



**COVID-19 Guidance for Licking County
K-12 Schools
August 1, 2022**

Introduction:

The Licking County Health Department (LCHD) has worked with school superintendents and administrators in Licking County to provide guidance and recommendations regarding COVID-19 within their school buildings. The goal of this effort is to manage and reduce COVID-19 cases in schools throughout the county. This document will be updated as additional information becomes available.

Vaccination:

LCHD urges all individuals that are eligible to be vaccinated against COVID-19 to receive the vaccine as soon as possible. Our department operates walk in clinics at our office, located at 675 Price Road in Newark, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00AM to 12:00PM and 2:00PM to 4:00PM. These times are subject to change. To view a full list of approved COVID-19 vaccine providers please visit <https://gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov/>

Isolation:

Students and Staff that test positive for COVID-19 will need to stay home for 5 days from the date their symptoms started. They can return to school, and other normal activities, after 5 days if they do not have a fever for 24 hours without medication and their symptoms are improving. If an individual tests positive and is asymptomatic, they can return to school, and normal activities, 5 days after their positive test. The CDC recommends anyone that tests positive wear a mask for 10 days after their symptoms started.

Quarantine:

Students and staff that are exposed to COVID-19, and meet the definition of a close contact, can return to school immediately following their exposure, regardless of where the exposure occurred. The CDC recommends individuals should wear a mask for 10 days after their exposure. If a close contact develops COVID-19 symptoms they should isolate at home, consult with their medical provider and be tested for COVID-19.

LCHD will not send quarantine notices to parents of students exposed to COVID-19 in school.

Social Distancing:

Schools should attempt to provide social distancing between desks whenever possible. Desks should be spaced at least 3 feet apart in areas that will accommodate this amount of spacing. Efforts should also be taken to provide spacing during lunch periods. Additionally, distancing should be implemented to the extent possible in other settings such as, locker rooms, extracurricular activities, etc.

Hand Hygiene:

LCHD also continues to recommend frequent and proper hand washing for all individuals. Washing your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds can help reduce the spread of many diseases including COVID-19.

Enhanced Cleaning:

Schools should continue to implement the enhanced cleaning activities that were implemented during last school year. This should include high touch surfaces and other areas where COVID-19 can be spread.

Data Tracking:

LCHD intends to continue to track student and staff COVID-19 cases. However, many individuals are choosing to conduct testing at home and not report the results. This process will impact the number of COVID-19 cases reported to LCHD and affect the overall number of cases reported by LCHD. Individuals conducting home COVID-19 tests can report positive test results by clicking [HERE](#) LCHD will enter the results in the state's disease reporting system and the individual that tests positive will receive a letter from LCHD in the mail.

Conclusion:

LCHD understands the importance of in person learning for students and staff members across our county. Our staff has worked to assist schools with holding in person classes since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, and we are committed to continuing this effort. Our hope is to continue our partnership with school administrators, staff, parents, and our community to keep our schools open and in person. We will continue to monitor the data and communicate with school leaders to make the school year as safe and effective as possible.