



January 9, 2022

Dear WISD families and staff,

As we continue to monitor COVID-19 and learn more about the virus, the Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD) has issued one updated public health order for PreK-12 schools in our county, including Washtenaw ISD, that goes into effect immediately. This new order is meant to align with updated guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and is also based on our conditions and experiences locally with COVID-19. The universal masking public health order for schools will also remain in effect. Ultimately, we hope this guidance helps keep students learning in-person.

Key highlights of the new “[Isolation and Quarantine Order in Educational Settings](#)” order and its [guidance for K-12 schools](#) are available on the next page. The most significant changes affect isolation for positive cases, contact tracing and notification procedures, and a recognition between low-risk and high-risk school settings.

It is also becoming clearer that getting boosted is critically important as we continue to fight COVID-19. **At this time, we are strongly encouraging everyone who received their two (2) doses of Pfizer or Moderna vaccines more than 6 months ago and everyone who received their Johnson & Johnson vaccine more than 2 months ago to get their booster vaccine.** The health department’s updated guidance now treats individuals who are not boosted, but are eligible to be, under the same quarantine and isolation guidelines as someone who is unvaccinated. [Please see information here about getting vaccinated and boosted.](#)

WISD continues to work closely with the Washtenaw County Health Department to implement the requirements of this new order so we can keep WISD’s young children, students, families, and staff as safe as possible. As always, WISD will continue to use multiple layers of our health and safety protocols to the greatest extent possible.

Most importantly, keeping our school community safe is a partnership where we must all take precautions inside and outside of school. Please continue to monitor your health and those in your household, wear a mask in all indoor public places, physical distance, wash your hands frequently, do not come to school or work if you are experiencing any new or worsening symptoms, and [get tested](#) if you need. If you test positive for COVID-19 or think you have COVID-19, please contact our WISD Health Resource Advocate Gio Parochetti at gparochetti@washtenawisd.org or (313) 732-5898.

As always, thank you for your continued support and partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Naomi Norman".

Naomi Norman
Superintendent
Washtenaw Intermediate School District



Key Highlights of WCHD’s Updated “[Isolation and Quarantine Order in Educational Settings](#)” Public Health Order and [K-12 school Guidance](#)

Anyone with a confirmed positive case of COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, must isolate for a minimum of five (5) days and then wear a well-fitting mask for an additional five (5) days. A rapid antigen test on day 5 is recommended, but not required. However, if staff are feeling well enough to return to work after the 5th day but before to their 10th day of isolation, they will need to test negative on a rapid antigen test before returning to work.

- After five (5) days, an individual may end their isolation if they have no symptoms or symptoms are resolving, including no fever for 24 hours. This change is due to updated public health guidance showing that after 5 days, individuals who have no symptoms or have recovering symptoms are no longer contagious.
- If an individual is unable to wear a mask or has a mask exemption, they must complete a full 10-day isolation. *This may include many of WISD’s students.*

Based on evidence that when multiple health and safety strategies are used, school-associated transmission of COVID-19 is significantly reduced, WCHD’s updated guidance separates school activities as either “low-risk” or “high-risk”:

- **Low-Risk School Settings:** This includes most in-school contacts, including classrooms, buses, lunch, and most extracurricular activities where there is universal masking for all students and staff. In low-risk settings, no contact tracing is required, but schools must send a general notification letter to the class or school building.
- **High-Risk School Settings:** This includes classes, schools or events when masks cannot be worn, household contacts of a positive case, outbreaks, when a teacher has been in school for several days while infectious and in close contact, and high risk extracurricular activities. In high-risk situations, contact tracing will be done and close contacts will be individually contacted by WISD before a general notification letter is sent to the class or school building. *WISD’s early childhood home visiting programs are not school settings, and in-person home visits will follow high-risk guidelines.*
 - **In high-risk settings when a student is a close contact:** For students who are unvaccinated or students who are vaccinated but not boosted after 6 months, most will be able to participate in “test-to-stay” if they can consistently wear a mask. This allows them to return to in-person instruction if they have no symptoms and are antigen tested on days 1, 3 and 5. WISD staff are not eligible for test-to-stay.

Please see the attached list for which WISD programs and sites will be considered low- and high-risk.



WISD Risk Levels by Programs and Sites

WISD Early Childhood Programs:

Early On: In-person home visits	High Risk
Early On: In-person visits at schools and other community settings	High
Early Head Start: In-person home visits	High
Head Start and Great Start Readiness Program	High

WISD Student Programs:

High Point	High Risk
Deaf & Hard of Hearing (DHH)	Low
Progress Park	Low
Local Based @ Eberwhite Elementary	High
Local Based @ Milan Middle School	High
Local Based @ Dexter High School	Low
Local Based @ Riverside	Low
Local Based @ Manchester Jr./Sr. High School	High
Red Oak	High
Young Adult (Carpenter, Chelsea, Dexter, EMU, Liberty, Washtenaw News, WCC, Ypsi Downtown, and Virtual Community)	Low
Young Adult Project (YAP)	Low
Court-Involved Youth (CIY)	Low
Jail	Low

WISD Administrative Office:

Teaching & Learning Center (TLC)	Low Risk
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