

January 12, 2022



Dear GTACS faculty/staff and families,

The Grand Traverse County Health Department has updated its protocols for schools based on the latest information from the CDC and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

**There is good news: Quarantine and isolation periods have been shortened to as few as five days for some situations with other mitigation protocols in place.**

- If you test positive or have symptoms of COVID-19 (whether you are vaccinated or not):
  - Isolate for 5 days;
  - If symptoms have improved or you have no symptoms, return to school and wear a mask for days 6-10, or;
  - Isolate for the full 10 days.
  - If you have a fever, stay home until fever-free for 24 hours without meds.
  - When counting days, day 0 is when symptoms began, or your test was positive.

**For close contacts, you will also find new “test to stay” and “mask to stay” options for days 1-10. Note that the test-to-stay option allows for every-other-day testing, which is noteworthy given the lack of available over-the-counter tests.**

- If you are a close contact of a positive case but have NO symptoms:
  - “Test-to-stay” for days 1-5 and “mask-to-stay” for days 1-10, or;
  - Quarantine for days 1-5, test (if feasible) on day 5, and “mask to stay” for days 6-12, or;
  - Quarantine for the full 10 days.
  - When counting days, day 0 is the last date of contact with the positive case\*.

**School Quarantine Guidance**

What to do when students or staff are exposed to COVID-19 in a school setting, **but do not have symptoms.**

Students and staff experiencing symptoms should not attend school activities.

[Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](https://www.michigan.gov/Coronavirus)

MDHHS continues to recommend universal masking in all K-12 school settings.

Students and staff should monitor for symptoms throughout quarantine period (days 1-10). If symptoms develop, test immediately. Day "0" is day of last close contact with a COVID-19 positive student, teacher or staff.

Category	Actions to Take
<b>Up to Date on Vaccines No Need to Quarantine</b>	Students and staff without symptoms do not need to quarantine. They should monitor for symptoms and wear a well-fitted mask for 10 days.
<b>Not Up to Date on Vaccines Need to Quarantine</b>	Home quarantine for days 1-5 and test on day 5, and "Mask to Stay"* for days 6-10. <b>OR</b> "Test to Stay"*** for days 1-6 AND "Mask to Stay"* for days 1-10. <b>OR</b> Home quarantine for days 1-10 if unable/unwilling to mask.

\*Mask to Stay: The consistent and correct use of a well-fitting mask when around others in school and public places  
\*\*Test to Stay: Test every other day for six days following the exposure and consistent and correct use of a mask  
\*\*\*Test to Stay: Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 should not attend school and should isolate at home for five full days after symptom onset (or five days after the positive test if they do not have symptoms). They may return to school on day six if they have no symptoms and can wear a mask for five additional days.

\* In household settings, it is important to isolate from a COVID-positive person. If the student, teacher, or staff member is unable to prevent ongoing exposure, they may need to adjust their quarantine. Every time they come into close contact with the person who is likely still infected, the test/mask/quarantine protocol starts over.