



GENESEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Summary of Guidance for K-12 Schools

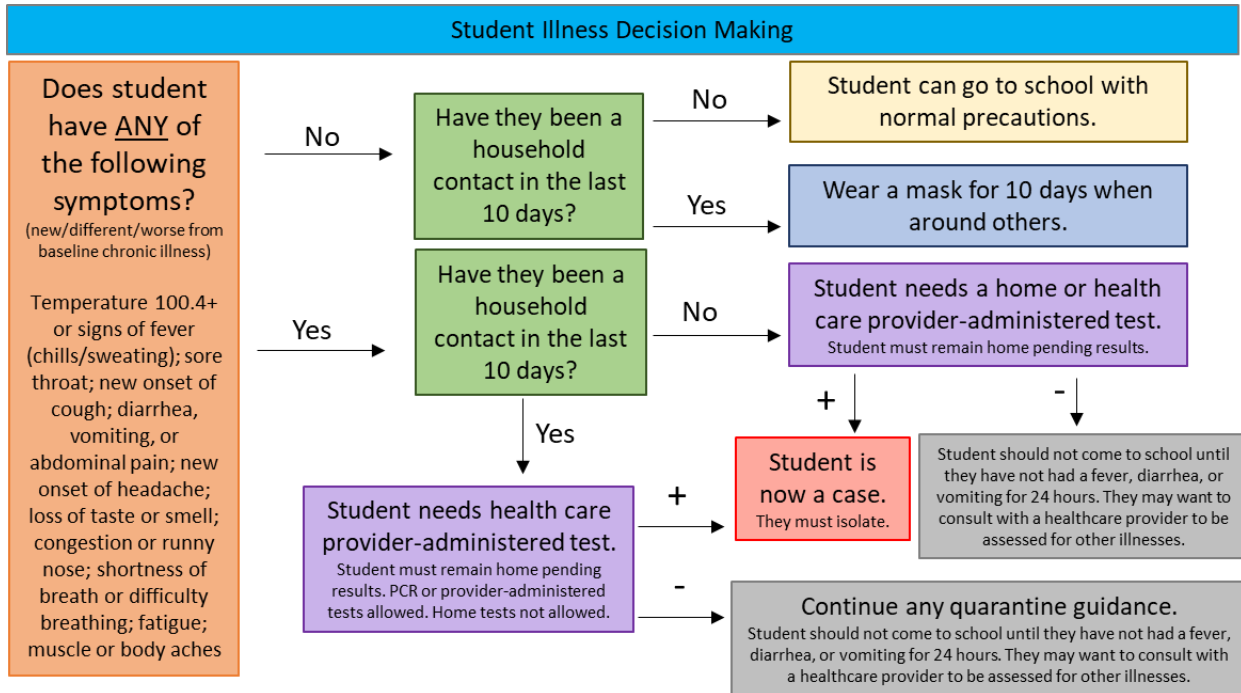
This guidance is dated 2/18/2022, effective 2/22/22. With the rapidity of mutations of this virus leading to development of variants of concern, updates and changes to these guidelines should be expected as new recommendations from MDHHS or the CDC are published; there are changes in local variants or case transmission, or new studies are published regarding COVID-19.

What has changed since 1/26/2022: The State of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) released new COVID-19 mitigation measure guidance. This guidance states, "As COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations continue to decline in the state, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is updating its mask guidance for public settings, including school settings, to reflect that Michigan is entering a post-surge, recovery phase". Additionally per MDHHS, "All individuals, regardless of vaccination status, should also wear a mask during isolation and quarantine periods to stop further community spread of COVID-19".

