



**BEDHD GUIDANCE FOR NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)
February 28, 2022**

1. COVID-19 Response Cycle Framework – 3 Key Phases

- **Response** – BEDHD and MDHHS implement rapid response to a surge. The public, including schools, may be advised to increase masking, testing and social distancing.
- **Recovery** – Post-surge. No immediate resurgence predicted. BEDHD and MDHHS will monitor conditions that could lead to future surges. **(As of 2/23/22 we are here.)**
- **Readiness** – A surge in cases is expected, with implications on severity of illness and hospital capacity. Increased communication from BEDHD and MDHHS regarding possible new risks.



2. Strongly Promote Vaccination

Entities should strongly encourage staff and students to vaccinate themselves against COVID-19. Vaccination is the best tool we have to avoid serious illness and hospitalization. It is never too late to get a first or second dose of COVID-19 vaccine. BEDHD strongly encourages those who are eligible to get their first, second, or booster dose as soon as possible. Boosters are available for anyone 12+ (5 months after an initial Pfizer or Moderna series OR 2 months after an initial Johnson & Johnson dose). COVID-19 vaccines can be found at BEDHD, local pharmacies, local health care providers, and more. [Ways that school districts can take specific actions to increase vaccination rates.](#)

3. Masking

Masking is a personal protective action and also sometimes necessary at the community level before or during a COVID-19 surge. Masking is a proven way to reduce your risk of COVID-19. Each person and each household may have different risk factors. Remember to encourage respect for others' choices. Factors that may contribute to an individual's decision to wear a mask may include:

- Vaccination Status
- Crowded vs. Distanced spaces
- Serious chronic medical conditions, including being immunocompromised
- Current phase of the COVID-19 cycle
- Current COVID-19 Community Level*
- Household/family members with additional risk factors such as (age, serious chronic medical conditions, living in a high-risk congregate setting, etc.)

Masking Guidance from BEDHD aligns with the MDHHS Updated Masking Guidance, and can be found [HERE](#) (as of 2/16/2022).

Understanding Personal and Household Risk

Protect yourself from COVID-19 by understanding levels of risk, practicing good hygiene and hand washing, staying home when sick, and staying up to date with vaccinations. Masking is a personal and local community choice. Know your risk; know that others may have a risk different from yours. Respect the choice.

Masking is a proven way to reduce your risk of COVID-19.

When making decisions about risk, consider the setting, your vaccination status and current level of community transmission in addition to the personal and family risk factors* noted below.

		Lower Risk Settings	Higher Risk Settings
		Outdoor Distanced Spaces (Parks, Trails, Large patios)	Indoor Crowded Spaces (Poorly ventilated and/or social distancing not in personal control)
Lower Risk	Up to date on vaccine, without risk factors		
	Up to date on vaccine, with risk factors		
	Unvaccinated, without risk factors		
	Higher Risk		

Up to Date on vaccine includes any booster doses as defined by the CDC. Additionally, individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 90 days would fall into similar risk categories as those who are up to date on vaccination.

* **Risk factors** include older adults (60+) and those who have serious chronic medical conditions like heart disease, diabetes or lung disease (at any age), and those who live in high-risk congregate settings (like nursing homes, corrections facilities and shelters). If you live with others who have risk factors, consider their health in addition to your personal health.



Visit [Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](https://www.michigan.gov/Coronavirus) for current COVID-19 information.

BEDHD will be following the CDC guidance for mask wearing on public transportation. As of February 25, 2022, CDC does not require that people wear masks on buses or vans operated by public or private school systems, including early care and education/child care programs. CDC is making this change to align with [updated guidance](#) that no longer recommends universal indoor mask wearing in K-12 schools and early education settings in [areas with a low or medium COVID-19 Community Level*](#). School systems at their discretion may choose to require that people wear masks on buses or vans. However, masking is still federally required on public transportation such as trains, planes, etc. As well as in public transportation hubs such as train stations, airports, etc. For more information on masks and public transportation, visit the CDC's website at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/face-masks-public-transportation.html>

What Prevention Steps Should You Take Based on Your COVID-19 Community Level?

Low	Medium	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines Get tested if you have symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you are at high risk for severe illness, talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines Get tested if you have symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wear a mask indoors in public Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines Get tested if you have symptoms Additional precautions may be needed for people at high risk for severe illness
<p>People may choose to mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask.</p>		

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>

BEDHD has provided to free KN-95 masks to schools and local businesses. If a student/employee chooses to wear a mask, encourage them to wear a high quality well-fitting mask like a KN-95. (Please note that the masks distributed by BEDHD are for adult sized faces only.)

