHHS infographic)

Please let us know what requires further clarification. We anticipate further changes and challenges as the pandemic continues to evolve.