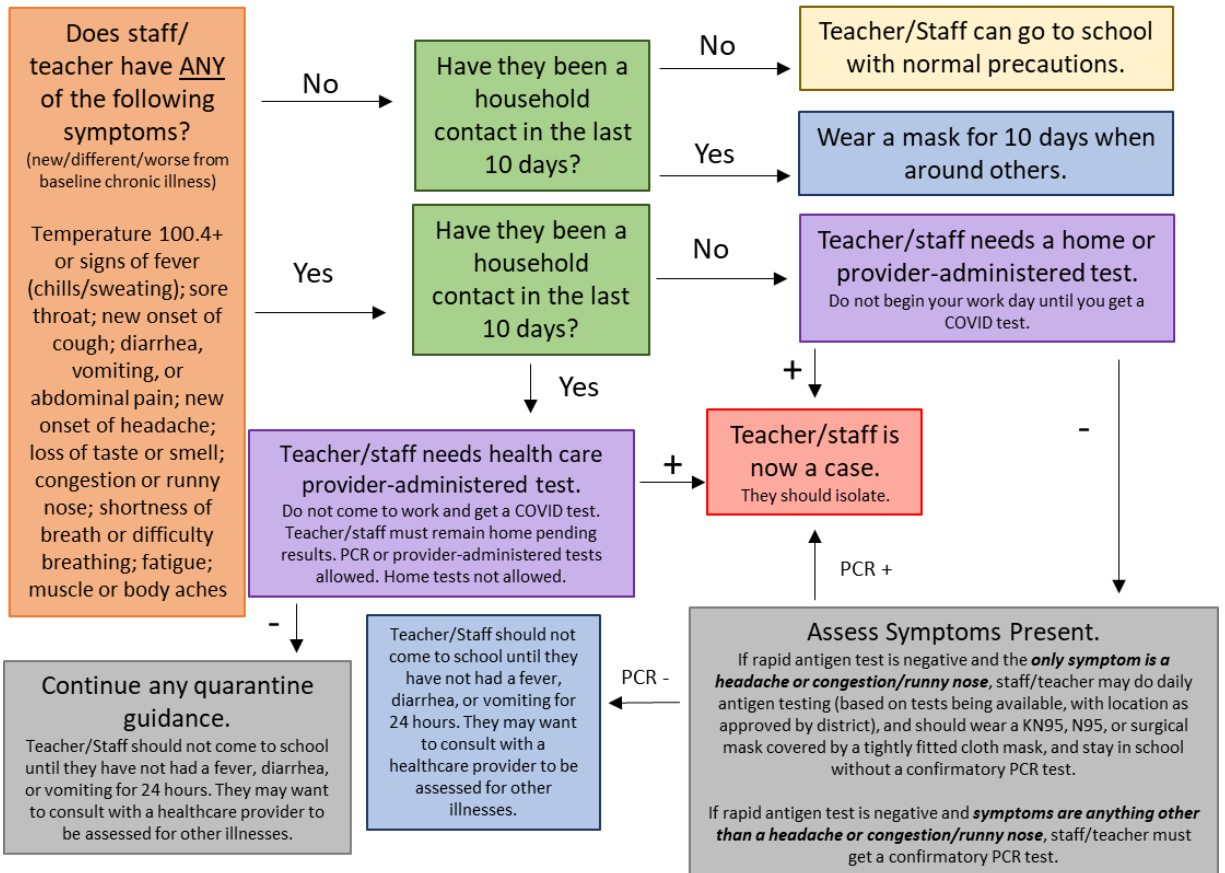
Requirements

- There is a current [CDC \(federal\) order](#) that requires face coverings on school bus transportation.
- Positive COVID-19 cases (confirmed or probable), must be excluded from school based on the [Michigan Public Health Code: 333.5201](#) and the [Michigan Administrative Code](#) (p. 2-3).
- Case notification to the Health Department is required by the [Michigan Public Health Code](#).
- Schools must also follow the MDHHS Order [Reporting of Confirmed and Probable Cases at Schools](#), which requires schools to post data about case counts on their websites. In addition, standard school infectious disease policies mandate requiring students and staff to stay home when sick.

What to do if someone is sick



School Staff/Teacher Illness Decision Making



What to do if someone tests positive (isolation)

Here is a general overview of guidance for students and staff, regardless of vaccination status.

- Isolate at home for at least 5 days after symptom onset
 - Day 0 is the day symptoms started or test sample was collected. See calendar in the appendix for how to count days after testing positive.
- On day 5, does case have no symptoms or symptoms are resolving?
 - If yes, Can stop isolation on day 6. However, should continue to wear a well-fitting mask around others through day 10.
 - If no, should NOT stop isolation - continue isolating until symptoms resolve or 10 days have gone by since tested positive or first developed symptoms. If case has a fever, continue to isolate until fever goes away (24 hours fever-free with no medication).
 - "Resolving symptoms," means symptoms have gotten noticeably better. Some symptoms (like fatigue and loss of taste and/or smell) may last a longer time.
- GCHD strongly recommends that neither students nor staff return to school if they are still feeling ill.
- Continue to wear a mask around others for another 5 days, including at home.
 - When a student or staff returns to school between days 6 and 10, they should wear a KN95, N95, or surgical mask, and not a cloth mask.
 - If a student or staff returns on Day 6, they should wear a mask at all times except while actively eating.
- Those who cannot wear a mask for any reason, including a medical waiver, during days 6-10 should not return to school until day 11.

Which test can be used?

In almost all circumstances, rapid antigen tests and PCR tests are both acceptable options for testing. You can use rapid antigen tests on symptomatic or asymptomatic individuals. Some situations may specifically require a PCR test. A PCR test is needed when:

- Confirming a positive rapid antigen test result for someone who is asymptomatic if confirmation is necessary.
- Confirming a negative rapid antigen test result for someone who is symptomatic.
- In this situation, another option is to have a medical evaluation to identify a different diagnosis other than COVID-19. The different diagnosis would either need a laboratory confirmation of that diagnosis, or a clinical diagnosis with a negative COVID-19 test.
- A PCR should not be used for 90 days after a COVID-19 diagnosis.

Additional testing notes:

- Some situations require provider-administered tests. This means a test given by a health care provider or at school. At-home tests are not acceptable in these situations.
- Most at-home rapid antigen test results are not reported to the Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS) except for certain at-home tests that include an app. To ensure that tests are appropriately captured, schools should report any positive at-home antigen test results to the Health Department.

COVID-19 Vaccination

GCHD recommends all eligible individuals get vaccinated against COVID-19.

All eligible individuals who have had COVID previously should still get vaccinated and boosted. They just need to wait until their isolation is complete – in most cases, they do not need to wait 90 days to get vaccinated.

Find a GCHD vaccine clinic near you by visiting <https://www.gchd.us/vaccinescheduler/> or by calling us at 810-344-4800. See even more COVID-19 vaccine options by visiting <https://www.vaccines.gov/search/>.

Resources and Notes

- [Michigan MI Safe Start Map \(mistartmap.info\)](http://mistartmap.info)
- [GCHD COVID-19 General Webpage \(gchd.us\)](http://gchd.us)
- [February 16, 2022–State of Michigan Updated Mask Guidance \(MDHHS\)](#)

Appendix

How to Count After Testing Positive						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Day-2	Day-1	Day 0	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
Contagious period starts		You get a positive test result or start having COVID symptoms. Start isolation.				
Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10	Day 11
If no symptoms or symptoms are resolving, this could be the last day of isolation.	If no symptoms or symptoms are resolving, done with isolation*.					

*Should continue to wear a well-fitting mask when around others (including household members) until day 11. If you cannot wear a mask, you should continue to isolate until Day 11.