4. Testing

Testing is a valuable tool which can help prevent those who are infectious from spreading COVID-19 to other people. If a staff or student is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, encourage them to seek out testing to confirm if they have COVID-19. Close contacts to someone with a diagnosed case of COVID-19 should seek out testing 5 days after their exposure. BEDHD recommends implementing a **test-to-stay*** strategy in schools in addition to offering testing before and after large events to control the spread of COVID-19 in larger groups.

5. Host Safer Large Events

When the risk for COVID-19 infection is low and the community is in a **Recovery (Post-surge)** or **Readiness (Pre-surge)** phase of the COVID-19 cycle, consider making large events safer by implementing the following:

- **Do not** allow individuals to attend a large gathering or event if ill or within 10 days of testing positive for COVID-19.
- Provide or encourage **testing** right before the event and then again 3 days after.
- Recommend wearing a well-fitting **mask** properly for indoor or crowded spaces for those who wish to reduce their risk of contracting COVID-19.
- Move the event **outdoors**, or improve indoor ventilation.
- Encourage **social distancing** at the event if possible.

6. Follow Guidance from CDC and/or MDHHS

BEDHD recommends that communities and local school districts follow [guidance from the CDC](#) and/or [MDHHS](#) to stay up-to-date with current policies and practices. If one or the other is silent on an issue important to you, you should consult the other source for clarification. If neither the CDC nor MDHHS provides guidance on a certain topic, please reach out to BEDHD and we will provide local guidance to the best of our ability. BEDHD's materials and guidance will be following MDHHS.

The following sections follow the [MDHHS guidance](#).

7. Isolation

All people with COVID-19 should undergo isolation for **at least 5 full days**. Day 0 is the day symptoms began or the day of the positive viral test (for people with no COVID-19 symptoms). If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, they must isolate and may return to school **wearing a well-fitted mask for at least another 5 days** (days 6-10) as long as their symptoms are improving and they have been fever free for over 24 hours without the aid of fever-reducing medication. **If they are unable to wear a mask, they should isolate for 10 days**. If they are asymptomatic and then develop symptoms after testing positive, the 5-day isolation period should start over. Day 0 is the first day of symptoms. Individuals with a positive case of COVID-19 must be excluded from all school and non-school related events. All positive cases must be reported to BEDHD.

8. Quarantine

Close contacts can be defined as someone who was within 6 feet of a COVID-19 case for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. If both the case and the exposed student are wearing masks, students (not staff) who were 3-6 feet from a case do NOT need to quarantine. Schools must notify BEDHD of close contact exposures so we can monitor for outbreaks. The guidance from BEDHD may change if an outbreak is identified. Close contacts should quarantine regardless of where the close contact occurred.

Close contacts of a COVID-19 case do not need to quarantine at home if they:

- Had confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days; and/or
- Are up to date on all recommended COVID-19 vaccines for which they are eligible

These contacts should still monitor their symptoms and “Mask to Stay” for 10 days from the date of last exposure.

Close contacts of a COVID-19 case who do not meet the criteria above need to quarantine or may test to stay and/or mask to stay. Exposed individuals may:

- Home quarantine for days 1-5, if feasible test on day 5, AND “Mask to Stay” for days 6-10; or
- “Test to Stay” for days 1-6 AND “Mask to Stay” for days 1-10; or
- Home quarantine for days 1-10 if unable/unwilling to mask

Students, teachers & staff should monitor for symptoms throughout quarantine period (days 1 through 10). Day “0” is day of last close contact with any COVID-19 positive student, teacher or staff. If symptoms develop, get tested.

Symptom Monitoring

During days 0-10 following exposure:

- Watch for symptoms, such as fever, cough, shortness of breath or other COVID-19 symptoms.
- If symptoms develop, get tested immediately and isolate until receiving test results. If test is positive, then follow isolation recommendations.
- If symptoms do not develop, get tested at least five days after last exposed.
- If possible, stay away from others in the home, especially people who are at higher risk of getting very sick from COVID-19.

For the full 10 days after last exposure, avoid people who are immunocompromised or at high risk for severe disease, and nursing homes and other high-risk settings

Test to Stay: test every day (every other day is permissible) for 6 days following the exposure and consistent and correct use of a well-fitted mask.

Mask to Stay: is the consistent and correct use of a well-fitted mask when around others and in school and public settings for days 1-10.

Important Actions for Schools and Organizations to Take:

- Create masking policies regarding school buses & transportation.
- Discourage “bullying” and encourage respect for individual choices to wear a mask.
- Schools can consider scheduling testing events in coordination with BEDHD before and/or after large events or traveling such as Prom or Spring Break.
- Allow students & staff to complete quarantine if they have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 at school, home, etc.
- Schools should make appropriate accommodations for students completing quarantine at home such as virtual or make-up work to be completed at home. It is important that students are not penalized for missing school days due to a COVID-19 exposure. Quarantine helps keep potentially infectious staff and students from spreading COVID-19 to others.

