



PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY ORDER IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC: ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE ORDER IN EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS

Matters of concern to the health of Washtenaw County residents having been brought to the attention of the Local Health Officer of the Washtenaw County Health Department, and the Local Health Officer having made the following determinations, the Health Officer issues this Order pursuant to the Michigan Public Health Code, MCL 333.2451 and 333.2453, as well as pursuant to State Administrative Rule R325.175(4), promulgated by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to MCL 333.2226(d).

1. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has issued determinations on January 31, 2020 and as recently as [April 15, 2021](#) that a Public Health Emergency exists nationwide as the result of the continued consequences of COVID-19. Through its Directors, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has issued Epidemic Orders, including an order on October 6, 2020 to require the reporting of confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19 at schools.
2. The virus that causes COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person, primarily through respiratory fluids (droplets and aerosol particles) produced when an infected person or carrier coughs, sneezes, or talks. These can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. Spread of the virus is more likely to occur indoors and when people are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
3. The Delta variant of the virus that causes COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) is the dominant variant in Michigan. The Delta variant is highly contagious (more than two times as contagious than previous variants) and current research indicates the Delta variant may cause more serious illness in persons of all ages, including children. See: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/delta-variant.html>
4. Currently, students under 12 years of age are not eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine, and many students 12 years and older have not been vaccinated. According to the MDHHS COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard, as of August 31, 2021, 59.6% of 12-15-year-olds in Washtenaw County are fully vaccinated, and 40.3% of 16-19-year-olds in Washtenaw County are fully vaccinated. A total of 66.6% of Washtenaw County residents 12 years of age and older are fully vaccinated.
5. Close contacts of individuals who test positive for COVID-19 are able to infect others with COVID-19 before they, or the Washtenaw County Health Department, have a reasonable basis to believe that they harbor the specific infectious agent that causes COVID-19. Isolation of individuals who test positive for COVID-19, and quarantine of persons who come in close contact with those who test positive for COVID-19, are necessary and effective in controlling additional transmission of COVID-19.
6. Controlling community transmission has a demonstrated positive impact on the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, and reduces the strain on hospitals, emergency medical services, ambulance and patient transport service, and other essential public health services.

7. Washtenaw County Health Department determines that a person is a [close contact](#) based upon the guidelines issued by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as applied to the local conditions of the COVID-19 epidemic in Washtenaw County, at the time of the contact.
8. MDHHS issued updated [MI Safer Schools Guidance for Managing Students Exposed to COVID-19](#).
9. It has been documented that when prevention strategies such as masking, distancing, and handwashing are applied consistently in school classroom and bus settings, school-associated transmission of COVID-19 is significantly reduced.
10. It has been found that testing can be used to preserve in-person learning days for students.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that all Educational Institutions and all persons in Educational Settings must adhere to the following rules:

- a. All persons with symptoms of COVID-19, regardless of their vaccination status, must isolate until:
 1. At least 10 days have passed since symptom onset (or a negative test result/alternative clinical diagnosis has been received) **and**
 2. At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
 3. Other symptoms have improved.
- b. All persons tested positive for COVID-19 who never develop COVID-19 symptoms must isolate for at least 10 days after the date of their first positive rapid antigen or RT-PCR test result for COVID-19.
- c. All persons identified as COVID-19 cases must cooperate with identification of close contacts starting from 2 days (48 hours) before the person has any symptoms (or for asymptomatic persons, 2 days before the positive specimen collection date) to the date the person is interviewed by case investigators. All persons identified as COVID-19 cases must identify and provide contact information for close contacts.
- d. Except as provided below, close contacts of COVID-19 cases are required to quarantine for at least 10 days after last exposure to a COVID-19 case. If the individual remains symptom-free, they can resume normal activities days 11-14 if they continue self-monitoring for symptoms, adhering to social distancing, wearing a face mask, and avoiding large gatherings.
 1. If offered as an option in their school and they meet the criteria, students who are close contacts of COVID-19 cases and are exposed in a classroom or bus setting may continue to attend school if they are masked and:
 - Tested a minimum of 3 days per week during the first 7 days of the quarantine period; or
 - Adhere to the modified quarantine options outlined in the most recent MDHHS [MI Safer Schools Guidance for Managing Students Exposed to COVID-19](#), including testing on days 6 or 7 and returning to school on day 8; and
 - In either scenario, these students must remain asymptomatic, are not

allowed to participate in extracurricular activities, and must quarantine when not in school through day 10.

2. The following persons who are close contacts of COVID-19 cases do not need to quarantine:
 - Persons who had documented laboratory confirmed or probable COVID-19 illness within the past 90 days and have recovered and remain without COVID-19 symptoms.
 - Fully vaccinated persons without COVID-19 symptoms. However, fully vaccinated persons should get tested 3-5 days after their last exposure, even if they do not have symptoms, and should wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until their test result is negative.
- e. When confirmed COVID-19 cases are identified among persons in Educational Settings, the designated representatives of the relevant Educational Institution must identify and provide contact information of the persons who test positive for COVID-19 and the close contact to the case investigator. The Educational Institutions must require the persons confirmed with COVID-19 and the close contact to isolate and quarantine in accordance with this Order.
- f. The contents of this Order shall be published to the members of the public at large by all reasonable means available.
- g. Educational Institutions must disseminate, publish, and post this Order so that it is visible to all staff, students, attendees, and visitors.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the terms below shall have the following definitions for purposes of this ORDER:

- a. "Close contact" means being within 6 feet of someone who is a COVID-19 case for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes).
 - Exception: In the pre K-12 indoor classroom setting, or in the school bus setting, "close contact" does not include students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.
- b. "Educational Institutions" or "Educational Settings" shall include all public, private, vocational, and charter schools that provide pre-K through 12th grade education in Washtenaw County. This definition includes affiliated extracurricular activities, such as school athletics. It does not include preschools not a part of a K-12 building or district.
- c. "Fully vaccinated persons" means persons for whom at least two weeks have passed after receiving the final dose of an FDA-approved or authorized COVID-19 vaccine.
- d. "Household close contact" means a close contact that lives with a COVID-19 case in a shared dwelling with common kitchen or bathroom facilities. In dwellings with shared kitchen or bathroom facilities occupied by 20 or more unrelated persons, "households" are defined by individuals who share a bedroom.

- e. "Persons in Educational Settings" means students, teachers, administrative staff, other employees, visitors, or volunteers of Educational Institutions.

This Order does not repeat or supersede current MDHHS or Federal Epidemic Orders, which are incorporated by reference herein.

Violation of this Order will be enforced pursuant to the terms of Michigan's Public Health Code, including, but not limited to, misdemeanor enforcement and/or civil monetary penalties.

This Order may be revised and supplemented in accordance with the Michigan Public Health Code.

THIS ORDER IS EFFECTIVE AT 12:00 AM ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2021 AND REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL RESCINDED BY THE LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER.

Dated: September 15, 2021



Jimena Loveluck, MSW
Washtenaw County Health Officer