

Mask to Stay/Test to Play School Option

Applicable Laws/Rules: O.R.C. 3313.68, 3701.13, 3707.07, 3707.08, 3707.11, 3707.16, 3707.26, 3709.21, 3709.212, 3709.50

The school option has been developed with the following considerations:

- Isolation and quarantine have been used since the 14th century to control infectious diseases such as measles, plague, Ebola, tuberculosis, yellow fever, smallpox, and now COVID-19.
- The practice of isolation and quarantine remains a cornerstone of public health today.
- Implementing protective measures to decrease the spread of COVID-19 within the classroom such as masking, social distancing, and documented COVID-19 prevention policies decrease the chance for exposure in the classroom setting to COVID-19.
- Masking has been shown to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- In person learning is the goal for Delaware County.
- The Ohio Department of Health subsequently acknowledged an option for exposed students to stay in school on October 25, 2021.

General Notes:

1. The mask to stay/test to play school option is only for what would traditionally be an exposure leading to a contact that requires quarantine for COVID-19. If an exposure was ruled “not a contact” following DPHD’s “guidelines for quarantine after exposure” this procedure would not apply because no contact would be generated. See <https://delawarehealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Combined-Quarantine-Flow-Chart-9.15.21.pdf>
2. The mask to stay/test to play school option is valid for those exposures to COVID-19 cases in which the contact has no symptoms. This option is not permitted for household contacts.
3. The mask to stay/test to play school option only permits a student to go to school and participate in extracurricular activities. All other activities are still prohibited while under quarantine.
4. Quarantine is for 10 days from last exposure or 7 days from last exposure if the individual has a negative viral test at least 5 days after exposure. The test must be taken or proctored by a healthcare provider.

School Responsibilities

1. Identify all cases of COVID-19 within the school district.
 - a. Cases identified will be entered on the Teams page for further follow-up by the Health District.
 - b. Send cases of COVID-19 the form letter instructing them to stay home and to complete the online interview.
2. Identify all contacts of a case of COVID-19 within the school district.
 - a. Send identified contacts the form letter instructing them that they must quarantine outside of school, but they may come to school and participate in extracurricular activities while under quarantine if they follow the student responsibilities.
 - b. Place all contacts unwilling to follow the student responsibilities on the Teams page for further follow-up by the Health District.

- c. Place all contacts willing to wear a mask on the Teams page, mark as new, contact and yes in essential student column.
3. Exclude from the building any staff or students sent on the exclusion list to the school from the Health District.

Health District Responsibilities

1. Send all cases an official letter alerting the case of isolation requirements.
 - a. Complete all relevant sections of the Teams page.
2. Monitor the online interview and follow-up on any identified contacts within school districts.
3. Send any contacts an official letter alerting the contact of quarantine requirements as well as the school option .
4. Send any contacts refusing to follow the student responsibilities and entered on the Teams page the quarantine letter.
 - a. Complete all relevant section of the Teams page.
5. Send the School District the exclusion list alerting the School District of those who cannot come to school (cases and contacts refusing to adhere to the student responsibilities).

Student Responsibilities “Mask to Stay” (Return to School)

In order to return to school while under quarantine students must adhere to the following:

1. Wear an appropriate mask at all times while on school grounds for 10 days after last date of exposure or 7 days if contact tests negative for COVID-19 on a viral test at least 5 days after exposure. However, it is recommended the student wear a mask for the full 14-day incubation period.
2. Students may remove their mask to eat or drink.
3. Students may not otherwise break quarantine.
4. Monitor for symptoms and if symptoms develop immediately
 - a. Notify their school, and
 - b. Isolate at home following normal isolation procedures.

Student Responsibilities “Test to Play” (Extracurricular Activities)

In order to participate in extracurricular activities while under quarantine students must adhere to the following:

1. Follow all student responsibilities for the mask to stay (return to school) section while at school.
2. When engaged in extracurricular activities, wear an appropriate mask at all times when the mask will not interfere with breathing, the activity, or create a safety hazard for 10 days after last date of exposure or for 7 days if contact tests negative for COVID-19 on a viral test at least 5 days after exposure. However, it is recommended the student wear a mask for the full 14-day incubation period.
3. Test within 24 hours of notification as a contact. If the test does not occur within 24 hours, test to play will not be applied and the student will not be permitted to participate in extracurricular activities. Test must be conducted by a healthcare provider or observed/proctored (self-administered, unobserved, at home tests do not qualify).
4. Test again on either day 5, 6, or 7. Test must be conducted by a healthcare provider or observed/proctored (self-administered, unobserved, at home tests do not qualify).